ACM holds first meeting of 2017, outlining plans for the new semester

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Association Computing Machinery (ACM), Illinois Tech chapter, hosted its first callout for the spring semester on January 12, at the Stuart Building Auditorium during lunch break time (1 p.m.). Mohsin Haider gave out a breakdown of the ACM and its upcoming plans.

Computer science is a wide-reaching department at Illinois Tech, and ACM is simply an organization that seeks to 'educate to inspire' computer scientists and other tech enthusiasts. With approximately 160 members at Illinois Tech, activities that are highlighted at this organization are mainly programming workshops and tech talks. Last semester, Fall 2016, it received positive feedback for its workshops.

> active members

background to collaboratively code a one-ofa-kind idea. They spur creativity. Mobile apps, websites, robots, and more are created from scratch during these events. 48 ACM tech individuals attended hackathons last semester with around 40 percent of them attending for the first time.

The two largest hackathons attended by ACM, PennApps and MHacks, gather 1000 hackers from universities across the globe. These students often spend the most exciting and high-energy weekends of their lives at these event. For 24 to 48 hours, they team up with a motley group of creative minds. They challenge their abilities, learn new technologies, throw together tons of code, and set out to build. Sleep deprivation often fades out with the anticipation of competing for prizes.

Haider jested about ACM being a

participants of hackathons. These social hackathon club. On a more serious note, he coding events invite people with technical added that these events are just part of the equation of ACM. The purpose put at heart is to build a community of future computer scientists, engineers, and developers around this 'hacker' culture. Their objective is CERMC: Education, Recruitment, Competition, Mentorship and Collaboration. As a premier computer science organization on campus, ACM is committed to helping its members learn and grow outside of the classroom.

> The upcoming activities in the January calendar are mostly meetings, hackathon trips, technology workshops, and tech talks by Chicago tech companies, startups, and academia. ACM's two big announcements for this semester are the establishment of the Student Interest Groups (SIGs) project and the Scarlet Hacks.

> SIGs are member-led "mini clubs" within ACM. Students can lead their own SIG, which may specialize in many different

areas: SIGmobile or SIGweb, for example. All those interested in a specific area can therefore network. These groups involves being creative with technology while fostering leadership, communication, and strong work ethic skills. The best part, to some, is that SIGs allow students to run their own organizations while neglecting all the other administrative hassles. "ACM will do the finances; you do the cool stuff," says Haider.

In addition another to upcoming project for the semester is the launch of ACM's website.

ACM is planning big. Inspired by past hackathon success, ACM is working to launch their own hackathon, Scarlet Hacks, in conjunction with Major League Hacking (MLH). In that respect, ACM is looking for individuals who can take on a challenging, but at the same time rewarding, task for their Scarlet Hacks hackathons.

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