11 Days The amount of time on average companies took to implement remote work solutions as reported in a 2020 McKinsey Global Survey of executives.

ACM Members Shine Bright in Arkansas

Since last year, people all over the world have been hit pretty hard by the pandemic, be it physically, mentally, or financially. Having said that, many people have willingly lent a helping hand to the victims of the pandemic in some or the other way. The ACM Chapter of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, or simply UA Little Rock, has done its part to assist the needy. Founded in 2018, the chapter's mission is to be a resource for the academic and professional development of its team members and to advance interests and education in the field of computing within their community.

In the fall of 2020, the chapter hosted a technology drive in response to the pandemic. During that period, many students were unable to purchase or gain access to reliable computers to participate in their online classes. Chapter members addressed that need by soliciting computer donations from local businesses and nonprofit organizations. They received a

Chapter members collected computer hardware as part of the technology drive.

prodigious response, and the chapter was able to collect more than 60 computers. After receiving, testing, and refurbishing these machines to a usable state, the team distributed them to UA Little Rock students for free. Due to the positive overall response from the campus community, the chapter plans to host another technology drive. Further, considering the need for good computers in the area, the team also aspires to extend their distribution to some local high schools or work with a resource who knows students in need of a computer.

The ACM Student Chapter of UA Little Rock has also had the opportunity to provide Microsoft Office training for employees of the Arkansas Secretary of State's Office. This workshop, divided into five sessions, covered everything from the basic functionality of Microsoft Word up to the most advanced features of Microsoft Excel. The success of the Micro-

soft Office Workshop series has given the chapter the possibility of holding future workshops with the Arkansas Secretary of State's Office.

The ACM Student Chapter of UA Little Rock has always been ahead in social service. In November 2020, 10 members came together to participate in the 24-hour Extra Life Charity livestream. From noon Saturday until

Chapter at a Glance

School: University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Chapter Name: UA Little Rock ACM Student Chapter

Location: Little Rock, Arkansas

Date Established: November 6, 2018

Officers: Julia Green (Chair), Brandon Norman (Vice Chair), Colin McNerny (Treasurer), Samuel Thomas (Communications Officer/Webmaster), Seth Cook (Social Media Coordinator)

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Albert Baker

Current Total Membership: 13

The chapter's mission is to be a resource for the academic and professional development of its team members.

114M jobs were lost globally relative to 2019 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as per the UN International Labour Organization.

noon on Sunday, members streamed themselves playing video and table-top games continuously for an online audience to raise money for the Arkansas Children's Hospital. The chapter received 36 donations in all and successfully surpassed their original goal of $1,000. In total, they managed to raise $1,256 with the highest donation being $600. Overall, the Extra Life Charity livestream was a success and the chapter is looking forward to participating again this year.

Another recent event the chapter participated in is the 2021 GMTK Game Jam. Two members, Julia Green and John Clements, designed, built, and deployed an entire multilevel PC game in just 48 hours. Their mind-tickling puzzle game called Queso Quest can be found here: ua-little-rock-acm.itch.io/queso-quest-joined-together.

In the coming year, the chapter plans to hold mock interviews for students, so they understand how exactly interviews are conducted and what interviewers expect. Members have begun reaching out to local hiring managers and recruiters. Moreover, in the spring semester, members are planning to contact technology companies to conduct mock technical interviews as well, since students need to know how domain-specific interviews work too.

The chapter has planned many more educational and fun activities for 2022. All things considered, this ACM student chapter is doing a commendable job by hosting not only technical and non-technical events but also addressing social needs.

—*Nupur Shiturkar*

Technology the Savior of Billions of Human Lives

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted various technologies that were effective in reducing the spread of the virus. Technology played a crucial role in keeping our society functional during lockdowns. Some of these technological inventions are listed below.

1849 The first unmanned aerial vehicle is deployed by Austrian forces. Today's drones have significantly evolved since then. Efforts to combat COVID-19 included using drone technology to transport and deliver medical supplies, for aerial disinfectant spraying, and for public space monitoring during the 2020 lockdowns.

1972 The pulse oximeter is invented by the Japanese bioengineers Takuo Aoyagi and Michio Kishi. The device was used to constantly measure and monitor the oxygen levels of the patients infected with COVID-19.

1980 The employees of Intelligent Medical Systems patent the design for an infrared thermometer. It uses the concept of blackbody radiation to measure temperature. Infrared thermometers were used for non-contact temperature assessment to manage the spread of the virus during the pandemic.

1996 The first robot vacuum cleaner emerges. It was developed by Electrolux, and was named "Trilobite." Today automated vacuum cleaners played a massive role in fighting against the COVID-19 virus by maintaining clean environments such as schools and office spaces.

2020 GermCide X is the world's first UV-ray sanitizer that helps in the overall cleaning of household items. It claims to kill 99.99 percent of germs, viruses, and bacteria.

—*Manandeep*