The practice of law may change thanks to new AI technology that can analyze words and generate text in an instant. AI is able to perform tasks essential to lawyers, help paralegals be more productive, and create new roles within the world of law.

UPDATES

Empowering Excellence
The impact of ACM student chapters

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) is the world's largest educational and scientific computing society, dedicated to advancing computing as a science and profession. One of the ways ACM promotes its mission is by supporting student chapters at educational institutions in 43 countries. An ACM student chapter inculcates a value of togetherness and builds a community where people from all walks of computing interact and support each other. Joining one of the 680 existing student chapters offers a way to get involved with ACM, find a computing community, and connect with other students who share your interests. It's also an opprotunity to learn about new technologies and network with professionals in the field.

If you are interested in creating an ACM student chapter, you can submit the application online.[1] First you will need to choose a chapter name and create a chapter email address. You should identify a minimum of 10 students who are committed to upholding the chapter's mission and engaging in its initiatives. You will also need to designate three individuals, who are active ACM student members, to serve as Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. More importantly you are required to have a faculty member who can act as your Sponsor; they must hold an ACM Professional Membership. During the application process you will be prompted to enter the chapter name and chapter email address, and choose a student chapter sub-type: ACM-W, high school, university, or SIG. You also will be asked to enter the names of chapter officers, chapter contact details including postal address and phone number, and upload a list of chapter members including full names and email addresses. (The process for creating an ACM SIGGRAPH student chapter follows a separate process.)

As a student chapter member, you will be designated as an ACM chapter member, which is different from ACM student membership, although some of the benefits may overlap. Members of the chapter will receive a complimentary, three-month, electronic subscription to *Communications of the ACM*, ACM's flagship publication. Chapter members are entitled to an email forwarding address using the domain "acm.org," complete with filtering capabilities. Chapter members also receive exclusive communications: ACM Student Quick Takes (SQT), a quarterly email newsletter; ACM TechNews three times a week; CareerNews, offering bimonthly updates on industry news and careers; and MemberNet, a monthly newsletter covering ACM-related people and events. ACM student chapter members also receive a full-year electronic subscription to this magazine, *XRDS*.

ACM provides headquarter support to all student chapters, in the following ways:

▸ Access to an administrative interface that enables you to oversee your chapter's member list, revise your chapter's contact details, and perform additional functions.

▸ ACM has a selection of web utilities for chapters including website hosting, wikis, and blogs.

▸ With the Local Activities Calendar, you can inform chapter members, other ACM members, and fellow computing experts about your upcoming events.

▸ If you are looking for ways to boost membership, ACM can assist chapters in orchestrating ACM membership campaigns. Chapters can request promotional materials twice in a calendar year.

▸ Chapters can coordinate with ACM to publicize newsworthy events to ACM members within specific regions. A minimum notice of 48 hours is needed before the event. Chapters are limited to sending one message per month.

▸ Chapters are encouraged to host expert talks on computer science. For example the ACM Distinguished Speakers Program connects speakers from industry, government, and academia to audiences interested in computing technologies.

Numerous educational institutions worldwide are witnessing a surge of interest in computing and an eagerness to foster collaborative learning through ACM student chapters. In recent months, a plethora of student chapters have been established, underscoring the widespread enthusiasm for advancing computer science knowledge and engagement. These chapters exemplify a commitment to embracing the realm of computing and have recognized the potential of ACM student chapters in fostering professional development, networking, and impactful community engagement. With their inception spanning the globe—from Missouri State University in the United States to the UM6P ACM Student Chap-

1 https://services.acm.org/public/chapters/AutoChap/

Google's 2023 I/O developer conference, its first in-person conference since the pandemic, showcased new technologies and software mostly focused on AI. Many products were inseparable from AI such as immersive view for Google Maps, new features to Bard, new AI writing tools for Google Docs, and much more.

ter in Morocco—student chapters can focus on collaborative growth within the computing community.

Every year ACM acknowledges commendable achievements in the realm of computing education and community engagement through a series of prestigious awards under the umbrella of the ACM Student Chapter Excellence Awards. For the 2022–2023 academic year, UCLA's ACM Student Chapter was recognized for outstanding chapter activities, highlighting their commitment to advancing computer science initiatives. An exceptional digital presence earned the Don Bosco Institute of Technology ACM Student Chapter and PICT ACM Student Chapter at the Pune Institute of Computer Technology the outstanding website award. UC San Diego ACM Student Chapter's award for outstanding recruitment underscores their influence within the student community, while the College of William & Mary ACM-W Student Chapter won for outstanding community service highlighting their positive societal impact. The University of Texas at Dallas ACM Student Chapter's award for outstanding school service showcases their valuable contributions to education.

XRDS invites student chapters to share their latest activities in our upcoming issues. We would love to hear about the great things that your chapter has been up to, and we know that our readers would enjoy learning about them too. Please reach out to us at xrds-magazine@gmail.com

—Gopal Mengi

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MILESTONES

Human-Robot Collaboration

Many ancient civilizations have historical accounts of robots, but technological advancements have only recently made robots an integral part of our daily lives. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, cobots working alongside humans in various work settings have gained popularity across a range of industries.

1954 The first industrial robot, the Unimate, is developed by George Devol and Joseph Engelberger. It was first installed on General Motors' assembly line in 1959 and later became the first mass-produced robot in 1961.

1972 Shakey, the first mobile robot utilizing artificial intelligence, is developed at the Stanford Research Institute (SRI).

1973 Researchers at Waseda University, using sophisticated sensors and actuators, create WABOT-1. It is a full-scale humanoid robot.

1996 J. Edward Colgate and Michael Peshkin, professors at Northwestern University, invent cobots.

1999 Sony introduces AIBO, a robotic dog with advanced sensors, cameras, and AI capabilities. It becomes a popular companion and at the time is a symbol of innovation in robotics.

2000 With its impressive capabilities, Honda's ASIMO, an advanced humanoid robot, represents a significant step in developing robots with human-like abilities.

2002 The Robotic Industries Association, an industry working group, publishes RIA BSR/T15.1, a safety standard for intelligent assist devices.

2003 Kiva Systems (now Amazon Robotics) introduces the Kiva robot to transport goods in warehouses.

2013 Boston Dynamics unveils Atlas, a remarkable humanoid robot that demonstrates outstanding improvements in robot locomotion and agility.

2016 Hanson Robotics releases Sophia, a humanoid robot that displays advances in human-robot interaction and social robotics.

—Deepak Mahto

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