

**Minutes of the Web Development Program  
Advisory Committee Meeting: Spring 2026**

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Date: April 13, 2026  
Time: 2:00pm (Pacific time)  
Place: Online conference via Zoom; Zoom Meeting ID is: 698 266 936;  
<https://santarosa-edu.zoom.us/j/698266936>; telephone dial-in: +1 669 900 6833.

*Members in Attendance:*

- Brian Kreck
- Terri Gutierrez
- Cole Lewis
- Joshua Turton

*Members Absent:*

- None

*Faculty, Staff, and Administrators in Attendance:*

- Rachel Smith

*Was there a quorum?*

- Yes

***Transcript:***

Ethan Wilde:

And so, I'm going to call to order our meeting. It's been a little while. This is a meeting we have at least once an academic year. And, this will be the meeting for the 2025-26 academic year, catching us kind of towards the end of that year. The JC wraps up in just about 5 weeks with our spring semester, and then we head into commencement. Hi, Rachel. Thanks for being here. We'll get to introductions in just a minute. In fact, less than a minute, let's go ahead and do that. I've got everybody here on the slide who's here part of the committee. I'm very pleased with the turnout. We have 100% turnout for our four-person advisory. just using, kind of, the slide here, I'll invite you all to just introduce yourselves a little bit. A lot of you know each other, but we have at least one new member this semester. And so, Terry, would you mind taking it away and saying hello to everybody?



## Computer Studies

Terri Gutierrez:

Yeah, hi everybody. I think I already know several of you, Paul, Brian, Joshua, I believe. Do you think? I'm not sure. But anyway, Terry Gutierrez and I work here at the Santa Rosa Junior College. I'm the web design specialist here.

Ethan Wilde:

Thank you for being here, Terry. Terry manages... how many websites, Terry? It's like, is it A hundred and something, at least.

Terri Gutierrez:

It's... yeah, we have a little over 200, so... and yeah, definitely a lot going on, and of course with Leela, she's on her, medical leave, so it's, it's a lot.

Ethan Wilde:

Yeah, they're doing two-person's job for 200 websites already. Wow. Glad you're here.

Terri Gutierrez:

Thank you.

Ethan Wilde:

Welcome, Brian.

Brian Kreck:

Thank you. Thanks for having me.

Ethan Wilde:

Yeah, would you give yourself a brief introduction to the crew?

Brian Kreck:

Yeah, so, my name's Brian Kreck, owner of a small agency called Budbreak Creative. We've been in business since 1997, so we're looking at 30 years here soon. And we'll see if we make it. Yeah, I'm not quite sure, I don't know.



## Computer Studies

We're literally kind of reimagining ourselves more as an AI consulting firm, so that's essentially what we're doing these days. And so... Basically, pivoting, allowing small companies to, kind of different types of custom rag, creation and other types of... I don't know if you guys have sort of seen some of the stuff coming out the last couple weeks but just trying to kind of help small businesses leverage the tools that are there.

Ethan Wilde:

Wonderful, interesting to hear that. Welcome, Cole!

Cole Lewis:

Alright, yeah, my name's Cole Lewis, I graduated from SRJC in 2017. And then I started at Business Wire, as a software engineer. Became a, a senior engineer, lead, did management for about 2 years, and then recently became director of engineering.

Brian Kreck:

You're at that point.

Terri Gutierrez:

Congrats! Wow.

Ethan Wilde:

And finally, the person I've known the longest on this panel, Josh and I worked together in the 1990s.

Joshua Turton:

That is...

Ethan Wilde:

Welcome, Josh.

Joshua Turton:

True, yeah. Hi, I'm Joshua Turton, I'm a senior developer at Capellic. We are a small but mighty, web agency. We work in the nonprofit space, so a lot of legal aid, Easterseals, ASPCA. And I have known... Ethan... I was one of



## Computer Studies

Ethan's students at the previous school, the Academy of Art, and then he gave me my first job in the industry, so that was quite a long time ago. We've known each other a long time.

Ethan Wilde:

Josh is a Drupal superstar, Terry. All the sites we have at the JC are Drupal sites, Josh.

Joshua Turton:

Nice, nice.

Terri Gutierrez:

All of them.

Ethan Wilde:

And finally, I'd like to give Rachel a chance to say hello to everybody.

Rachel:

Hello, my name is Rachel, I'm over at Career Education.

Ethan Wilde:

Rachel helps all our career education programs keep going. She helps to oversee what the state calls the strong workforce project funds that make a lot of the programs that are career-oriented at the JC, like ours, web development possible. Glad that you're all here. It is a very... Interesting time to be talking about this. I sent out a couple weeks ago, when I shared the agenda, our last meeting minutes from the 24-25 school year, and I would like to ask folks, that are comfortable if anybody would make a motion to approve those minutes.

Brian Kreck:

I reviewed them and I would move to approve the minutes.

Ethan Wilde:

Thank you, Brian. Could I get a second?

Cole Lewis:

I second that.

Ethan Wilde:

Thank you, Cole, I appreciate that formality. We, I do my best. I'm not always the best at super organized meetings, but Rachel gives us great templates, so I'm following our template for the agenda and keeping things official. Just a couple announcements I'd be happy to share. I'll soon open the floor for other people to make announcements. Our program, for many years before I arrived, and this is my 11th year at the junior college, has had this wonderful outreach that benefits our students and the local community of running a real projects class that invites local organizations, mostly nonprofits, small government organizations, some small businesses, to work with our students in a web studio. We've got 4 teams this semester working on four different real-world projects, for a senior center in Sebastopol, for the Bodega Land Trust. For a tennis academy in Colorado. I'm not sure how they found us, but they did, amongst others. And the projects are underway. There'll be a... final presentation, in about 5 weeks, the last day of finals week, May 22nd at 6pm, I'd be very happy to invite all of you, and I'll send you all an invite when it happens. It is something that, really connects the students to bridge the school to the work experience, gives them a site that really launches for a real client, the challenge of working in a team with real clients. We all know what that's like. Hard to simulate that in class, but, but the studio does a nice job of that. open the floor for anybody that wants to share anything. We do have an agenda that has a primary topic of talking about the revolution of AI tools. But if anybody's got anything you want to share before we get to that regular... agenda item. I'd be happy to hear from any of you. Alright, I'll... I'll move things along, because... the elephant in the room, not even in the room, the elephant sitting on top of humanity on planet Earth now seems to be... These... these new tools... Many of which are springing from the San Francisco Bay Area, of all places. Anthropic, OpenAI, our friends on the peninsula at Google. It has been, quite a wild ride the last two years in our program. I know many of you have experiences, I'm really looking to hear from all of you. Just briefly, I'll share with you that, One of our challenges is to give students access to the tools in a way that doesn't impose external costs on them. So far, we've been lucky enough that, the startup AnySphere, which publishes the cursor. IDE, which is basically a fork of Visual Studio Code with an AI agent built into it, offers a free year of their pro-level subscription, which they'll usually charge 20 bucks for, to college students. So, all our students in the program have been using Cursor for what is now, I think, our third semester. We haven't been able to get them access to things like Claude. Despite me trying to get Anthropic's attention, they don't seem to want to, give things away to us. But we do... I have been demonstrating Claude Code and other tools. Some of the more engaged students in this toolset have decided to take the plunge and get a subscription to things like Claude. Not everybody, though. But I'm most interested today that the real focus I hope we can spend most of our time on is I'd love to hear from each of you about what's going on for you. In your role, the tools, your thoughts. We're trying to figure things out very quickly here, in a very rapidly moving target. Floor is open to anybody who wants to start off the conversation on this topic.

Cole Lewis:

Yeah, I mean, for us, it's been... it's been a big challenge, in particular with interviewing, So, you know, we do have co-pilot licenses, and we keep up to date with the latest models, so... we encourage our engineers to augment their work with AI, but in interviewing, it is challenging because, you know, many candidates are using it as a crutch, and we're really just trying to figure out, you know, what they know and how they communicate. So, a lot of candidates, end up being disqualified because of that. And so that's really where the challenge is. And, you

know, a lot of them could be good and... we're not, you know, we're reasonable in the interviews, so we're not looking for perfection, we're just looking to get an understanding of where they're at. But, you know, at the beginning, we are letting them know that, you know, AI should be turned off. And so, yeah, a lot of challenges with interviews. As far as our work, flow goes, as I mentioned, we do, you know, encourage AI usage. I'd say it changed... it has changed our teams. Our teams are smaller, they're... consist mostly of senior engineers, so I can see, you know, the trend in the industry. It's, less, friendly to juniors getting into, you know, the workforce. So, yeah, that's the trends I've found.

Ethan Wilde:

Oh, wow. Cole, how do you, How do you catch the interviewees that are using AI? Yeah, I must teach my students how to avoid getting caught now, right?

Cole Lewis:

Basically, what we'll do is we'll, start a conversation and ask a lot of questions that they wouldn't typically use AI for, and get a baseline of what their, voice inflections are and how they communicate, you know, how their eyes behave. And then once we start asking technical questions. that's when they're... if they're using AI, their voice tends to change to more of a reading tone, and a lot of times you can see their eyeballs reading across the screen, because there are a lot of tools, even if they're sharing their screen. There are tools that are only visible to them and are actually listening to our questions without them having to type anything, and we'll give them answers on their screen.

Ethan Wilde:

So, the candidates have gotten very sophisticated about how they are trying to, get their foot in the door, it sounds like, with those tools. Amazing.

Terri Gutierrez:

I've actually definitely used AI here at the JC, especially for, like, JavaScript, or asking, you know, the AI to create designs for me, or SVG icons, and that's really great, or... for helping me organize the content, or, you know, just giving me better design ideas, so I think that's really, really useful. And, yeah, I mean, I think it's... the way forward, it's not going to go away, and we must adapt to it, right? So... Yeah.

Ethan Wilde:

What are the tools you've been using, Terry?

Terri Gutierrez:

ChatGPT, actually. Nothing, nothing special. The free version as well. It's been great. I can do a lot with it.

Ethan Wilde:

That's interesting. Has there been any, Messaging or communication from the department you're in about...  
Wanting you to use the tools, or restrictions?

Terri Gutierrez:

Nope, nope, we don't have any, input on that for a lot of the content administrators. They are starting to use AI as well, so they're adding a bunch of code, and, you know, some of the pages look completely different than the rest of the sites, so I think that's become a little bit of a problem, so we need to figure out how to rein that in for them. But yeah, at this point, we haven't really had any direction on whether to use it or not, but I think we're probably going to start a conversation about that.

Ethan Wilde:

Interesting. What about your world, Josh?

Joshua Turton:

So, it is a huge topic in the Drupal community. we're in a very interesting place because there's so much going on. Drupal is a really structured content management system which works well with AI, because the data is so structured. There's a lot of work that's going into the Drupal insight, or there's AI inside of Drupal. Where you can use AI to generate content, and generate images, and do things within the content management system. Then there's the outside area where we're building Drupal with AI. We're building a lot of the Drupal AI tools with AI as a community at Capellic. This an ongoing conversation that we've been having for most of the time I've been there. I've been there a little over a year. What tools are we using? What tools are our company subscribing to? Because, you know, we can't subscribe to all of them. And right now, most of us are using Claude within PHP Storm.

It just happens to be kind of what we all settled on. A couple of us are using RoboDev on the command line. And then Claude and Gemini, because we have a big Google subscription already, so, you know, with all our email and all our various file stuff. So adding Gemini to that was easy. There's also some talk about the ethics of AI. Which is a whole other side topic. Right now we don't do any visual work, or any design work with AI. I think our design team is using some AI tools to maneuver stuff, but it's not like, hey, give me a design idea. We have a staff designer, and he does the thing. And so, there's that. We're not using any of the visual stuff. Our kind of collective decision came down to "You know, if we're using it to build code."

Drupal is open source. All our tutorials are online anyway. They're all free, almost all free, so, like, ethically, that's kind of okay with us. You know, it's consuming the code that we've already posted for general consumption. So, our ethical guidelines right now are we don't put AI images on sites, and we don't use Grok. And that's about it. That's kind of what we've settled on. So, that's where we're at. A lot of the community has kind of come down to that as well. But it's been an interesting year. We just finished, just a couple of weeks ago, the annual North American DrupalCon. And, of course, that's one of the big, big, like, one of the big three or four topics of the year. Until last year, I hadn't been to DrupalCon in about a decade. Because I had hit a point, and then it was just sort of rolling along, and it was some minor updates, and there wasn't a lot to go to. I wasn't really getting anything out of



## Computer Studies

it, so I sort of stopped going for a while. And then last year, I was thinking “AI is coming, and it's rolling across us like a steamroller.” We need to be in front of this. So, I went last year, and I went this year, and even the difference between the two years has been astronomical. So I'm glad to hear that Santa Rosa Junior College is taking that seriously and getting in front of it, because this is going to steamroller us otherwise. So, the AI initiative there, that is inside of Drupal components, that is structuring a framework within the Drupal framework. Dealing with questions like “how do we connect to various models, how do we get data back and forth, what do we do with it when we've got it?” It's a huge initiative, and some really smart people are on that. That's kind of where we're at.

Terri Gutierrez:

Have you worked with Drupal Canvas? And that might be, specific to Acquia, I believe.

Joshua Turton:

Acquia did most of the development on that. It is available to everybody. We haven't used it... We're monitoring it very closely. It's mostly the nature of the work that we do with the clients that we have. It gives you a lot of flexibility in rearranging and moving stuff around. Most of our client base is somewhat less savvy to that level of design and technicality.

We do a more structured approach with individual form fields, and to some degree of flexibility, but a little more tied down. That said, we are very closely monitoring the development of it, and I think it's a good toolset. I have some technical questions that I haven't seen answered yet.

Terri Gutierrez:

It's pretty new.

Ethan Wilde:

Thanks for sharing all of that so far, Josh. I want to give Brian a chance, especially with the pivot that you announced in your business. Tell us what's going on.

Brian Kreck:

So, it's been a very intense two to three months or so. I think starting in about December I had a project about a year before, a year and change before, that paused. It was a data conversion project, and not really web design, but the project kind of went on hold. the company I was doing it for decided to scrap their software and start over, and so I kept giving them data files and asking them questions and very simple questions, and soon they just went, abort, abort, and so they stopped for a bit. So, I had the interesting experience of essentially working on the same project a year or year and change apart.

I was attempting to use some tools on the first time around, and on the second time around, you know, it was just kind of doing whole swaths of it for me. And the first time around, it was a tool I could feed stuff at, and it would

maybe help, maybe sort of say, "hey, have you looked here?" But one out of three times it was right, and two out of three times it was wrong. You never let it rewrite anything. You never let it edit itself. This was a year and a half ago. So, I switched from GPT to Claude for my primary AI for coding and that sort of thing. I still have subscriptions to about 5 or 6 different services. \$20 plans for most, \$100 for Claude. Company-wide, we've switched how we do a lot of things. There still is a lot in the works. How we do project management, how we do proposals, proposal writing, how we do a lot of our compliance stuff, how we help clients create privacy policies, accessibility policies, just kind of like all the, just general documentation. We're now sort of walking people through, question and answer sessions and generate, sort of. custom, policies based on that, rather than the much worse boilerplate we were kind of handing them as a, as-is, here's what we kind of came up with 10 years ago approach, which we had been doing before that. Not to say that I have a great faith that the What's now being produced is entirely right, but, at quick glance, it certainly is a lot better than what we had before. let's see here... just so many little things. Built and distributed my first browser plugins for kind of a common client-related hassle that I've been trying to teach people how to do for 20 years, and so I just built a little plug-in to do it. Took me an hour, you know? I'm maintaining some old systems. I'm building a whole API interface to kind of an old archaic point-of-sale system in the wine industry.

Ethan Wilde:

Interesting.

Brian Kreck:

And probably from that, I will wrap an MCP server around it, and so I'll be able to get access to that. And while I'm doing that, I'll be able to add a bunch of functionalities, like, various types of, like, market... email marketing systems. I should be able to plug in, you know, integration with MailChimp and Klaviyo and those, once I've kind of done the other work. So, just, so many little projects that I think I'm a bit... I can get a bit lost. I have too many things... too many things where I... AI is great at getting things going, right? And you see this huge promise. It looks great. That final mile of kind of getting it all wrapped up and kind of dealing with projects as they get larger, we all know, is a lot more challenging. And you start kind of putting in, you know, if you haven't structured it well. if you haven't made it properly modular, etc. What I'm finding is a lot of our skills just that we've all developed, over the years with basic programming and stuff. It allows us to just sort of structure, programs in larger programs in ways that... that help me kind of power, you know, get through bigger projects. So, one of the bigger things we built was, a website analysis tool. Now, it's trying to do everything now. I got hired by a law firm about 2 months ago in a federal wiretap law against one of our local Sonoma County, businesses that Essentially, they were firing a tracking cookie before consent. Which cost him 50 grand, so you know, make sure you get your consent in before you start firing those tracking cookies. In this case, it was a... It was buried in a Google Tag Manager container, something that someone placed there as long as 8 to 10 years ago. That company was... that was, oh, shoot... Rocket Fuel. Do you guys ever remember an old company called Rocket Fuel from the mid-teens? They were bought by someone and then sold to Amazon, so Amazon has them now. Well, whatever... I don't know the history of what the tracker was, because... Well, we don't need to get into details. But essentially, you know, the trackers can evolve, right? And by the time I got called in, this thing was firing a tracking code. So, I was trying to build some tools. I couldn't really find much online that weren't quite complicated. Like, I spent hours trying to get them to work, and I couldn't. So, building something that would, essentially, scrape sites or, or, you know, browse sites, pull down, entire pages. simulate the, the cookie approval process, or the approval process, then download the page again. compare, essentially, the experience before and after, and sort of watch for when the various track-on cookies

were loaded. By the time I got that done, which is... that part's done, you know, why not check for other SEO-related factors, other things? So, soon, I start building this sort of massive tool It's kind of a lot of hand, and now, more is spec'd out than built. But just little things like that, which then we'll be using to kind of leverage Both, you know. our own work, and make sure we're doing stuff right, and make sure... whatever. But we should be able to do almost instantaneous kind of evaluations of websites, and then feed that almost automatically into a, a process that would reach out to people, provide them a proposal based on that, and a bunch of stuff like that. So, just little things, like, dozens of little things like that. As a small agency, you know, it's been a lot in the last couple months of... I've changed my email client, I changed We went from, Evernote, where I really kind of had 3,000, 4,000 notes in Evernote, switching to a Markdown format with an Obsidian, interface. I've been playing with vector databases, and... So, Pine... Pinecone, and, what's the... there's a Google... open source one that I kind of started with. So just trying to, like, kind of come up with systems that would bring kind of all the major aspects of a company together, and then, of course, build in some controls and that sort of thing to keep it from going amok, so... that's currently what we've been up to. Obviously, web is a big focus and will be, but I do foresee that evolving drastically in the next couple years. And... and... and straight from... I think we'll have... probably build design systems, so the other thing we've been working with are, like, Figma-based design systems, and then using, cloud code or something like that to interface with the design system, and using those rules, build out things. So not necessarily entirely using it for, original design, which so far, I've not found to be... be great. The other big sister, or the other thing I've had good luck with, but it's wicked expensive, is perplexity. So, perplexity, I think. has one of the best, sort of, easy-to-use multi-agent, like, you don't really need to set up multi-agents well. if you want something researched, well-documented, well-spec'd, I think it's a great platform. Then maybe move it to Cloud Code or something like that for implementation. But had good luck with... Well, you know, things like analyzing a website and preparing a report on it or something, Perplexity does a really good job with that. Maybe one of the best that I've run into. That's about all the major, so Perplexity, GPT, Claude, paid for AI and Figma. I think I'm skipping someone, but... but that's kind of the ref... oh, the cursor, 20 bucks. Which I pay in addition to Claude, so... Yeah, about \$200 a month, I think, is what we're paying for per... well, per person. Well, that's for me. The rest of the staff has about 100 bucks, or 80 bucks.

Ethan Wilde:

Fabulous. The Perplexity tool is it the Perplexity Computer?

Brian Kreck:

So... Yeah, so Perplexity, I think they've been known long-term, they were an AI search engine, and they were.

Ethan Wilde:

Right.

Brian Kreck:

Pretty cool. Like, if you kind of know you're going to have to go to 5 different websites and kind of get some data summarized, it's, in my opinion, one of the best, tools for that. However, so yeah, they launched something called

Perplexity Computer, where, That's sort of their multi-agent tool, I think. I think maybe even the other one is using sort of multi-agents as well. But, you know, trying to have an orchestrator and kind of, you know, send sub-agents out to do research, and then someone else to try to, fold it together. I mean, stuff that you can do with other systems, certainly, as well. So, there's also, harnessing. Have you guys heard of AI harnessing? Okay. So... which... I'm trying to get caught up fast, so the other thing I'm doing is, at night, I'm essentially crash-coursing just, like, core, basic stuff. I've never... you know, I tapped out with linear algebra, got my C+, and ran away. So back to that, back to multivariable calculus, I've never really needed to... and not, again, that I... we need it that much, because we'll use the computer to do the things, but I needed to understand how the... just the you know, how the algorithms work, how LLMs work, how stable diffusion works, and I just got behind on it, and so now it's just... It's a slog to get caught up. So, there's a bit of panic, I would say, in my feeling behind, and the degree at which the industry is changing. You know, if we're changing how we do everything, how we do project management, how we communicate with clients, even the types of projects. the things I can offer to clients now, you know, are kind of, like... we have a client that, occasionally, they go out and they fill out their form by hand and make sure the form comes to them. We now have the capacity to have something fill out a form, go to the receiving system, confirm it's there, delete the person that they just made, rinse and repeat a week later. You know, we can do all those things now at... like, that would have been so hard to do with some sort of programmatic process, even if it was possible even before. So, things like that, you know, I just threw out to a client, and be like, yeah, it'll take me a couple hours, you know, to set that up, I think. You know, we are getting burned occasionally, thinking that something's going to be easy when it's not. But for the most part, things have been going smoothly. Now I've talked to you guys.

Ethan Wilde:

I hear two big categories for you, Brian. You're able to do these integrations now that would have been really challenging and build new tools, and a lot of those are tools that you're using in-house, it sounds like.

Brian Kreck:

I think, You know, we have just... we have 300 plus 300-400 clients, and there... a lot of them are... you know, five people companies, and, they are, not using AI at all at the moment, and kind of seeing... now, you know, teaching them all how to do stuff without us is... an interesting business choice, but that's kind of where we are right now. And, you know, so essentially, we'll be just probably trying to build these workflows and improve them and that sort of thing, and then be there when they want to change them and change their you know, future design system, or whatever, you know, so... so we're going to be trying to pivot more towards that in the future. And I know for some of my clients, it'll be a couple years before they get there, but I'm already sort of reaching out to them to Offer some little free stuff that they haven't had for a while that it's going to take us 10-15 minutes to do, just to kind of show them how things have changed a bit. And so, we'll go from there. Yup.

Ethan Wilde:

Thank you for sharing that. That's great. I appreciate all those, references to tools. Josh, what, what tools are you guys using in your Drupal projects, in terms of at your fingertips?

Joshua Turton:

So... again, with the outside Drupal, where we're building stuff, a lot of... a lot of Claude, a lot of, Gemini, some ChatGPT, but not a lot. We're drifting away from that. Our... my experience has been Gemini's good for general stuff, and for... helping... Kind of architect ideas? It seems more... it seems to have more of... more abstract thought. And Claude is really good at code, and more expensive. So, most of the time, I keep it set on... Gemini. And, when I have something hard, I will flip it over to Claude and spend the extra tokens.

Ethan Wilde:

Hmm.

Joshua Turton:

Again, that's evolving. That changes daily. There's a big push for RoboDev, which is an Atlassian product. The nice part about that is it connects well to Confluence and Jira, which we use for data management and ticket management, so it can have a lot more context.

Ethan Wilde:

Interesting.

Joshua Turton:

Yes. Within Drupal, the one that I'm working with has an OpenAI connection. That's doing some AI search, some AI chatbot, I think a couple of our other clients that I'm not actively working on are getting more into that. That internal stuff. We do a lot of legal aid websites, and if there's one thing you don't want an LLM doing, it's offering legal opinions. Or, having anything to do with, with legal advice, or, or, so, not a lot of our clients use it within their ecosystem for generating content, just because of the liability.

Ethan Wilde:

Makes sense. I've seen the news articles and the popular press about lawyers turning in briefs with hallucinated cases, getting judges to kick them in the butt.

Brian Kreck:

That might be changing a bit, though. Both law firms... so we do websites for two moderate-sized law firms, and they're... their attorneys are going to seminars right now on use of AI in their firms, and... One of them is evaluating a tool that essentially would, kind of flesh out, various filings and stuff for them. In conjunction with this lawsuit that I was involved with. One of the attorneys got curious and fired me questions that I just answered with some, you know, one of the systems, I don't remember what it was. And one was literally determined what the proper

filing date was, and sent some court paperwork in. And, I mean, this was a schedule where it was, like, this date plus this date, and then that filing date triggered a thing that was buried in the court rules, you know, and it nailed it, you know, and so, you know, yes, it absolutely, I've heard all those same, you know, News articles and, And if you submit stuff that's hallucinated, you know, you're going to the legal system is so based upon this concept that if you're an officer of the court, and you misrepresent something, like, there's so much stuff taken on Faith, or, you know, on this concept that if you're an officer of the court, you don't lie about this stuff, or you just lose your job, you know? So, that's where I think now, you know, it's sort of these... this multi-agent approach, where you write some code, and then you use another agent to evaluate the first agent's work. And that sort of thing is, I think, making progress. So, we'll see. I kind of foresee that being a hiccup for now, and something that's going to, get resolved, at some point. So, I've been trying to, a couple law firms, we work with some of their IT firms, and I'm trying to convince them to do some local some local LLM hosting as well. So, part of the fun stuff that I want to play with are more, well, bigger computers running local models, because I want to get all my own home voice assistants and video, video camera, like, recognition stuff, and all that stuff, internal, within my house. And so, that's, if you guys haven't heard of Hugging Face, weird name, but it's a good website, which really outlines a lot of the open-source tools that are out there. And if you have a gaming laptop or something, you can run the small models, and it's fun. Or you can even spin up, kind of creating some real simple systems, from scratch, even, and stuff, which is fun.

Joshua Turton:

Yeah, I was looking into that for us just the other day, last week. It's not cost-effective for us at our size currently, but it's sitting in the back of my head, especially as the per-token costs on the services start to go up. There's a there's a point at which you want to outrun that trend. So, it's not yet for us, but we're thinking about it.

Brian Kreck:

Yeah. Can I share a photo here, Ethan?

Ethan Wilde:

Yeah, give it a shot. It should prompt you, and I'll push a button here to let you share.

While Brian's doing that, I'll share the link to that site I just pulled up. One of my old students works for this company on the San Francisco Bay Area Peninsula, Eudia. They're basically building out AI platforms for legal expert witness bots.

Brian Kreck:

So this is a little, project that mostly my brother-in-law, and with a bit of my help, played with. So those are 3090s, so the old 3090's got 24 gigs of VRAM. That's got about 200 and some odd, gigs of VRAM. So he's been using that, and I get a little access to it now and again. But essentially, yeah, it's, you know, free tokens are, are fun, I guess. The power bill's nasty in his house, though.

Ethan Wilde:

Got to get a huge solar array or something, maybe, to go with it.

Brian Kreck:

Yeah, it's almost two grand a month there sometimes.

Ethan Wilde:

Really? Oh, oh boy. Yeah, I've been playing with local models. I really like the Ollama open-source project that lets you run models locally. I just installed a smaller version of the Gemma model from Google, and I've been playing with it. It scores high on the coding tests compared to some of the other models you can run locally, but nowhere near clawed.

Brian Kreck:

I've only played with Gwen, and I've been meaning to play with that, and I haven't gotten to it at all.

Ethan Wilde:

I'm glad you brought up local models, both of you, because one of the tensions is tool choice. I really haven't been able to get students access to Claude without them having to pay. Cursor gives us backdoor access to Anthropic models through the free Pro level if you're in the IDE. But there are limitations there, too. And the expected, almost impossible-to-ignore moment when everything starts to cost what it costs is coming, it seems like. They can't keep spinning up investors to dump money in, as long as they're all losing money. And I don't know how that's going to impact our ability to offer tools. I imagine Anysphere is going to get gobbled up eventually, the publishers of Cursor, which may shut the door on our access to that tool as well. So, there's a lot of concern, I think, for us across my department, across a lot of departments, about teaching tools that students aren't going to be able to afford to use as soon as the prices become real. And making them dependent upon tools is a big concern. For the students in the last three semesters, I introduced this book to them from a director at Google, Addy Osmani, you may see him on LinkedIn or other places, "Beyond Vibe Coding." It's a really great book. It's got a great chapter on ethics. The table of contents is full of goodies. And then I kind of have a unit in the first week. of all the coding classes now, all the web dev classes, that kind of gives them a bunch of external resources to give them the opportunity to have a critical eye. A surprisingly large number of students, I'd say somewhere between 40 and 50%, are really AI adverse. In our classes. And I don't know if that is performative, because I'm the audience when they're sharing those opinions. But... I have made it optional to use Cursor for code generation. I start off in the first few weeks asking them to learn some fundamentals and only to use Cursor to diagnose the code that they've written, which has been helpful for a lot of students. Because they get some concrete Help with obvious mistakes that they're making. But some students have been totally averse to using it for code generation, which I can understand. I think a lot of them... I think they need to learn the fundamentals. As Cole shared earlier, if they don't know what they're talking about in job interviews, and they're reading off the screen from an AI response, they're not going to get far. The other challenge, of course. like, I think all of you are indicating is the shrinking pool of opportunities for junior people working with code. It's really been, I think, quite dramatic. In our department,



## Computer Studies

which includes the transfer-level programming courses for folks that want to go off to four-year schools like UC or Cal State, the enrollment numbers are dropping dramatically in those classes. The popular media is covering all these AI talking heads, like the folks at Anthropic and OpenAI, promising that their jobs are not going to exist. And I think it's creating a big level of concern for young people. It spans, I think, so many departments in higher ed now. If you're an artist, if you're a creative writer, if you're a coder, if you're... whatever you're doing. It's hard to avoid the impacts of all these tools now, and what it means for people's future careers. Nothing seems like it will ever be the way it used to be. That's for sure. I wonder if any of you, and I know I appreciate how much time you've all been spending with us. I've taken some notes, and my AI companion in Zoom is transcribing the conversation, so I've been really interested to hear about the tools you're all using. The students do have Figma access thanks to Figma generously offering access, and they recently added their AI tools, including their MCP integration, to the student education accounts, which is great. So, we are working between Cursor and Figma, where they're building design systems with design tokens and be able to bring starter code out of there, into their Cursor environments. Anything else? Last words on this topic from each and any of you about what I should make sure the students are aware of, or tools that I should investigate?

Joshua Turton:

I just threw up a link into chat there about, we did about 3 weeks ago, we did a roundtable. our whole dev team on how we use AI tools, so that might be an interesting quick read. From our team.

Ethan Wilde:

Thank you, Josh, that's brilliant. That's really helpful. Really grateful to you for that. Wow. Yeah. on my future, I don't know if I'm going to be around more than a few more years, but in those few years. My biggest challenge is how to pivot the program,. That's my segue to a topic I wanted to share with you all and get your input on as well. Last academic year when we last met, you all approved, us adding a non-credit version of our three-course sequence for, kind of, front-end development. And that got approved, at all the different levels. It jumped through all the hoops. It's finally coming online in the fall semester in August of this year, and it literally is... In simple, real-world terms, in one classroom environment online, there will be regular four-credit college students paying their regular fees, earning transferable credits, and then there will also be members of the public taking it as a free adult education style class. Exact same curriculum, exact same class, but a free version. The state pays The school for the enrollment fees for those free students. And we've been working closely with our adult education department Which has a huge constituency in small mom-and-pop businesses in Sonoma County. Particularly Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs. They have a robust multi-course sequence, teaching, all those folks, how to use the Google productivity suite, how to do all sorts of things related to small business. And now, with the arrival of, this non-credit version of our otherwise regular four-credit classes. Adult Ed and I are working strategically to find a way to bring that community into the same courses that have existed with a different goal. The goal is to help them Get started building their own web presences. using AI tools. But the synergy is, and I hope this works, we're going to see in the fall, in August, we're going to have people wanting to be professional web developers sitting virtually in the same classroom with people that used to be clients. that now are going to get started with some of the AI tools building their own solutions, at least in the school environment. And so, one strategy we're hoping to experiment with is trying to partner up students, a four-credit student who wants to be a professional web developer, with a non-credit student who's really an entrepreneur who needs a web presence. So, there's our challenge. We'll see how it goes. I'm curious to hear what you all think about that, and pitfalls and strategies, if anybody has any.

Joshua Turton:

I think that's great. I think that you're right. The market for small websites and for either small development shops or independents, is going to shrink. You're going to see a lot of, of, vibe-coded slop. So, if you can get them with somebody who has even if they don't have a lot of experience, they have a lot of a professional mindset. That is also with somebody who is looking for something. I think you're going to produce better results. I also think it's going to address what Cole was saying about the lack of opportunity for junior developers. I've worked at a few agencies, and I haven't even seen junior developers employed in these agencies in years, right? It's people with 8 and 10 and, in my case, 20-something years of experience, who have been doing this for a long time. I'm not wanting to keep doing this forever. But what happens when people like me start retiring, you know, there's going to be just fewer people that can do the work. So, if this certificate program creates a channel for people to get experience hands-on, I think that's good. The concern, of course, always is... "Can you get to the senior level? Can you get to be good enough at the job as a senior level if all you're doing is vibe coding?" I think that's probably the single biggest question we're facing.

Ethan Wilde:

Right.

Cole Lewis:

Yeah, that's interesting. I've talked to Ethan's classes a lot, and I have recommended this, is exactly what you said, is I used the projects class as my portfolio, and that's how I landed a job. So, I didn't market myself as a junior. I marketed myself as somebody who has this experience. And this, Ethan, what you have here, with the for-credit students having another project, on their portfolio, I think that helps them a lot. Because they'll be able to combine that with the projects class and have a pretty good resume.

Ethan Wilde:

Let's hope. Let's hope. Yeah. The other outcome that we're hoping for is to better fill these classes, because the enrollments in these classes are dropping, too. Our projects class used to regularly have 20 to 30 students. This semester, we have 12. Students are trying to figure out what jobs there are going to be in the future. Nobody feels very confident, I think, about what opportunities are going to be there for them. So, it is interesting.

Terri Gutierrez:

I don't see a lot of ads for bootcamps anymore, coding bootcamps, right? Like, those are completely gone now. I think I've been seeing a lot more data engineering,

Brian Kreck:



## Computer Studies

I would say that I went through another shock, I think, a week and a half ago, or a week ago or so. I put a link in for one of Google's projects called Pomeli, or something like that. The video down below is very fancy and, a minute long or something, and barely, barely tells you what it is. However. It essentially is a system I've been working with. One of the things to talk about a little bit is how discouraging it can be right now, everyone I know is working on projects, only to have one of the big guys roll out their replacement that does everything they're working on, plus more. just repeatedly. So, this is essentially something a buddy and I have been working on for 2 years now or so. And what you do is essentially upload imagery, including, like, your brand, you know, wine bottles or, you know, brand aspects. And it just builds, everything you need. So...

Ethan Wilde:

An AI art department?

Brian Kreck:

This was basically something where, you know, we were imagining you would upload. A lot of times, hospitality locations, they're selling the location. You can't suddenly have, an extra addition to the house, or, like, some generative kind of creation, when you're selling someone on the room, or that wine, or they're going to sit there and enjoy that experience in that backyard, that kind of thing. So, along those lines, you can do things like photo shoots. Can I share again?

Ethan Wilde:

Yes, please. This is all really useful.

Brian Kreck:

You essentially do this by going to the website, the one we just I just showed you. All you do is click through and add your, your website, and it harvests your website for products and whatever, and then you can also feed it some additional information. So here, it grabbed these bottles, it added the cork in there to create this scene. all it did, you know, it even fuzzed out this little bit, giving a little depth of field. This is better than I've seen done before. I've tried to do this now on a bunch of different platforms. This straight-on approach, common, like, that's not hard to get. But when you start getting kind of an appropriate angle, like, it took all it had was a straight-on bottle shot there. It simulated everything else, it gave it the hot, you know, the sort of slight elevation. This is our photo with the red chairs, the umbrella, everything else is our place. That was a photograph of empty chairs.

Ethan Wilde:

Oh, without the people.

Brian Kreck:



## Computer Studies

Without the people, without the wine product, without the basket. Without shadows, you know? But the rest of it was real.

Joshua Turton:

The lighting work on that's magnificent.

Brian Kreck:

Much, much better. Now, it added the reflections. This whole photo shoot was free, right? And now, is it still a little off. Like, here... It still doesn't know how to spell "Gewürztraminer." This so close to what we've been working on that we won't be able to finish our thing. It's just leapfrogged us by far. And they're offering it for free. You know, now, that won't last, we all know. My brother-in-law was working on couple other things that Perplexity basically just took over and now is doing what he was doing. So, all those things are making the challenge even harder to talk about how to make a living.

Ethan Wilde:

Thanks for sharing that. That is an eye-opener. It is coming at us in every direction. Appreciate everybody's time. I'd be happy to ask if anybody has any final comments you want to be sure to be able to share, to share them now. Extremely grateful to all of you for participating in this. I always learn so much in these meetings.

Joshua Turton:

I will throw one more comment out there. There is a sense of discouragement when we're talking about, you know, there's not going to be jobs for junior developers. sizes are down, but somebody pointed out recently, at DrupalCon, that we've been through this bubble before.

Ethan Wilde:

Right.

Joshua Turton:

And a lot of what we now think of as industry titans were absolute game changers in 2000 to 2002, which was after the big crash. So, we can expect that AI is going to have a big crash. We can expect that there's going to be a lot of churn. It's what happens after. I think that there's going to be a lot more opportunity. That what we're seeing now is a wave, but that wave comes back up. So that's what I'm clinging onto.

Ethan Wilde:



## Computer Studies

That is a wonderful high note to wrap us up, because I think there's a lot of truth in that. Thank you, Josh, for that perspective on things. The longer arc. I will be looking forward to talking to you all again. I'll see if I can book a meeting in the fall for a fall semester meeting, because I imagine in the next 6 months, everything's going to change again. In the meantime, though, if any of you come across things that you think, students in our program should know about, please feel free to reach out to me. I'm extremely grateful, It's nice to see all of you. We'll see what happens next.

Brian Kreck:

Absolutely. It's a wild ride.

Ethan Wilde:

Everybody, take care. Have a great rest of your week.