ECS-CSCI: Enhancing Community and Support for Bucknell Computer Science Majors
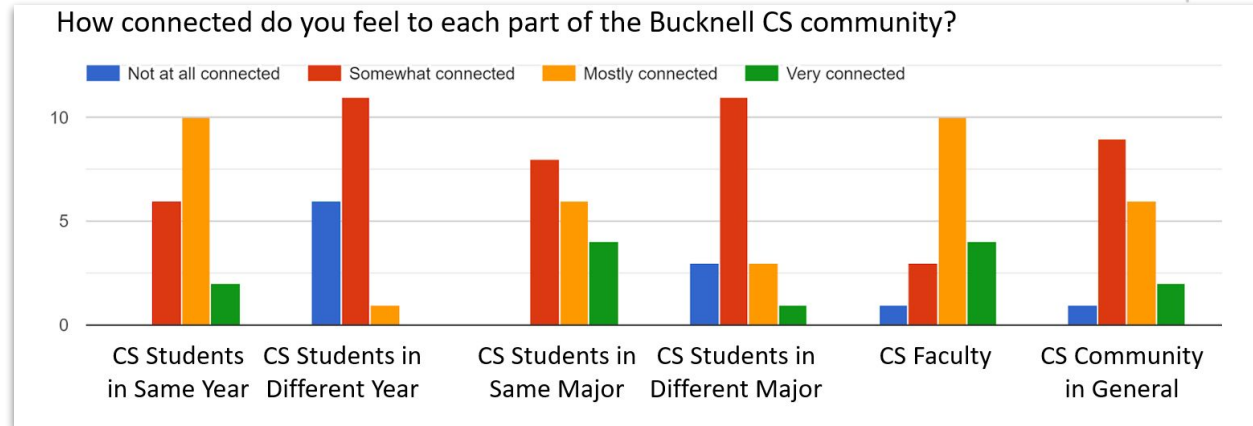
Goals:

- Survey stakeholders about community within CS, across majors, colleges, and years.

- Develop and plan large-scale community building events for Fall 2024

Summer Work

- Evaluate community within CS:
  - Focus groups with CS summer research students
  - Survey for current CS majors (classes of 2025, 26, and 27)
- Evaluate interest in community building events
  - Survey incoming CS students during orientation
  - Survey current and incoming students to gauge interest in departmental mentoring programs (and whether there was more interest in alumni or upperclassmen mentors)
- Plan community building events
  - Began planning to send students to Grace Hopper, the flagship conference for women and non-binary computer scientists. Also began planning an event with alumni in the conference vicinity (Philadelphia)

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Some Survey Results

- Students in focus groups generally felt that the CS department had strong community, relative to other majors

- Students did not feel as connected to students in other years. Focus group students reported that it was particularly difficult as first-years who may not be taking many CS courses

- Students are especially interested in events with faculty and in departmental mentoring programs

How connected do you feel to each part of the Bucknell CS community?

- Not at all connected
- Somewhat connected
- Mostly connected
- Very connected

Categories: CS Students in Same Year, CS Students in Different Year, CS Students in Same Major, CS Students in Different Major, CS Faculty, CS Community in General

Recommendations and Ongoing Work

- Develop peer and alumni mentoring programs within the department
  - Currently working with ACM/ACM-W clubs to do so
  - Considering incorporating alumni mentoring into CSCI 201, a seminar course students take in all three of our majors
- Organized a trip to the Grace Hopper Conference (Oct 8-11, 2024), including a dinner with local alumni