

1. Computer Science House

2. The Computer Science House continues to serve the community by providing a collaborative environment for aspiring computer scientists while raising awareness of the discipline within the community.

3. The Computer Science House will host an assortment of activities during the academic year to fulfill our commitment to the local community.

- The Computer Science House will host collaborative software development projects where students can work together on creating significant programming projects on in-house resources including servers and terminals owned by individuals within the house as well as the servers and terminals that were donated to the Computer Science House by Allegheny College Technical Services. These resources are most effectively utilized operating in close proximity on a local area network. By confining the traffic to a local area network, our development projects will not impair the functionality of the campus network.
- We would like to continue host prospective students hoping to pursue a Computer Science degree. This should generate greater interest in the program by giving prospective students an inside look into the close-knit community of the Computer Science Department.
- Several members of the house regularly compete in programming contests. We will use this experience to raise interest in the department by hosting a community programming contest event. We will provide terminals configured in a contest environment for participants to work through programming problems similar to those found in official competitions.
- Also, since several members of the Computer Science Department, including several members of the house, consistently compete in programming competitions hosted at other colleges. The house will be used as a practice area, in which a competition environment can be maintained, thus allowing the teams to practice in a way that would be impossible to maintain in a public lab. Thus allowing our teams to gain authentic practice and experience before representing Allegheny College at programming events.
- The Allegheny chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (A.C.M) hosts many events throughout the year. We would like to host events in conjunction with the A.C.M to promote awareness of the discipline and build relations in the department. These events will range from movie nights to informal social gatherings with a Computer Science theme.
- We would like to share some of our computer knowledge and help educate the local community by offering various computer workshops. These workshops would range in topic and would cover popular questions about computing. Also, through these workshops, we will advocate the use of

free software over pirated software. Through such an effort, we could provide a legal and safe alternative to stealing software.

- During finals week, most Computer Science classes not only require a final exam, but also a final project to demonstrate an applied knowledge of learnt material. The Computer Science labs in Alden, the only labs on campus on which the necessary software is installed, have limited resources to satisfy the needs of every student. For that purpose, the Computer Science House intends to host terminals open to students in need of resources to complete their final projects. The same consideration will be extended to seniors working on their Senior Thesis Research, as those experiments often need to be isolated and run for longer periods of time without interruption.

4. We plan to promote our events with fliers posted around campus. In addition, our collaboration with the A.C.M and Computer Science Department will allow for promotion through announcements by the professors as well as through the A.C.M mailing list.

5. As Allegheny College has once again granted us this unique and special opportunity, we will show our appreciation by hosting events that will raise the interest and awareness of the community in the Computer Science field, such as holding informal discussions on hot topics within the technology industry such as the future of the Internet, software piracy, and current trends in computing.

6. We would appreciate program suggestions that would utilize the technical skills that our house offers. Additionally, the Office of Residence Life can provide contacts in other departments for interdisciplinary events. For example, an event dealing with computer graphics would benefit from participants in the Art department.

7. We would like to allocate our budget towards providing refreshments at our events as well as on equipment required to improve the house's ability to better serve the community.

8. Through the Computer Science House, we have been able to to serve the community with our events. These communities brought many Allegheny students together and have promoted the awareness of the Computer Science Department. Living in a special interest house was also a great learning experience that will help us better serve the community next year. The events we completed this year were:

- The Computer Science House hosted an anniversary party for Slashdot.org's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Slashdot is a popular technology-related news website in which readers are encouraged to debate current trends in computing and Computer Science. The website is extremely popular among computer scientists and is considered to be one of the more reliable news websites for technology. Our anniversary party was registered on Slashdot.com as an official party and was advertised on their website. Through this advertising, members of the local Meadville technical community signed up to attend and therefore, because of this advertising, our attendance was

much larger than anticipated. Also as an added bonus, Slashdot.org sent t-shirts to all of the registered party attendees.

- The Computer Science House's next few events revolved around the 2007 A.C.M International Collegiate Programming Contest (I.C.P.C) in Youngstown, Ohio. To begin, our house hosted the planning meetings in which the Computer Science Department determined which teams of students to send and our plans for accommodations in Youngstown. After these planning meetings, the house got together and set up some terminals that were donated to the Computer Science House by Allegheny College's Technical Services as well as the Computer Science Department to emulate the competition environment. The computers were setup to the exact specifications of the contest guidelines, which was impossible to do in a public lab, and thus gave the teams more time to practice in a realistic environment and even compete against each other for practice.
- The Computer Science House's next events revolved around a similar programming competition hosted at Carnegie Mellon University. This programming competition took place over the internet and once again, terminals were setup to contest guidelines to allow the teams to practice before the competition.
- The Computer Science House also hosted two prospective students who were undecided but interested in Computer Science. The prospective students had the opportunity to see some of the projects being worked on by current students as well as gain first-hand knowledge of the Computer Science Department's close-knit nature.
- In conjunction with the A.C.M, the Computer Science House hosted frequent movie nights, in which movies related to Computer Science were shown. The Computer Science Department lent the house a projector, in which we were able to transform our perfectly sized living room into a makeshift movie theater. Titles such as "A.I" were shown, in conjunction with the Artificial Intelligence class being offered this semester, as well as "Pirates of Silicon Valley" and various other titles.

The Computer Science House has reached out not only to the Computer Science Department, to which the house was a large help, but also to the local Meadville community. By holding events such as the Slashdot anniversary party and the frequent A.C.M movie nights, we have increased the awareness of the Computer Science discipline on-campus and off-campus. With this house, we were given a unique opportunity to bring various fields, departments and people together. An opportunity in which we reveled.

Through the events hosted last semester and this semester, our house has gained much experience at planning and preparing events. We plan to apply this experience to the events we are planning this semester as well as strengthening our current events. This will provide the foundation on which we can expand and grow to serve Allegheny College and the Meadville community even better in the future, given the chance.

9. Our first choice for a house would be our current location, being 376 East College Street. This residence proved to be well suited for our events. The

living room, reception room and dining room provided an excellent large space in which we could adequately hold all the attendees to our events. For events such as the A.C.M movie nights and the Slashdot.org party, this was key to our event's success. Also, one of the downstairs rooms provided ample shelving and space for storing and operating the terminals donated to our house by the Computer Science Department as well as Allegheny College Technical Services. The location close to Murray Hall assists in our transportation of terminals back and forth between the two buildings. Also, after some work with Allegheny College's Residential Network Manager, Phil Reinhart, we were able to acquire additional I.P. addresses for the house to facilitate the large amount of computers in the house. This network change is necessary to allow us to achieve the goals set aside in our proposal.

Our second choice for a house is 379 Prospect and our third choice would be 348 Meadow Street.



# ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE  
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4 February 2007

Office of Residence Life  
Room 104, Reis Hall  
Allegheny College

To the Office of Residence Life:

A year ago, as Chair of the Department of Computer Science, I wrote a letter endorsing the establishment of a Computer Science Special Interest House, agreeing to serve as the faculty advisor for the house. Now that the house has been active for a semester and I have seen the benefits to our students and to the Department I wish to renew my endorsement.

During its first semester, the Computer Science House has served as a gathering spot for a number of our majors. I have been to the house in connection with planning for the fall Regional Programming Contest, where the members of the two Allegheny College programming teams discussed strategies and sample problems. The machines in the house served as a testbed for the installation of the contest software, a freely-available system known as PC<sup>2</sup> (Programming Contest Control system). They were used by some of the contest team members to practice in an environment that closely approximated that of the actual contest.

In addition, the Computer Science House sponsored several movie nights open to anyone who wished to attend, and hosted a party to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the popular Web site [slashdot.org](http://slashdot.org). The Computer Science faculty supported these events through advertising on our Department announcement board, through the loan of computer projection equipment, and through word-of-mouth publicity in our classes. Discussions are under way for possible use of the Computer Science house by our seniors during the planned campus power outage over Spring Break so that they will be able to continue running their software experiments.

At the time the Computer Science House was established, the students agreed to abide by socially responsible rules of software use. To the best of my knowledge they have done so. This spring they have already hosted another movie night, and I anticipate that there will be several more events before the end of the semester.

To summarize, the Computer Science House is meeting its goals of serving the Department and the campus at large. In the coming year I hope to see even more events taking place there and to see a greater number of students taking advantage of the opportunities to attend these and to get to know a bit more about computer science.

I give my unconditional endorsement to the renewal of the Computer Science Special Interest House and pledge once again to serve as the faculty advisor.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Roos  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Computer Science