



Vice President's Note

pg. 02

Voices of ACM: Members, Officers, Faculty

pg. 03-05

In Focus: *Coping with Social Distancing*

pg. 06-07

Become a Data Scientist

pg. 08-09

CAHSI Resources, ACM Calendar April 13 - April 27

pg. 10-13, pg. 14



Women in ACM

Welcome back gators to our 3rd issued Newsletter!

We want to thank you for joining us at the 2nd General Meeting of Spring 2020. We shared our experiences during this period, played Kahoot! to win Amazon gift cards, and collaborated with CAHSI. The goal of this newsletter is to give you a source of what's happening with ACM UHD and to celebrate last month's Women's History by highlighting the words from our fellow women in ACM.

We would like to thank our guest speakers at the the General Meeting, Dr. Mary Jo Parker from UHD Scholars Academy, and Dr. Dvijesh Shastri and Janet Thrasher from CAHSI.

Workshops will proceed online, so if you're interested, check out the calendar at the end of our newsletter! Mentioned above, we have a few words from the fellow women in ACM including the Vice President, officers, members, and faculty about the impact of ACM. This issue's "In Focus:" topic will "*Coping with Social Distancing*" by Anam Ali and our Data Science peer mentor, Elda Piedade, contributes her feature: "*Become a Data Scientist*", where she shares useful data science resources. Also check out the CAHSI section of the newsletter for great opportunities!

*By: Gillian Delumpa
Content Editor*

ACM-UHD

Vice President's Note

Hello everyone,

As we all know our society is passing through a hard situation. Now is the time to show each other how much we can accomplish if we are together supporting one another. ACM is a big family that has been growing more and more every day. We want to show you our support and let you know that we are here for you. Do not see this as a bad time in your life, look at it as an opportunity to learn new skills. ACM will continue its activities online and we will be using Zoom App to do workshops. If you always wanted to learn something new in the computer science field but felt like you did not have the time, now it is the time.

Time is gold, let's use it wisely. As the Vice President of this club, I am very proud of the hard work our officers put to bring ACM closer to all UHD students. If you were part of the Robotics Lab this semester or if you want to join us in the future, I would like to let you all know that we are trying to find a way to keep our lab running. At the same time, we are trying to find new ways to grow our lab and make it more efficient for every student who wants to learn about it. From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank every ACM member that motivates us to keep up with our work.



The quarantine can be depressive but instead, we want to make it productive. Together we will overcome this hardship. Stay home, be safe!

Sincerely,
Joana Mucogllava

Voices of ACM



Eva Ruiz

ACM Member, CAHSI Advocate

"Being a STEM student at a university can be challenging, overwhelming, and may even seem like you are alone as you complete your undergraduate studies; however, that's not the case. I joined ACM at UHD as a freshman and instantly felt like I belonged and had a support system on campus. Over the past four years, ACM has grown as an organization, pushed members out of their comfort zones, and has provided more opportunities for UHD's coding community such as the technical workshops, tech talks, and tech labs to name a few. It is imperative for students (especially from a small college department) to have ample resources and a support system on campus and ACM has provided that. As a result, they have fostered a community of leaders, mentors, and go-getters. I look forward to see where all the ACM members take their careers and how the organization tackles more 'Women in Tech' events and opportunities!"

Kassandra Martinez

ACM Member, ACM Photographer

"Aside from our academic studies, we seek a place where we explore and discover great new things. ACM is one example of a place where we gather together to share, teach, or gain computing knowledge. Not only we are participating in workshops and gaining new essential skills but also making ourselves marketable in today's competitive workforce. As a UHD ACM Member, I've seen tremendous growth semester after semester. Before, I've seen how the organization wasn't receiving enough recognition nor members to raise funds for support. Now the organization is offering more than just workshops and general meetings! Once in a while, we have speakers showing us their world. I believe there should be more. To sum up, UHD ACM can grow further if we dedicate ourselves to it. For those who are passionate enough to give time in their communities, those are the people who offer us their wisdom and a place where we belong."



Tooba Hashmi

ACM Officer, Event Coordinator



"When junior year rolled around, I realized there were a lot of skills that I had not developed, and connections or networking was not a thing that I had been working on. Eager to work on that, I started attending the workshops that ACM offered and met some of the officers as well as went to my very first hackathon. When I found out there was an opportunity to become an officer, it was a very natural transition because I was about to be a senior and I wanted to devote my time to the organization and also develop more leadership and communication skills. As event coordinator for ACM, I got to organize workshops, communicate with different departments, and learn how to be a better team player. Instead of doing things on my own, through working with ACM I realized that a good leader needs to lead by example but also learn to delegate tasks. I also got to work on my networking skills when reaching out to companies and people. Overall it gave me a lot of confidence because I realized how much I could do. While I will be graduating and working on a department for homeland security research project, I hope ACM continues to bridge the gap between academics and the professional world. And I hope our members realize that they can gain a lot from ACM. If I had never became a member and never an officer, I would've missed out on a few friends, opportunities to network, and transitioning from a student to a professional."

Reggie Andes

ACM Officer, Webmaster

"As a transfer student, I was searching for a computer science related organization and found ACM. I joined as a member and took advantage of the workshops and labs they had to offer. By attending those events, I knew that ACM was an organization that truly wants to strive for the best and offer opportunities to learn. I was inspired to apply for an officer position, not just to network but also to strengthen my leadership skills for my future career. I created long lasting connections and met amazing people through ACM. I am proud to be a part of the ACM family and I want to be a part of its ongoing growth."





Gillian Delumpa

ACM Officer, Content Editor

"When I came to UHD, my goal was to always stay curious in learning and to be open to any opportunity. ACM was first to welcome me to join an organization, and I saw the resources they provided for students. It was exactly what I was searching for, so I decided to give it a shot. Personally, I had a rough start in my Computer Science journey, and without a doubt, ACM has been a catalyst to my growth and it fulfilled my desire to learn. I got to meet a lot of great people and gratefully have a strong support system. As it opened many doors for me, I found myself inspired to become the officer I am today. ACM is a great organization to be a part of whether or not you are in Computer Science, and I, just as well, anticipate it opening many doors for others in UHD too."

Assistant Professor in Department of Computer Science and Engineering Technology

"Hello everyone! My name is Ting Zhang, an Assistant Professor in Department of Computer Science and Engineering Technology. I teach computer science core courses, such as programming and data structures, and higher level elective courses such as Web Programming and Internet of Things. I am very proud that I have been growing together with UHD computer science program, in teaching, research and my view toward life. The academic community in UHD computer science is very special to me, where I found care, support and encouragement. UHD ACM is one of the leading organizations creating this special community. It is amazing to see the growth of UHD ACM. Many of the leaders and members are actually my most favorite people in these years. Your influence is not limited in the school. Surely your positive energy and uplifting spirit eventually will influence the city and the world. I wish the best for UHD ACM. I know almost all of you in the group picture. I appreciate you all building up the community. Today we benefited from UHD ACM, tomorrow we will deliver the faith in technology and the love for peers for all that are around us in the journey."



Professor Ting Zhang

Coping with Social Distancing

by: Anam Ali

Everyday life has changed with COVID-19. As students, we no longer have in-person classes. Going from learning and interacting with our peers and professors to having minimum contact on Zoom meetings. Some of us no longer have the jobs that provided for us and kept us busy in some way or another. Instead, we are staying at home in the name of social distancing. Some of us are not so lucky, as portion of us do not have homes or can self-isolate.

It is important to acknowledge that the COVID-19 has affected each one of us in one way or another, and what most people fail to realize it is affecting our mental health. Isolation is not normal for humans and with that combined with the traumatic event such as COVID-19, the attack on our mental health is real. We must fight against this attack. As students, who are used having our peers or teachers around we must learn and cope in this environment.

In the article, "*Maintaining mental health during COVID-19: 5 tips for coping with social distancing*" by Jordan Lewis goes into the specific of what we can do in this unprecedented time. First thing we must understand, is that humans are social creatures and social distancing is not normal for us. But we must accept that this part of our environment right now and must continue moving.

Here are few tips from the article.

"Limit News Consumption."

This is does not mean stop watching or reading, just stop doing it all the time. Over consumption of news will be overwhelming, and consuming news especially right now can cause a lot of fear and anxiety. Having constant anxiety is a quick way to deteriorate our mental health. Take a break from reading those panic inducing words or numbers. This does not mean completely cut yourself from being informed, but try reducing it.

"Take Advantage of Technology."

Being part of ACM, we are most likely to be students who are interwoven with technology, but it's time to use technology in alternatively. Communicate with your family or friends through virtual communications. Play games with your friends through video games or mobile apps. Call that family member you haven't talk to in a long time. Communication is not the only big factor of technology, but so is knowledge. We are lucky to have information at our fingertips. Watch those YouTube coding tutorials, attend those virtual workshops. Make use of the time you have.

"Take A Nature Walk."

It's quite simple as that. Go outside and take a walk. It's important to take that fresh breath of air. To take in more than the four walls we have around us. Taking these walks can help us manage our anxiety and depression, and overall balance our well-being.

Coping with Social Distancing

continued

"Do What You Love."

Has there been some activity that you love and that you have been putting off because you did not have time to do before? Now is the time to pick up that hobby again. It's important to acknowledge our hobbies because they can help by letting you be yourself.



"Realize That You Are Not Alone."

This pandemic has changed things for everybody and therefore we are in this together. The situation is beyond our control but we can get through this together. Just remember that it will come to an end eventually and that you are not going through this alone.



Article References

"Maintaining Mental Health during COVID-19: 5 Tips for Coping with Social Distancing." The Miami Hurricane, 12 Apr. 2020, www.themiamihurricane.com/2020/04/12/maintaining-mental-health-during-covid-19-5-tips-for-coping-with-social-distancing/.

Become a Data Scientist

by: Elda Piedade

Hello ACM family!

I am Elda Piedade, a senior undergraduate at UHD pursuing a degree in data science, and your fellow ACM officer. Read this to discover free online resources with gold knowledge and to learn data science from the comfort of your home.



All resources below were used by me and made me more competent throughout the semesters. It matters not what degree you are pursuing, there are plenty of detailed and reliable resources for you to learn data science for free or at a low cost. In a nutshell, to become a data scientist you must learn mathematics (particularly linear algebra, calculus, and statistics), programming (e.g. Python, R), and machine learning. It's not as hard as it sounds, just be systematic and persistent.

To get you started, I will suggest free courses online made available by top universities such as MIT and other organizations. These will set you up to become a data scientist.

Understand Data Science

Fully understand what is data science by taking this Microsoft online course at edX.com. It is the course I took which helped me decide to pursue a degree in data science.

Microsoft -DAT101xIntroduction to Data Science

<https://www.edx.org/course/introduction-to-data-science-2>

Programming with Python

To learn python for data science:

<https://www.udacity.com/course/introduction-to-python--ud1110>

Probability, Data Analysis, Deep Learning

Before I knew anything about machine learning, I found a program offered by MIT consisting of 4 free courses. In this program you will work on programming projects, develop and build machine learning algorithms to extract meaningful information from seemingly unstructured data, and more. Visit the link and read about what else is offered.

MITx's Statistics and Data Science MicroMasters® Program

<https://www.edx.org/micromasters/mitx-statistics-and-data-science>

Prepare for Interview

Data Science Interview Prep:

<https://www.udacity.com/course/data-science-interview-prep--ud944>

****ALL COURSES ABOVE ARE FREE. YOU ONLY PAY IF YOU WANT A CERTIFICATE. ****

Natural language Processing and Computer Vision

Learn about natural language processing and computer vision by paying \$45 to access the Tensorflow Specialization. I was able to finish 3 of 4 courses in two weeks. Some of you who already know python programming and the basics of machine learning may be able to finish this specialization and get a certificate within the same time interval as I.

<https://www.coursera.org/specializations/tensorflow-in-practice>

In conclusion, some of the best resources available for data science are

<https://www.udacity.com/>

<https://www.coursera.org/>

<https://www.udemy.com/>

<https://www.edx.org/>

<https://www.datacamp.com/community/tutorials>

Explore the free or affordable resources available and plan accordingly. Good Luck!



CAHSI

Computing Alliance
of Hispanic-Serving
Institutions
A National INCLUDES Alliance

We're excited to feature CAHSI in our newsletter! Be sure to check out the excellent resources in the following pages, provided by CAHSI Advocate, Eva Ruiz.

About CAHSI:

"CAHSI is a networked community of students, faculty, administrators and other professionals committed to accelerating the achievements of Hispanics in computing. CAHSI is a national NSF INCLUDES Alliance that spans across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The University of Houston - Downtown has signed an MOU with CAHSI and our department is committed to advance the opportunities for our computer science students in order to foster successful students at our institution and in their future work places overall. Additionally, we partner with UHD's ACM Chapter to bring you CS workshops and additional opportunities."

Background and Purpose:

"The Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (CAHSI) was formed in 2004 as a grassroots effort to increase the number of Hispanic students who pursue and complete baccalaureate and advanced degrees in computing fields. Recognizing the contributions and importance of 2-year colleges, CAHSI has now formalized the inclusion of 2-year colleges in its 20-30 vision. The Alliance is continually informed and enhanced through social science research and reflection of proven and promising practices. The core purpose of CAHSI is to create a unified voice in an effort to consolidate the strengths, resources, and concerns of CAHSI institutions that are committed to increase the number of Hispanics who pursue and obtain quality credentials in computing areas."



CAHSI

Computing Alliance
of Hispanic-Serving
Institutions

A National INCLUDES Alliance

Resources for UHD CST Students

Prepared by Eva Ruiz

Live Hiring Status of Companies

- **Candor:** List of companies freezing hiring and those that are still hiring.
 - Link: <https://candor.co/hiring-freezes/>
- **2020 Internship Status - COVID-19:** List of hiring status of various companies.
 - Link: <https://github.com/gcreddy42/hiring2020>

Lost an Internship/Need an Internship?

- **Upbound:** A virtual internship program for students who don't have an internship this Summer.
 - Link: <https://www.upbound.me/>
 - Deadline: None
- **Jumpstart:** They are collecting students who lost their internships and pairing them with recruiters who are still hiring interns.
 - Link: <https://www.jst.me/nycb>
- **Join LinkedIn:** Create a profile with your resume and curriculum vitae online! Build and engage with your professional network. Access knowledge, insights and opportunities.
 - Link: <https://linkedin.com>
 - Hashtags to follow: #jobsearch #hiring #hiringnow #jobrecruiters #hiringmanagers etc...

WiFi Access

- **Charter Communications:** Charter to offer free access to Spectrum Broadband and Wi-Fi for 60 days for new K-12 and college student households and more.
 - Link: <https://bit.ly/3aY6rNs>
- **Spectrum:** Will offer free access to Spectrum Broadband and Wi-Fi for 60 days for new K-12 and college student households and more.
 - Link: <https://www.spectrum.net/support/internet/covid-19-internet-offer-students/>
- **Comcast:** Comcast offers free Wi-Fi for two months to low-income customers who are eligible for public assistance programs (e.g., free lunch, housing assistance, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, and others). Plus all Xfinity hot spots are free to the public during this time.

- Link: <https://corporate.comcast.com/covid-19>
- **AT&T:** AT&T offers open hot spots, unlimited data to existing customers, and \$10/month plans to low income families.
 - Link: <https://about.att.com/pages/COVID-19.html>

Job Opportunity + Internship Opportunity

- **Wallbreakers:** Program designed to train and mentor students to land a software engineering internship or job (must be within 2 years of date of graduation for full-time).
 - Deadline: None
 - Link: <https://wallbreakers.com/students>

Scholarships

- **Tapia Conference Scholarship:** Travel scholarship to attend the Tapia Conference: Celebrating Diversity in Computing in Dallas, TX from September 16-19.
 - Deadline: April 13, 2020
 - Link: <http://tapiaconference.org/participate/scholarships>
- **GMiS Conference Scholarship:** GMiS merit-based scholarships range from \$500 - \$10,000 which are paired with travel covered to attend the GMiS Conference in Orlando, FL from October 7-10.
 - Deadline: May 1, 2020
 - Link: <http://www.greatmindsinstem.org/scholarships>
- **Oracle Scholarship \$2,125**
 - Deadline: July 6, 2020
 - Link: <https://www.hacu.net/hacu/Scholarships.asp>
- **The Kia Motors America, Inc. STEAM Scholarship \$3,400**
 - Deadline: July 6, 2020
 - Link: <https://www.hacu.net/hacu/Scholarships.asp>
- **Cafe Bustelo El Cafe Del Futuro Scholarship \$5,000**
 - Deadline: July 6, 2020
 - Link: <https://www.hacu.net/hacu/Scholarships.asp>

Fellowships for Graduate Students (Prospects Included)

- **Computing Research Association Fellowship:**
 - Deadline: April 30, 2020
 - Link: <https://www.sighpc.org/fellowship>

Women in Tech Resources

- **AnitaB.org COVID-19 Assistance**

- Link: <https://anitab.org/awards-grants/covid-19-emergency-assistance/>
- **GHC Women of Color Complimentary Registration**
 - Deadline: May 15, 2020
 - Link: <https://ghc.anitab.org/2020-attend/woc-registration/>
- **Influenster Women in Tech 2020 Scholarship**
 - Deadline: June 1, 2020
 - Link: <http://tinyurl.com/2020sch>
- **Women Who Code Jobs:** Women Who Code has 30+ remote tech job opportunities on their job board, along with more opportunities.
 - Link: <https://www.womenwhocode.com/jobs>

Free Online Courses

- **MIT OpenCourseWare:** full free online classes from MIT for ALL topics
 - Link: <https://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm>
- **edX:** 2500+ free online courses from 140 leading institutions worldwide for various topics
 - Link: <https://www.edx.org/>
- **Coursera:** build skills with courses, certificates, and degrees online from world-class universities and companies
 - Link: <https://www.coursera.org/>
- **Udemy:** Study any topic, anytime. Explore thousands of courses
 - Link: <https://www.udemy.com/>
- **KhanAcademy:** Expert-created content and resources for every course and level
 - Link: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL 13 - APRIL 27

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

13 Remote Interview Tips with Tim Coulter 12:00 - 2:00 pm	14 Introduction to Python Skills for AI Part 3 2:30 - 4:00 pm	15	16 AWS: Build and Deploy a Full Stack Web App 3:00 - 4:30 pm	17
20	21 How to Collaborate with Github 2:30 - 4:00 pm	22 Hack the Technical Interview part 3 4:00 - 5:30 pm	23	24
27				

THANK YOU

The purpose of our newsletter is to showcase the many voices in our community and to provide a centralized source of information with everything happening with UHD-ACM and our collaborators.

In addition, we strive to explore ideas that intersect with our academic pursuits by showcasing write-ups from our members. If you have an interesting idea you would like to write about, please let us know. We welcome all members to contribute to the newsletter.

Please send your submission to acmuhchapter@gmail.com with the subject "Newsletter".

Sincerely,
Luis Dominguez Jr.
Editor in Chief

SOCIAL MEDIA

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SLACK

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