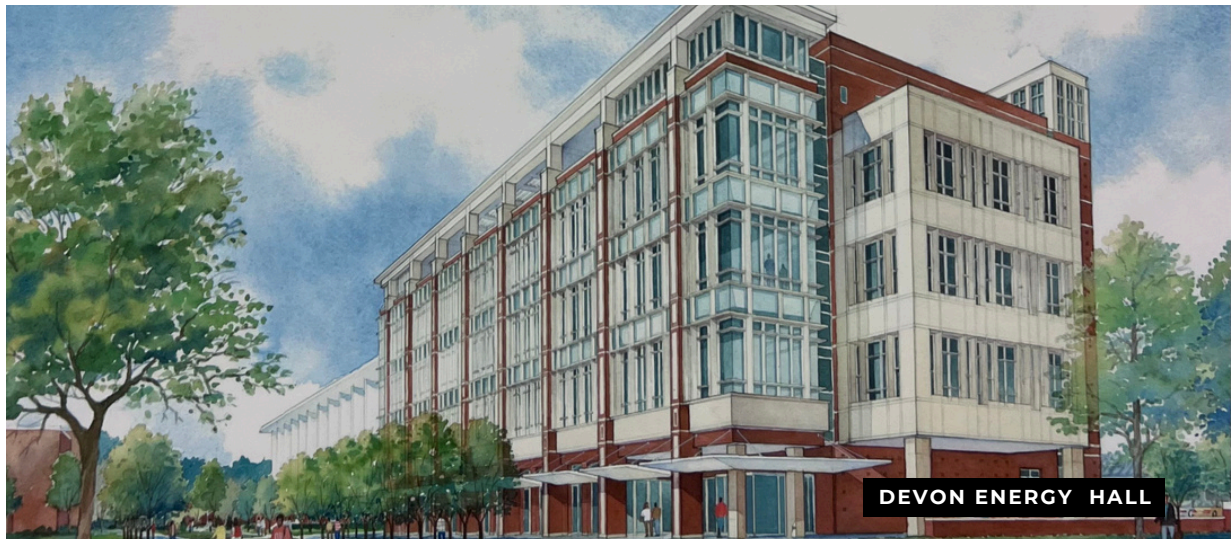


# OU Computer Science Newsletter

February 2025



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

Welcome to the first official CS newsletter! Our goal is to strengthen the CS community by keeping you informed and connected. Through this newsletter, we'll highlight recent events, upcoming opportunities, and important updates from the department.

As February comes to a close, we reflect on a month of students settling into their routines, a campus full of activity, and our CS community thriving. Student organizations are back in full swing providing club meetings, collaborative projects, and exciting social events that bring students together.

From Chips and Cookies to the CS Logo Competition, February was packed with opportunities to connect, create, and celebrate our shared passion for CS.

As we look ahead, March promises even more excitement with Spring Break on the horizon, advising appointments for next semester, and the start of graduation preparations for our soon-to-be graduates! Plus, we've got plenty of events and opportunities lined up so be sure to check out this newsletter to stay in the loop!

Enjoy this month's newsletter!

### In this newsletter you can expect:

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Faculty Highlights

Opportunities

February Recap

Student Org Leaders Feature

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## Announcements

### 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!

### Talent & Release Forms Due

If you'd like your pictures featured on social media or promotional materials, **submit your Talent & Release Form** to Courtney Ball at [Courtney.Ball-1@ou.edu](mailto:Courtney.Ball-1@ou.edu).

### New XR Student Organization at OU

Interested in Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and emerging immersive tech? The XR Club @ OU is the first and only XR-focused club in Oklahoma! Apply for an Exec position [here](#) or join their [Discord](#).

### AI/ML Embedded Certificate

Interested in expanding your knowledge in AI and Machine Learning? Check out OU CS's latest AI/ML Embedded Certificate and see the list of required electives [here](#).

### Check out our new CS Logo!

Students had the opportunity to participate in a CS logo competition. Kerber ambassadors and CS faculty voted in favor of the following logo!



## Upcoming Events

### E-Week - This week!

Join student orgs in celebrating Engineers week by participating in any of the week long activities on and off campus! All are welcome!

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### Graduate Recruitment Event - March 7th

Save the date: GCOE Graduate Recruitment & Networking event in REPF 200 from 5-6pm

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### Job & Internship Fair - March 11th

Connect with employers offering job and internship opportunities at Thurman J. White Forum from 12:30-4!

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### CS Monthly Event - March (Date TBD)

Join us for the monthly CS social event -- meet fellow students and chat with faculty in an informal setting!

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### Big Event - April 5th

Be part of OU's largest day of community service - a great way for CS students to give back!

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### CS Soirée - April 26th

Join us for a special evening to connect faculty, students, and alumni in a casual setting. Details coming soon!



### Giving Day

Help support OU CS and the CS Student Organizations by participating in this 24 hour event of giving! See

<https://givesooner.org/pages/home-2400>

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## Faculty Highlights



### Dr. Doga Demirel

*Associate Professor and the director of the Virtual Reality, Interactive Simulation, and Biomedical (VRISB) Lab in the School of Computer Science.*

Dr. Doga Demirel and his team are currently working on a Virtual Bariatric Endoscopic (ViBE) Simulator. This project aims to create a highly realistic simulation within an immersive 3D environment to facilitate Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty (ESG) training. They are also working on Virtual Transoral Robotic Surgery (TORS), developing 3D simulation scenarios and a simulator for lingual tonsillectomy and tongue base resection, integrating novel performance metrics to provide objective feedback.

A recent award Dr. Demirel received was the 2024 IEEE VR Best Paper Award at the 3rd International Workshop on eXtended Reality for Industrial and Occupational Supports (XRiOS).

Additionally, his recent publication, "Validity of a Virtual Reality-Based Straight Coloanal Anastomosis Simulator," was published in the International Journal of Computer Assisted Radiology and Surgery in 2024.

Dr. Demirel will be presenting his work, "Crack-Free Multi-Resolution Dynamic Volume Refinement for Physics-Based Bone Drilling and Shaving in Arthroscopic Procedures," at IEEE VR 2025. He was also invited to be a panelist at the American College of Surgeons' Surgeons and Engineers: A Dialogue on Surgical Simulation special panel on How to Build a Better Surgical Simulator. Each year, the American College of Surgeons selects three panelists: a surgeon educator, an academic engineer, and an industry engineer. This year marks the third iteration of the panel, and Dr. Demirel was selected as the sole academic engineer.

In Fall 2025, Dr. Demirel will be offering C S 5970 - Virtual Reality, a course designed for students interested in the technical and experiential aspects of Virtual Reality. This semester, he is also mentoring four students in his Mentored Research Experience course, where they are investigating how immersion impacts flow theory using EEG analysis and exploring alternative user authentication methods for Virtual Reality systems.



### Dr. Amy McGovern

*Professor in the School of Computer Science at the University of Oklahoma and in the School of Meteorology*

Dr. Amy McGovern was interviewed in a recent NY Times article discussing the power of AI to help science. Instead of focusing on the negative aspects of AI (which do exist and need to be also watched for), the article discusses how AI so-called hallucinations can help science.

"The public thinks it's all bad," said Amy McGovern, a computer scientist who directs a federal A.I. institute. "But it's actually giving scientists new ideas. It's giving them the chance to explore ideas they might not have thought about otherwise."

To read the article: [Click Here!](#)

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# Opportunities

## Job & Internship Postings

### **2025 Oklahoma Engineering Futures Career Fair**

Thursday, March 6th 2025 | 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Rawl Engineering Practice Facility

The Oklahoma Engineering Futures Fair is designed for OU students to get connected with engineering and other technical internships and employment opportunities within Oklahoma. Students can expect to connect and network with employers and recruiters from local Oklahoma companies and organizations.

To register: [Click Here!](#)

### **2025 Spring Job & Internship Fair**

Tuesday, March 11 | 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Thurman J. White Forum

The OU Spring Job and Internship Fair brings together all students, all majors, and all colleges to introduce a wide variety of organizations interested in hiring for full-time and internship positions. It is also a great event for undergraduates to network and develop contacts for future employment opportunities.

To register: [Click Here!](#)

### **Leidos Summer 2025 Software Engineering Internship**

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma | Full Time

Leidos has a fantastic opportunity for an internship supporting the Federal Aviation Administration via the NISC IV contract. The contractor will provide supportive software engineering work in accordance with established orders processes and standards. Contractor will conduct routine project activities and technical surveys and/or inspections and prepare reports.

To apply: [Click Here!](#)

## Scholarships

### **Koch Scholars Program**

\$3,000 Scholarship | Applications due Friday February 28th at 5pm

Are you an eager, creative thinker interested in developing and applying your skills to meet the challenges of tomorrow? We're ready to meet you! The Koch Scholars Program awards scholarships and provides networking opportunities to students from universities across the country.

To apply: [Click Here!](#)

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# In the Spotlight: Insights from Our CS Student Organization Leaders

Dive into the experiences of our student leaders as they share what inspires them, how they balance their busy lives, and the professional growth they've gained through CS related Student Organizations in this exclusive Q&A!

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## Q: WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BEING PART OF YOUR ORGANIZATION?

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**"SoRo has plenty of benefits to choose here! However, on the Autonomous (Comp Sci) subteam, we complete lots of collaborative, focused tasks to get the Rover ready for the University Rover Competition each year in Utah. Problems are often easier to figure out together - especially with so many smart people around! So, in short, I most enjoy the collaborative aspects of the team."** - Barrett Ray, Sooner Rover's Autonomous Subteam Co-Lead (SRT)

**"Being a part of SCR has allowed me to grow in ways both academically and socially that I don't think I could have otherwise. The courses we take as Computer Science students are critical in understanding the fundamentals and theories, however, one concept that is typically lacking is the idea of actually applying that knowledge in real world scenarios. SCR has allowed me to work on and lead projects that have not only extended my knowledge of Computer Science by extraordinary amounts, but have allowed me to give that knowledge to other students. So, to answer the question I love being able to learn about such fantastic and complex topics and pass that onto others!"** - Dylan Zemlin, Vice President of Sooner Competitive Robotics (SCR)



**Payley Randels**

*Marketing Coordinator for Google Developer Groups on Campus (GDG)*

**"I enjoy the community, the challenges, and the opportunity to prepare for real-world problems."**



**Parker Hix**

*President of Game Developer's Association (GDA)*

**"I love making a positive impact on the community and seeing a project come to life through teamwork. There's something special about a group of students coming together to create something not for money, not for a grade, but simply for the shared experience and purpose"**

**"I enjoy the sense of community that E-Club spreads across the GCoE, alongside the fun events that bring people together from a variety of majors! Everyone has a unique personality that meshes together during Game Nights, Movie Nights, and more. No matter how hard a class is, there's always a group of people in E-Club to bring a smile to your face."** - Taylor Wise, Engineering Royalty of Engineers' Club (E-Club)

**"I really enjoy the connections that I make with everyone that interacts and collaborates with our club! Being a part of SACM has also really helped me network with others, not only within the CS department, but with industry professionals. I like how as an organization, we help connect students with companies, but also provide fun events such as the computer science spring picnic!"** - Kaitlyn Peters, Vice-chair of Student Association for Computing Machinery (SACM)

**What I enjoy most about being part of the AI Club is seeing how we've been able to create an inclusive space where students—regardless of their technical expertise—can explore and discuss all kinds of topics in AI with others. Additionally, we've broken barriers to entry and provided a platform where young innovators can develop skills, build confidence, and gain exposure to AI applications that matter through our events, like workshops or the AI Symposium.** - Casey Nguyen, President of OU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Club

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## Q: IN WHAT WAYS HAS YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR ORGANIZATION BENEFITED YOUR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH?

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**Casey Nguyen**  
*President of OU Artificial Intelligence Club*

**"My involvement in the AI club has helped me improve on soft skills like flexibility, teamwork, time management, and more. The connections I've made through this club – from peers, professors, staff, and to industry professionals – have also helped advance my career in so many ways."**

**"My involvement with SoRo is a great talking point for my resume as well as something to use in response to interview questions. Employers love to see involvement in a competition team, as it implies a lot of the skills they want to see, such as collaboration, hard work, and practical skills. Also, how cool is it to be able to say that I work on a team that creates and programs a Mars Rover prototype? Employers love that, too."** - Logan Murphy, *Autonomous Subteam Co-Lead of Sooner Rover Team (SRT)*

**"I have been able to discuss the mistakes I've made and how I have learned to be a better leader and how to work well with a large group of people."** - Faith Morrison, *VP External of Alpha Sigma Kappa (ASK)*

**"Professionally, GDA has helped me become a better leader by constantly giving us goals to work toward. More concretely, we've been able to fundraise and attend GDC in the past, which gave me insight into where the game development industry is heading. But that kind of information is something anyone can learn outside of the club. I think the real value lies in working in teams, learning coordination, and developing a sense of agency. When I first stepped into a leadership role, I was shy and not very forthcoming. Now, I have no problem talking to people. The club gave me countless opportunities to practice public speaking, introduce myself to others, and make people feel welcome. At this point, it's second nature."** - Parker Hix, *President of Game Developer's Association (GDA)*

**"Being an officer for Engineer's Club has allowed me to grow professionally by helping me with soft skills such as talking to people & managing events."** - Edward Wages, *Willoughby Lounge Manager for E-Club*

**"My leadership position through SACM has encouraged me to do more than what is expected in the traditional classroom setting. I have been able to speak upon my leadership experiences in interviews and get connected with teams that hone my skills. My involvement has also provided countless networking opportunities, allowing me to connect with industry professionals and other students! This has truly been the most valuable takeaway from my involvement."** - Emma Smith, *Chair of Student Association for Computing Machinery (SACM)*

**"It has helped me tackle problems efficiently, navigate professional settings, and continuously challenge myself."** - Payley Randels, *Marketing Coordinator for Google Developer Groups (GDG)*



**Dylan Zemlin**  
*Vice President of Sooner Competitive Robotics (SCR)*

**"SCR has benefited me way more than I initially thought it would professionally. Not only have I learned advanced topics that help me stand out, but I have had the opportunity to lead other students towards creating their own projects. Leadership is not easy and takes a lot of practice, whether that be something simple like learning how to properly write emails or something much more complicated like taking a team and finding ways to help them communicate effectively. I've found that through that, my confidence in moving towards the professional industry has skyrocketed as I've been able to work with other leaders and experience what its like to work with dozens of other people who can all have vastly differing opinions and ideas!"**



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## Q: HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO BALANCE YOUR SCHOOLWORK, JOB, EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT, AND PERSONAL LIFE?

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**"I balance everything by making sure to finish assignments ahead of time rather than procrastinating. Afterwards, I set aside a time in advance away from clubs for myself or to hang out with friends!"** - Taylor Wise, Engineering Royalty for E-Club

**"Having designated blocks of time for each responsibility allows myself to stay on task as well as dedicated all of my effort onto one specific task at a time, which helps me to balance my school/life balance."** - Edward Wages, Willoughby Lounge Manager for E-Club

**"I think that part of balancing everything is understanding how much I can handle in a given time and planning accordingly. If I know that one thing is going to take up a lot of my time and energy, I try and make sure that I don't have too much else going on. I definitely try and keep my energy focused on just a few things at a time, and if I know that one part of my life is going to be especially time-consuming—be that schoolwork, work, or Rover—then I make the active decision to devote less time to other things. The most important thing is not to overwhelm yourself too much, which I try my best to avoid. Also, I spend time with friends and family frequently, and I make sure to have at least one day a week where I can completely relax."**  
- Logan Murphy, Autonomous Subteam Co-Lead of Sooner Rover (SRT)

**"I rely on strong time management skills, prioritizing tasks, and making sure to set aside time to unwind."** - Payley Randels, Marketing Coordinator for Google Developer Groups (GDG)



**Kaitlyn Peters**

*Vice-Chair of Student Association for Computing Machinery (SACM)*

**"My strategy is to use planners to your advantage (write out everything so that you don't forget) and prioritize the most important things that need to be done. Avoiding procrastination helps a lot too, so that your work doesn't get too overwhelming."**



**Matthew Agron**

*Vice President of Cybersecurity Club*

**"I get schoolwork done ASAP, then go to office hours to ask questions. When I'm free, I work on or attend club stuff tasks and meetings. If time allows, I chill at home and play games if nobody's around, otherwise I socialize in the REPF."**

**"I've never been too great at this, but using a calendar and written to-do list has helped a lot. When2meet is also an invaluable resource for finding times for meetings."** - Barrett Ray, Sooner Rover's Autonomous Subteam Co-Lead (SRT)

**"The two things I can't live without are a calendar and sticky notes. A calendar helps me plan out my week, reminds me about due dates, and keeps me prepared for what's to come. Sticky notes are where I write down the tasks I can do reasonably quickly, but don't need a dedicated time slot in my calendar. Having these visual organizers have helped me balance everything. I also do my best to free up my evenings and weekends for my personal life and hobbies to relax and de-stress."** - Casey Nguyen, President of OU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Club

**"It can be very difficult, but there are three important things people often overlook. The first is to plan ahead and have contingency plans. Most of the time, we can make compromises when unexpected situations come up—whether it's shuffling our schedules, finding a new meeting location, or getting work done in a pinch. The second is to be consistent. Even small amounts of progress each day add up over time, and sticking with it makes a huge difference. The third is especially important for those in leadership roles: don't be afraid to ask for help. I've had many moments as a leader where I felt completely overwhelmed, but it's important to remember that everyone in the club wants to see it succeed. Delegating tasks or simply reaching out for support can make all the difference."** - Parker Hix, President of Game Developer's Association (GDA)



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*Thank you for reading!*

This month, we highlighted February's CS events, from symposiums to hackathons, along with exciting career and research opportunities for students. We also featured student organization leaders who are making an impact in the CS community and shared faculty highlights, showcasing the latest research and developments within the CS department at OU.

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](mailto: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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