Welcome to Spring Term Remote Edition!

BY ALEJANDRO CASTANEDA, WICS VICE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone and welcome to the WiCS Spring 2020 Newsletter - the remote edition. Due to the global situation concerning COVID-19, our programming for this term has drastically changed. With sorrowed hearts, we bear news that the 2020 Hackathon is cancelled. We're still hard at work from the comfort of our own homes to make sure that you still have a sense of community despite all this social distancing!

We hope you're just as excited to engage with us throughout this term as we are! We're excited to hear from you in our events and on our Slack Channel :} Stay Tuned!

Love, WiCS <3

What's Inside

- Welcome Note
- Slack Updates
- WiCS Care Packages
- WiCS Leadership Team Elections for 2020-2021
- Technologist of the Month: Annie Easley!
- Calendar of Events
- O'Reilly Community Partnership Resources

Updates to Our Slack Workspace!

Conversation Starters & Polls

We are upping our Slack game to help us stay connected! We’ll be doing some bi-weekly (as in twice a week) polls to give you another outlet to talk to human beings other than your roommates / housemates / quarantine buddies (who I'm sure you have PLENTY of time with)! Look out for a poll, or an open ended question in our #general channel every Tuesday Morning and Thursday afternoon!

NEW Slack Channel

#music

Share your love for music with our community! Listening to something that gets you really excited to start the day? Want song recommendations to add to your study playlist? Join us at the #music channel today!

Emojis & GIFs

In addition to conversation starters we’ll be adding new custom gifs and emojis. Have an idea of an emoji? Post it on #general channel and we’ll add it to our collection.

Join our Work Space Today at:

WICS-PSU.SLACK.COM
WiCS leader elections are taking place during Spring Term. New leaders will then take office starting in the Summer and end the following Spring. Check out why you should be a leader and how to nominate yourself or others below!

**WHY YOU SHOULD BE A WICS LEADER**

Being a WiCS Leader is a year-long commitment that comes with a cornucopia of amazing perks! As a WiCS leader, you’re able to drive change in Portland State’s Computer Science culture, define strong leadership skills on your resume, and foster relationships with faculty and local industry. Fun fact, New Relic recently listed WiCS involvement as a “Nice to Have” on their Summer internship applications.

On top of that, you would be supported by an amazing community to gain important skills such as planning, communication, networking and so much more!

**HOW NOMINATIONS WORK**

- If you know someone who would make a great leader please fill out a nomination form
- These nominations forms are anonymous
- You may nominate more than one person
- You may nominate the same person for more than one position
  - In this case, nominees will get to accept which position they prefer to run for
- You can nominate yourself
- Don’t let the descriptions deter you from nominating yourself or accepting a nomination. All leaders will have a support system to help you gain the skills needed to be a good leader

**Nomination Forms Due April 24th**

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/WLA133YJV7JMELD18](https://forms.gle/WLA133YJV7JMELD18)

**Officer Roles & Descriptions can be found on our website at [WICS.CS.PDX.EDU/LEADERSHIP.ROLES-DESCRIPTIONS](https://wics.cs.pdx.edu/leadership/roles-descriptions)**

**WICS Care Packages**

To help us stay connected, the leadership team is putting together care packages complete with WiCS stickers, shirts and other goodies to send out to our membership. To receive a care package please complete a [Care Package Address Collection Form](https://forms.gle/MXXEH1WMXWAHKKDA7) and we hope to send these out around midterms.

To the left is a sneak peak into our newly printed stickers which will also be included in our care packages! We are also finalizing our T-Shirt design with a local artist. With help from WiCS Treasurer / Historian, Allie Hanson, we are excited to send our new t-shirt design to the printers!

Link to address collection form: [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/MXXEH1WMXWAHKKDA7](https://forms.gle/MXXEH1WMXWAHKKDA7)
Annie Easley, April 23, 1933 - June 25, 2011
Every month we to celebrate the birthdays of technologists who in the face of discrimination, persevered and made huge contributions to tech and science. This month we celebrate Annie Easley, the first African-American computer scientist, mathematician, and rocket scientist at NASA. Easley's work with the Centaur project helped lay the technological foundations to boost rockets into space. Her work contributed to the 1997 flight to Saturn of the Cassini probe. There's a lot to say about Annie Easley, like how her and her supervisor made a pact to wear pantsuits to work at a time when most women wore dresses and skirts.

You can read more about her here: https://www.nasa.gov/feature/annie-easley-computer-scientist

"My favorite thing about her is that she was a passionate advocate for women and minority students to consider STEM careers. Easley was an equal opportunity counselor, and helped supervisors address issues of gender, race, and age in discrimination complaints at work"  
- Daniel Song, WiCS Communications Director

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**SPRING TERM CALENDAR OF EVENTS!**

Subscribe to our Google Calendar to stay up to date with our upcoming events!

In Google Calendar:  
> + Add Calendar  
> Subscribe to Calendar  
> Enter 'wics.calendar@gmail.com'  
> click Subscribe

We'll be continually updating our events calendar so subscribe and stay tuned in on our slack channels for new events and updates!

**FRI, APRIL 17 · 1-2 PM · GAP-REDUCE WORKSHOP**  
[LINK: INSERTZOOMLINKHERE.COM]

WiCS Officer, Evan Johnson, will lead this workshop sharing tips, strategies and challenges when it comes to navigating tools used for remote learning and collaborating. We will begin by sharing tricks, such as setting times to silence slack notifications, then will open up the discussion to hear from others on what has worked and what hasn’t.

**SAT, MAY 2 · 6-8 PM · JACKBOX GAME NIGHT**  
[LINK: HTTPS://PDX.ZOOM.US/J/748436301]

Join us for our first social event of the term! Sign in on Zoom and have either a cell phone or tablet handy to play fun online party games with your community!

**WED, MAY 6 · 1 - 2 PM · MAY TOWN HALL**  

Our Town Hall meetings occur the first Wednesday of the month. These usually feature awesome announcements, an ice breaker game, then go into round table discussions or coding practice.

**WED, JUNE 3 · 1 - 2 PM · JUNE TOWN HALL**  
[LINK: HTTPS://PDX.ZOOM.US/J/111834152]

Our Town Hall meetings occur the first Wednesday of the month. These usually feature awesome announcements, an ice breaker game, then go into round table discussions or coding practice.

Be sure to subscribe to our calendar and stay active on our slack channel! As we adjust to the remote term we may find it possible to host more events.
WiCS is now an official O'Reilly Community Partner!

With this partnership we are able to provide you all with access to O'Reilly's award winning online learning platform, swag boxes (including O'Reilly books), exclusive O'Reilly content and get the insider scoop on all the latest and greatest at O'Reilly including new titles, and more!

For starters here are some O'Reilly Community Partner links and events below. We'll continue to share our resources with you all as we get them! Special thanks goes out to WiCS Officer, Brian O'Neill, for if it weren't for him this partnership would have not been possible.

MEET THE EXPERT: TIM O'REILLY AND DAVID HEINEMEIER HANSSON

APRIL 8, 10:00AM PT / 1:00PM ET
LINK: HTTPS://WWW.OREILLY.COM/PUB/CPC/314488

A fireside chat on remote work and innovation. Join O'Reilly for a very special conversation between Tim O'Reilly, founder and CEO of O'Reilly Media, and David Heinemeier Hansson, creator of Ruby on Rails and cofounder and CTO at Basecamp. They'll cover some of the key themes from three of David's best-selling books—It Doesn't Have to Be Crazy at Work, REWORK, and REMOTE: Office Not Required—as they examine how remote work can lead to more innovation and personal satisfaction and discuss how to run a calm company by forgoing the lure of excessive growth and making your time count for more.

O'REILLY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT THIS MONTH IS CHICKTECH

LINK: HTTPS://WWW.OREILLY.COM/PUB/CPC/314500

ChickTech, a national nonprofit working to empower and engage female-identifying and non-binary individuals in tech, has launched a new way to boost your career! ACT-W+, our new online membership community, is tailored toward individuals of all genders and in all stages of their professional careers. Whether you're just starting out or you're a tech veteran, ACT-W+ has something to offer, including webinars, digital networking, curated deals and prices, and discounts to tech events and activities. Join us and connect with our community of professionals advancing their careers in tech.

5 KEY AREAS FOR TECH LEADERS TO WATCH IN 2020

LINK: HTTPS://WWW.OREILLY.COM/PUB/CPC/314502

Our annual analysis of O'Reilly online learning reveals Python's continued dominance and important shifts in infrastructure, AI/ML, cloud, and security.

O'REILLY IN THE NEWS

LINK: HTTPS://WWW.OREILLY.COM/PUB/CPC/313487

If you're an engineering manager or you lead dev teams, this interview with Camille Fournier is a great listen.

Free Ebook

LINK: HTTPS://WWW.OREILLY.COM/PUB/CPC/313491

Site reliability engineering has become one of the most critical elements of dependable and effective online services. Maintaining a more consistent state for system components can make a world of difference for businesses. Through a variety of case studies from companies like Google and Slack, Kurt Andersen from LinkedIn and Craig Sebenik from Split go in-depth on the complexities of SRE and the various approaches for adopting it within new and existing organizations. Ready to put it to work for yours?