ISSUE #3

OU Computer Science Newsletter

April 2025

HERE'S WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE LAST MONTH AND WHAT'S TO COME!

Welcome to the April Edition of the OU CS Newsletter!

As we head into the final stretch of the semester, the CS community has been buzzing with activity—from giving back to others to taking a well-deserved breather.

This month, we brought it bigger than ever for OU Giving Day 2025, with 14 CS-affiliated groups raising over $25,000 through donations and challenge wins.

We also rolled up our sleeves for The Big Event, OU's largest day of community service, where CS students made a meaningful impact on the Norman community.

And in true balance-of-work-and-play fashion, students came out to relax at our Touch Grass event, where kites, chalk art, and ice cream brought some joy before finals kick in.

With graduation on the horizon and finals fast approaching, now's the time to finish strong. Whether you're celebrating the end of your college journey or just gearing up for the next big thing, we're cheering you on.

Check out the highlights below —and good luck as we wrap up an amazing semester!

Enjoy this month's newsletter!

In this newsletter you can expect:

Announcements

RSO Registration is now open!

All RSOs **must** complete RSO registration with GCOE **here** by **May 2nd!**

OU CS is on Instagram!

Follow @ou_cs_ for updates, events, and all things Computer Science at OU.

OU CS Communications Discord

Click Here to join the official CS communications discord where students & faculty can keep each other informed on the current happenings!

OU CS LinkedIn

The OU Computer Science LinkedIn is a great place to stay connected, share opportunities, and engage in discussions about the field. Click Here to Join!

OU CS Facebook

Follow the Computer Science - University of Oklahoma Facebook Page to stay updated on what's going on around campus and in the School of Computer Science!

Kerber Scholars

With finals coming up, now's the perfect time to get extra support.
The Kerber Scholars are here to help with your undergraduate CS coursework!
Find a tutor here!

Applications due June 2nd, **apply here!**

Kerber Ambassador Application

The Kerber Ambassador application is now open! See the **full job description.**

Applications due June 2nd, **apply here!**

Upcoming Events

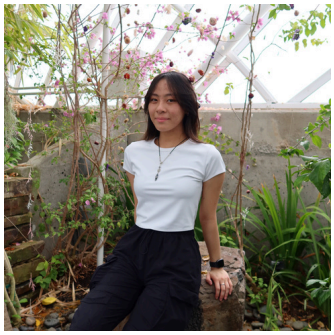
CS Monthly Event - Dead Week + Finals Week
Come hang out throughout dead week and finals week in Devon Energy Hall. We will provide snacks/beverages and various games for students to help alleviate some of your stress!

Devon Energy Hall | Exact times/Locations TBD

In the Spotlight: Versatility of a Computer Science Degree

Hear firsthand why a CS degree at OU might be the right fit for you! Our undergrad CS students are exploring everything from **technical projects and industry internships to leadership roles and cutting-edge research**. Whether your passion lies in innovation, leadership, research, or real-world experience, so many **versatile opportunities** are waiting for you!

Hear from students w/ upcoming & current internships



Tiffany Nguyen: Software Engineering Intern @ Walmart

Year: Sophomore
Favorite Programming Language: Python

How does this opportunity align with your long-term goals?

"The internship spawns me into the world of software engineering where I can hopefully get a job in the future"

What skills or experiences are you most eager to gain from this internship?

"Better coding practices, a better understanding of industry standards, utilizing more tools/technologies, free stuff, getting mentored, more connections, and frolicking time in San Francisco."

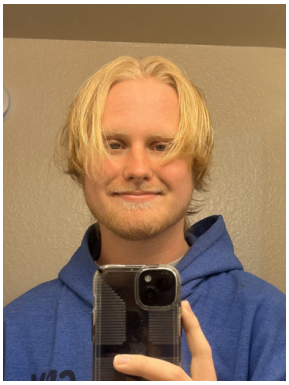
What are some tips or learning experiences that helped you get the internship? Tell me your process!

"I spent time getting my resume reviewed by people in the industry, touching up on DSA & Algorithms, taking showers, researching company values, asking previous interns/current employees about their interviews and experiences, going to career fairs, doomscrolling linkedin, doing mock interviews, leetcoding, and locking innnn!!"

"The application process included the application, initial screening, a technical Karat interview, and a behavioral interview with some technical, non-coding questions."

Do you have any advice for other students wanting to pursue the same path?

"During a technical interview, talk through your solution, ask a lot of questions, and focus on getting a working solution before optimizing!"



Xander McClure: Digital Marketing Firm Intern

Year: Sophomore
Favorite Programming Language: Java

What is your role at this company?

"I work for a digital marketing firm that aids large nonprofit organizations with fundraising. My job is to research and apply ways to automate our systems."

How did you learn about this opportunity?

"I took a videography course taught by the company's founder several years ago, and recently I found out that they had an internship opening for students with computer science/digital marketing experience."

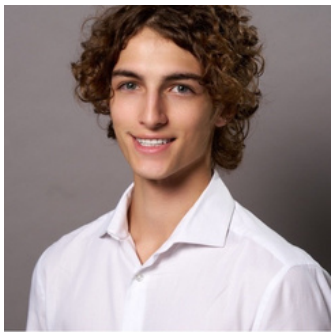
Do you have any advice for other students wanting to pursue the same path?

"I would recommend seeking out positions related to both your skillset AND your interests. Employers would much rather bring on someone who is enthusiastic and passionate about what they do than someone who is only there to bolster their professional career."

How does this opportunity align with your long-term goals?

"I want to use data systems and automation as a way to help people rather than the interests of greedy third parties. Getting to work with nonprofits allows me to pursue my interests in a way that is guaranteed to help people."

Hear from students exploring independent projects & research



Chandler Case: AI, Computer Vision & Cybersecurity

Year: Junior, **Favorite Programming Language:** C++

Why do you pursue this field, especially in your independent projects?

"Artificial intelligence has seen massive growth...the ability of a machine to process data and produce outputs that mimic human behavior is truly mind boggling. This ties directly into my interest in computer vision...a system of components can interpret visual input in a way that mirrors how humans see and understand the world. When you combine AI and computer vision, you unlock powerful technologies like self driving cars or advanced models like ChatGPT... We're living in a time where curiosity, paired with these technologies, can take you incredibly far. I encourage everyone to start exploring artificial intelligence it's not just the future, it's already here."

What independent projects have you worked on? What goals are you trying to achieve?

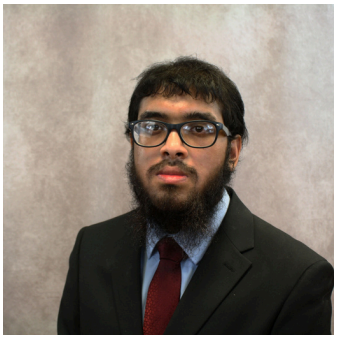
"I created a multi-threaded Spotify controller using computer vision and hand tracking, capable of controlling playback, skipping songs, adjusting volume, and even locking all controls. While this project wasn't designed to solve a major real world problem, it was something meaningful to me personally. Before this, I didn't have much experience with computer vision or hand tracking, so I saw this as an opportunity to grow my skills in a hands on way. I wanted to build something both useful and fun something that would keep me engaged while also pushing me to learn new concepts. This project became the perfect blend of learning and entertainment."

Do you have any advice for other students wanting to start their own tech projects?

"Find something that truly speaks to you something you'd genuinely be excited to build or explore. Sure, you can find countless project ideas online to replicate, but nothing drives you to push through the challenges like working on something you're actually passionate about. Coding can be painstakingly frustrating at times, and if the project you're working on doesn't feel "cool" or meaningful to you, it becomes that much harder to stay motivated. The bottom line is this: pick a technology you're curious about, then think about how you can apply it to something you already love or enjoy. That's when the magic happens when learning feels less like a grind and more like a creative pursuit."

How does this opportunity align with your long-term goals?

"My long-term goal is to be able to bring any idea I imagine to life through the skills I've developed over the course of my career. I genuinely see computer science as a form of art where anything you can think of, you can create, as long as you've equipped yourself with the right tools. That creative freedom is what drives me to keep learning and pushing my limits."



Kazi Priom: AI-based debugging

Year: Senior, **Favorite Programming Language:** Python

Do you have any advice for other students wanting to pursue the same path?

"Make sure to find novel ideas to research, so you can become an expert in that field. Keep your concept general enough to be beneficial to a large portion of people, but specific enough for you work on publishing a original research paper."

What are you currently working on in your research?

"I am finalizing a paper in AI-driven debugging. For the past few weeks, I've been authoring parts of the paper, while working on creating the virtual environment to conduct the research. This requires ChatDBG, an LLM-based debugging assistant as well as Ochiai, a spectrum based debugger..."

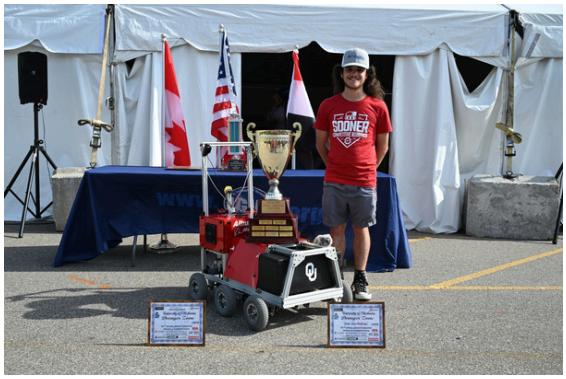
Tell me about your accomplishments in this research.

"I've researched into 10+ papers in general software engineering and AI collaboration, and 15+ papers in AI debugging. I've started solo-authoring a paper a paper in AI debugging, looking into the correct articles, metrics, and future works in the field."

How does this opportunity align with your long-term goals?

"Being a reseracher gives me the ability to learn and adapt to the ever changing environment of the tech industry. This is necessary for my long-term plan of being a flexible software developer which can work with different teams, environments, and technologies."

Hear from a student in a CS leadership position



Dylan Zemlin: President of Sooner Competitive Robotics

Year: Senior, **Favorite Programming Language:** C++

What is your role in SCR?

"...Sooner Competitive Robotics is a student-led team dedicated to providing hands-on engineering experience that mirrors real-world industry practices through building robots that compete at various types of competitions. As President, I oversee the organization as a whole ensuring its continued success by leading the officer team, organizing events, and other duties required of me. However, I also work directly with teams like AutoNav, our fully autonomous robot team, to help them develop the software required."

How has being part of this organization impacted you and helped you grow?

"Being a part of SCR has helped me grow professionally, technically, and personally. Throughout all of the challenges I have faced in SCR, I have learned dozens of techniques and skills I would never have learned elsewhere. This includes not only skills related to Computer Science, but also skills related to leadership and just being a better person."

What are some key responsibilities or initiatives you're focusing on this year/semester?

"My key responsibility is really just being a mentor to other students and helping them learn as much as possible about robots and the software surrounding them! Of course I do leadership duties as well, but mentoring is what I find best in terms of outcome. Other than that, we have been heavily focused on expanding the organization by hosting our own competition STORM which has grown massively and had four universities compete at it this year! I am helping develop next years competition, and look forward to that!"

What advice would you give to someone considering joining or leading a CS-focused student org?

"Take the leap and do it! CS focused organizations, whether that be robotics based or just programming, help you develop in so many ways outside of class. On top of that, it is so exciting to be able to see the time and effort you put in outside of your courses/schooling do amazing things!"

What is an experience you are the most proud of, as a computer science student?

"Watching the things I have programmed, namely two first place robots, compete at competition and win! Its amazing to see the hard work I put into those robots come to life."

April Recap

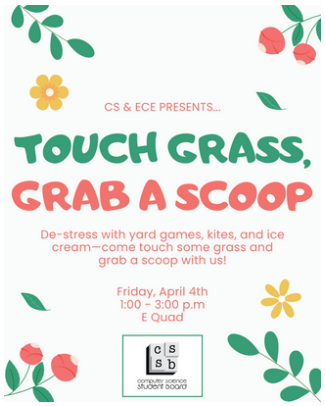
Notable Events in April

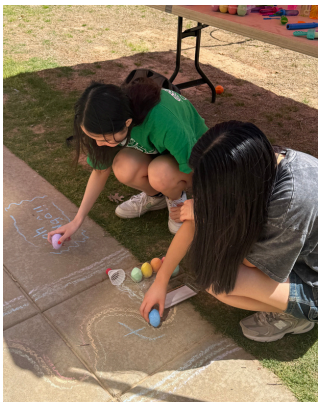
CS Board of Advisors Meeting

The OU CS Board of Advisors met on Friday, April 4, in Devon Energy Hall, with some members joining remotely via Zoom. In line with the Giving Day theme of “Bring it Bigger,” the meeting emphasized bigger successes, bigger dreams, bigger challenges, and bigger solutions.

The agenda included updates on the Gallogly College of Engineering—drawing from the GCoE Dean’s presentations at the GCoE BoA meeting held the previous week—along with a report on the School of Computer Science by CS Director Dean Hougen, and a development and fundraising update from OU Foundation Director of Development Becca Barsetti. These updates were followed by working sessions of the BoA Committee of the Whole. As always, the OU CS BoA demonstrated its strong commitment to the continued success of the School of Computer Science.

Following the meeting, the Kerber Ambassadors hosted a speed networking event, connecting BoA members with OU CS students.



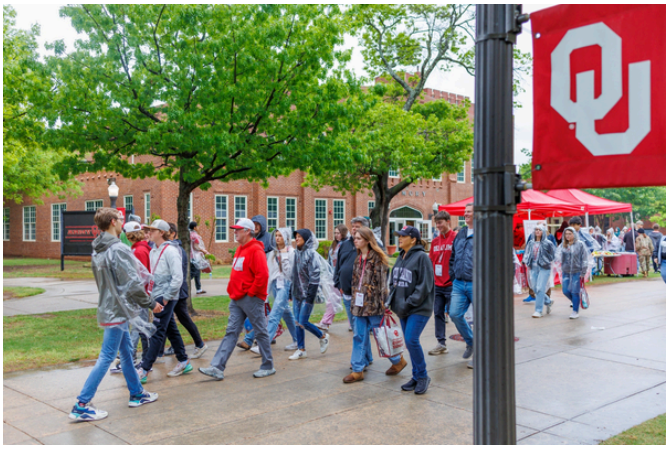


Touch Grass, Grab a Scoop

The CS department aims to host a monthly event for students, faculty, and staff to connect in an informal setting. This month, we opted for a “Touch Grass, Grab a Scoop” social event with the ECE department. Thank you to the Computer Science Student Board (CSSB) for funding this event!

Sooner Saturday

Sooner Saturday is OU's largest open house event for high school juniors and transfer students! The event was this month on April 19th.

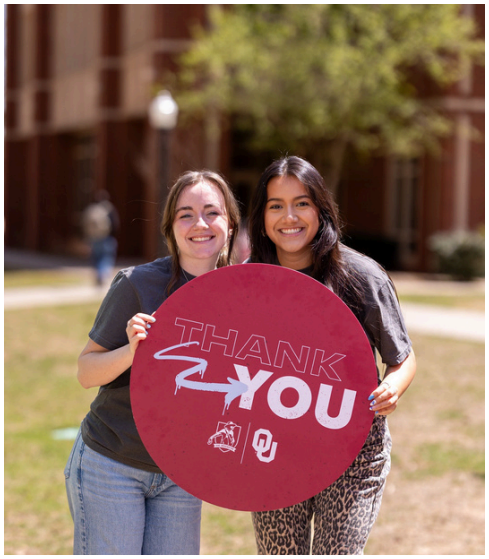


OU Giving Day

OU CS "Brought It Bigger" for OU Giving Day 2025!

OU Giving Day is a 24-hour fundraising event powered by the OU Foundation, where students, alumni, and supporters can donate at any time of day to help their favorite causes win additional prize money through themed challenges.

From social media engagement contests to hourly surprise bonuses like “first donation of the hour wins $500 toward their supporting cause” and “random donor within the hour wins $1,500 toward their supporting cause,” the day is packed with excitement and opportunity. This year, the School of Computer Science brought it bigger than ever—with 14 participating groups raising an outstanding amount through a mix of generous donations and strategic challenge wins. OU CS showed up strong and made a statement about the power of community and collaboration.

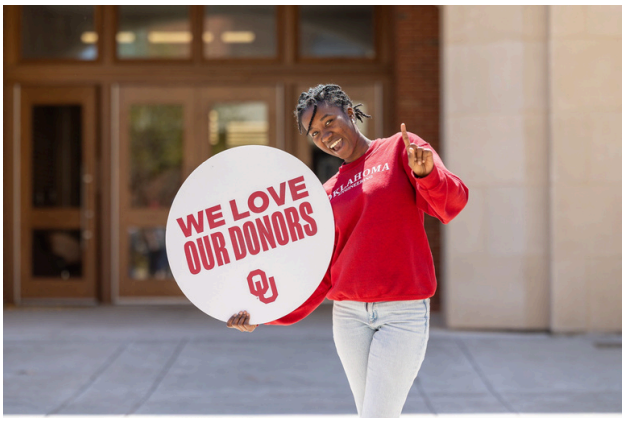


2025 OU CS Giving Day Funds:

- Computer Science Support Fund
- Alpha Sigma Kappa
- Game Developer’s Association
- Sridhar CS Scholarship Fund
- OU AI/ML
- Computer Science Graduate Student Association
- Cybersecurity
- Computer Science Student Board
- Girls Who Code
- Hacklahoma
- Computer Science Alumni Graduate Fellowships
- Association for Computing Machinery, Student Chapter
- Sooner Competitive Robotics

Why your support matters

Every dollar donated to OU Computer Science helps fuel the innovation, leadership, and community that define our student organizations. Contributions support travel to conferences and competitions, mentorship programs, scholarships for emerging leaders, and hands-on events. These funds empower students to grow their skills beyond the classroom—building real-world experience, professional networks, and the confidence to lead in tech. Together, we're not just supporting student groups—we’re investing in the future of computer science.



THANK YOU
for bringing it bigger than ever!!!

Thank you for reading!

This month, we highlighted March's CS events

This newsletter was written and edited by CS Kerber Ambassadors Shiloh Sells and Emma Smith. If you have stories, research updates, event announcements, or anything else you'd like to see featured in future editions, please reach out to **kerberambassadors@ou.edu**
We'd love to hear from you!

Thank you for being a part of the OU CS community. Stay connected, and we'll see you in next month's edition!

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