

# Summer of Side Projects: Building Community in Virtual Open-Source Learning



# Who We Are



**David An**  
Sophomore in Math



**Saurav Chittal**  
Junior in Math



**Monica Para**  
Senior in CS + ADV



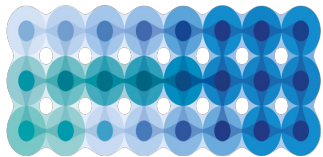
**Drshika Asher**  
Junior in CS



# About Summer of Side Projects

- **4 weeks, 4 projects (in Python)**
  - Chatbots
  - Flask APIs
  - Command Line Interface
  - PyGame
- **Personal and Professional Development**
  - How to Side Project
  - Personal Branding
  - Resume Reviews
  - How to Interview Prep
  - IMC Recruiting Event

## Program Sponsors



imc





# Building a Course Community

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- **The most important part of a course's success comes from the staff**
  - Increased engagement from the staff can lead to an increase in engagement from students
  - Understanding the student's perspective
  - Organic conversations and connections between student and staff
- **Discord's role in fostering a community in students**
  - Flexible course structure and organization
  - Informal and genuine conversations
  - Done without the supervision of professors or faculty members
- **Staff as well!!**
  - Custom channels for staff allow for discussion outside of SOSP
  - Not everything has to be 100% academic, the fun things are what make classes memorable



# Creating Engagement Within Course Staff

▼ STAFF +	▼ PARTICIPANTS +
# staff-roles	# announcements
# staff-announcements	# rules
# staff-discussions	# general
# student-feedback	# setup
# cs-teaching-workshop	# ask-away
# branding-n-merch	# workshops
# off-topic	# server-suggestions
	# feedback
	# memes



# Course Logistics + Moderation

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- **Discord's benefit over traditional course content delivery and forums**
  - Completely anonymous feedback and response delivery system
  - Questions can be asked publicly and answered by **students** or staff!
- **Server and course moderation**
  - Student and staff content were kept completely separate from one another as shown previously mentioned
  - Strong emphasis on moderation and staying appropriate with servers
- **Successful Examples:**
  - STAT 107 - Wade Fagen-Ulmschneider, Karle Flanagan
  - STAT 400 - Albert Yu



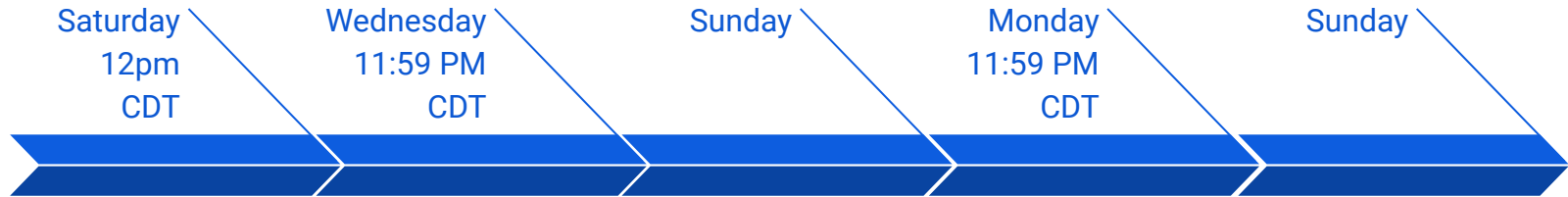
# Engagement on Various Platforms

Discourse	Discord
142 active users	300+ active users
350 posts	6,000+ messages





# Our Course Structure



## Zoom Workshop

Introduction to the idea through a simple project from start to finish. Text versions were on the website too.

## Idea Form

Take some time to come up with an idea and scope out a MVP

## Idea Feedback

Help students scope down ideas

## Project Form

Open Source Git Repo + Reflection

## Project Feedback

Help them improve their code, documentation, and suggest future improvements





# Encouraging Project Submissions - Merch!

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## Student Responses

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“Actually this is the first time that I’ve ever worked on (and finished) a project myself to solve a problem/something that annoyed me, and it is very satisfying! Thanks a ton again for the feedback and all the SOSP staff for making this possible!”

“Thanks for being so supportive and helpful! SOSP has been an amazing learning experience for me, and I will definitely come back next summer :D”

“Working on this project has been a fun journey and huge learning experience for me, I genuinely enjoyed it and had a lot of fun!”

# SOSP By The Numbers



**8 Workshops**  
**150+ Attendees**



**400+ Subscribers**  
**13 Course Staff**



**150+ Project**  
**Submissions**

**..and one fun summer of side projects!**

# We Couldn't Have Done This Without Our Team



**Harsh Deep**



**Lou Zeh**



**Nehal Tangudu**



**Justin Hu**



**Sana Madhavan**



**Maaheen Maajed**



**Savannah Holly**



**Matt McCarthy**



**Khoa Pham**



# We would love to connect with you!

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- **David An**  
[dzan2@illinois.edu](mailto:dzan2@illinois.edu)  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/davidzan/>
- **Monica Para**  
[mpara3@illinois.edu](mailto:mpara3@illinois.edu)  
<https://www.linkedin.com/mwllite/in/monica-para>
- **Drshika Asher**  
[drshika2@illinois.edu](mailto:drshika2@illinois.edu)  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/drshikaasher/>
- **Saurav Chittal**  
[chittal3@illinois.edu](mailto:chittal3@illinois.edu)  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/saurav-chittal>



# Questions?

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