

# Tech Trek TU 2016 Update



Our second Tech Trek Camp is part of our history now, and a great memory for the girls in the STEM camp. This year registration was expanded to 48 girls, and we were able to take extra campers that the Weatherford Tech Trek couldn't accommodate.



Above: L. to R. President Pam McDonald, Donna Mathews and Rose Unterschuetz ready to greet campers.



Right: Pam hosting as campers line up for snacks.

Following check-in at their dorm on the TU campus, campers and parents gathered at Keplinger

Hall for snacks, hosted by Tulsa Branch AAUW, prior to Orientation led by Camp Director **Xan Black** (Program Coordinator for Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance), and Assistant Director **Dr. Donna Farrior** (University of



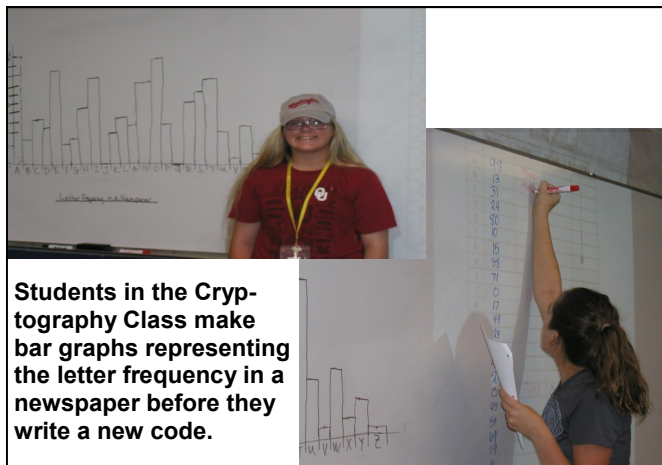
Xan Black, Camp Director speaks to parents and girls.

Tulsa, and head of Girls Math Circle).

In addition to Xan and Donna the Tech Trek Committee included Student and Family Coordinator **Rose Unterschuetz** (Tulsa Branch AAUW), Fundraising and Financial Coordinator **Michael DuPont** (from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation), Curricular & Assessment Coordinator **Bill Coberly** (University of Tulsa), Volunteer Coordinator **Marilyn Howard** (University of Tulsa), and Social Media & Marketing Coordinator **Annie Tyndall** (Oklahoma Innovation Institute).



Donna Farrior introduces Camp Interns.



Students in the Cryptography Class make bar graphs representing the letter frequency in a newspaper before they write a new code.

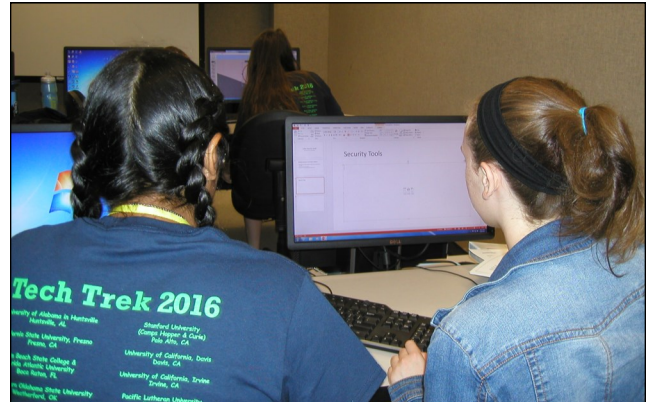


The Nanoscience Class quizzing their instructors before they begin a process to break down a gold solution into nano-particles.



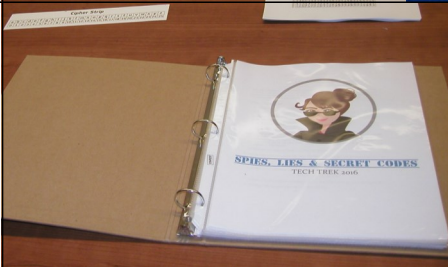


These "Trekkies" in the App Inventor Class are writing an app to find their car in the parking lot. It worked!



Symantec class members are writing a report on maintaining cyber security in a children's home.

Professional Women's Night the campers heard a panel of women in all kinds of careers; the girls had the opportunity to talk one on one with the panelists. Campers prepared for this special event with rehearsals; they perused the panelists' resumes, and dressed up for the evening.



Parents and family look over the displays, listen to and watch demonstrations of the campers' work the past week at the Closing on June 18, 2016.







Closing at Tech Trek sees happy campers, parents glad to see their daughters, excited siblings checking out the displays. The event was in the Atrium at Keplinger Hall.



AAUW members hosted the refreshments table at the Closing. Pictured are President Pam McDonald and Rose Unterschuetz, AAUW member of the Tech Trek Committee. On the right is Xan Black, Camp Director.

**Tech Trek TU 2016 was a success** thanks to a lot of people and organizations. Funding came from the Schusterman Family Foundation, Verizon, Semantec, Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance and Flight Night, and Tulsa Branch AAUW. Other support came from AAUW, AAUW Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Innovation Institute.

**Our campers**, who were rising eighth graders, signed up for one of four core classes, Cryptography, Symantec, App Inventor, and Nanoscience. Core classes took up the mornings of camp; after lunch the opportunities varied from day to day; they included Team Building and Problem Solving, a math contest, kite building and aerodynamics, a wind tunnel drag study, computer gaming, a visit to the Aquarium, and even an analysis of Kool-Aid with light!

**We enjoyed good publicity** of Tech Trek again, with television and good coverage by the Tulsa World. Camp Director Xan Black relates that some campers expressed a desire for a Tech Trek for 9th graders!

**We end with a quote** from Xan Black's report: "One camper walked alongside me after dinner one evening near the end of camp and summed up her personal paradigm shift this way, 'There aren't many girls who are interested in STEM in my school, so I used to think that I was mature like a guy. **Now I know that I'm mature like a girl.**' The courage and enormity of this simple reflection caused me to think on the bravery of these young women and challenge our group to think about ways that we can impact more young women in the coming year..."

**Thank you AAUW**, national and local partners, University of Tulsa, professors, workshop leaders, parents and most of all Tech Trek girls for causing us to be more brave as we see you taking such courageous steps in building bright futures for yourselves and our world. Our work is already underway for Tech Trek 2017 and we are confident that it's a work that's worthy of our region's investment of time, talent and treasure!"

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Submitted by Gwen Hampton

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