ACM 2019-2020 Student Chapter Excellence Awards Application

For Application Guidelines, see https://www.acm.org/chapters/student-chapter-excellence-awards

Award Category: Outstanding Chapter Activities

Chapter Name: *

BITS, Pilani - Dubai ACM Student Chapter (85704)   ▼

City: *

Dubai

State/Province:

Dubai

Country: *

United Arab Emirates   ▼

Outstanding Chapter Activities: Chapter Contact Information

Please provide all required information

URL for your Chapter homepage: *

For example, https://www.acm.org

https://www.acmbpdc.org/

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/bpdcacm

Who is submitting this application? *

Enter Submitter's name

Eshwaran Venkat

Submitter's Email: *

Enter Submitter's email

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Faculty Sponsor Name: *

Sujala D Shetty

Faculty Sponsor Email: *

sujala@dubai.bits-pilani.ac.in

Outstanding Chapter Activities: Chapter Achievements

Provide brief descriptions as requested, and stay within the character limit for each

Please provide a brief description of your chapter and school (1500 character maximum) *

The BITS Pilani Dubai ACM Student Chapter is characterised by our four cornerstones :[SEP]
1. To expand ourselves into new horizons as we embark in mutually sharing knowledge and sustainable passion.
2. To create an environment that caters to an individual's personal interests with potential for professional growth and learning
3. To have our members explore a world of nuances involving the integration of computing with industry and research to be a career ready student
4. To push boundaries as we grow and develop a community with a passion for programming, problem solving, research and team engagement.
Our goal is to have our ACM members primed and ready with the essentials and foundations required to be literate in up and coming fields so that they have a competitive advantage when they graduate in the industry or at research.[SEP]
BITS Pilani, Dubai Campus is the international campus of Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, India and is located at the Dubai International Academic City. Set up in the year 2000, it is among the pioneer institutions in Dubai. BITS Pilani, Dubai Campus offers B.E, M.E., M.B.A. and Ph.D. programmes in various engineering and allied disciplines, wherein nearly 1200 students are admitted from over 20 countries world-wide. It attracts a diverse student population from UAE, other GCC countries, Asia, Africa and Far East. BITS Pilani has been granted the status of "Institute of Eminence" by MHRD, Government of India.

Outstanding Chapter Activities Essay Guidelines (4000 character maximum) *

Tell us about your chapter's most successful activity/activities. Be sure to describe each activity, including how many people participated, how it was funded, and what made it a success. If you have web pages for these activities, include the URLs. Please be sure to use your chapter's official name - do not refer to your chapter as 'ACM,' 'ACM-W' or 'WICS.' Please note, links to essays will not be accepted and will disqualify your chapter.

We kicked the new academic year off with a computer-based treasure hunt, the No Mouse Challenge (https://github.com/acmbpdc/mouseless). This event, the first of its kind, not only spread awareness about web accessibility but also catalyzed our membership drive.

The Coding Bootcamp, a 10-week student-to-student course on technologies, covered concepts such as Python, Git, Web Development, Machine Learning, & Competitive Programming. With 100 + registrations and Microsoft sponsorship, it took off excellently with the members. We kept the sessions fresh by basing them off of different pop culture icons (Stranger Things, Marvel Universe, Pokemon, & Harry Potter, to name a few). The content & evaluation metrics is available on https://github.com/acmbpdc/coding-bootcamp

During the university tech fest, we held Codathon and Q challenge. The Codathon was a CTF style tournament based on network security and programming challenges. We arranged a time-based quiz, the Q Challenge, in which members raced against the clock to complete programming questions, logic questions, riddles, and brain teasers. The winners were awarded cash prizes for each event.

As part of our newly formed school program, volunteers from the chapter visited local schools to spread the spirit of computer science. After the success of the PC Building Workshop during the previous year, we organized it with more tools, sessions and larger engagement. By guiding them with step-by-step instructions, we taught members how to dismantle and reassemble a computer. During the Diwali holidays when students were sparse on campus, we held an online quiz through our social media platforms called Q Online challenge, roughly based off of Q from the tech fest.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the chapter, we organised a GitHub & Microsoft sponsored two-day local hack day on-campus. On the first day, we held multiple workshops on GitHub, Competitive Programming, the Wolfram Language and Microsoft Azure, to provide participants with tools for the hackathon. During the next day, the participants showcased their product design and implementation after having brainstormed with their mentors and judges. The winners won grant prizes and everyone received goodies such as shirts, ACM bags and free access to WolframOne.

We started the new semester with something unique: A computer-based treasure hunt called Project SIERRA. Throughout the 3-hour event, participants paired up. One of them was glued to a computer terminal while the other sleuthed for clues around the campus. We upheld the 4-year-old tradition by re-organizing the official ACM CTF (2020). By partnering with the quizzing club, we arranged a science-based quiz, The Big-Oh. We set up a hub for Google's Hash Code competitive programming tournament towards the end of February and the team from campus ranked 1st in the country. Our major ongoing project for the month of March is the Career Launchpad: An initiative in collaboration with the Placement Division. The series involves student mentors, professionals from the industry and researchers to prime students with the skills necessary to ace interviews and applications in corporate and graduate environments as they take their next steps beyond campus (https://careerlaunchpad.typeform.com/to/mE4JHg)

We developed event-specific web applications to ensure that our workshops and competitions ran smoothly. We decided to open source them on GitHub (visit https://github.com/acmbpdc for more). We also

used platforms such as MailChimp & Typeforms to streamline the process of marketing our events. This was aided by our extensive social media presence on Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/acmbpdc) & Facebook. Our event turnout was also affected by improving our poster design and incentivizing members with monetary rewards as grants. These efforts have significantly improved the quality of our events, and as such have been instrumental to the rapid growth of our chapter.

This form was created inside of Association for Computing Machinery.

Google Forms