



In this Edition: Local & Victorian Events, News, Articles & Conferences.

This newsletter is brought to you by the ACM-W (Association of Computing Machinery Women) and ACS-W (Australian Computer Society Women). It is also available at www.austwic.org and www.acs.org.au/acswomen. Copy and paste URL's in to your browser to link to articles.

Local

Events

Achieving Effective use of ICT in Regional Organisations and Communities

The Centre for Electronic Commerce and Communications (CECC) operates as a business unit of the University of Ballarat. Through education, training, research and partnerships CECC promotes the adoption and diffusion of ICT, particularly via its practical application in regional and rural Australia.

This seminar will explore the approach that CECC utilises to support regional organisations and communities in appropriating and effectively utilising information communication technologies.

Presented by Helen Thompson, Manger of the Centre for Electronic Commerce and Communications (CECC). 1st Sept, 2005

<https://www.acs.org.au/vic/acshomepage.html>

VicWIC

VICWIC Dinner - September 9th

It is that time already to book our next dinner. Since we are all very busy I have decided to keep things simple and go back to Young and Jackson Hotel again. The lovely people there are providing me with an updated menu and are, of course, able to accommodate all sorts of special dietary requirements. They just need to know in advance.

Young and Jackson Hotel, 1 Swanston St. (cnr. Flinders St.), upstairs in the Swanston Room. Friday September 9th, at 7pm

RSVP before September 1st with any special dietary requirements

[e-mail: jojo@deakin.edu.au](mailto:jojo@deakin.edu.au)

Vic

Articles

Honouring Victoria's Women

The Victorian Honour Roll recognises the outstanding contributions that Victorian women have made to their communities and the lives of others. Do you know someone who should be recognised on the Honour Roll? Nominations are now open.

<http://www.women.vic.gov.au/CA256EAE0012F311/Womens%20Policy/About%20UsWorking%20for%20Women#HonourRoll>

Events

Women's Access to Finance

Hosted by the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development these seminars are designed to assist women who are running their own business.

<http://www.women.vic.gov.au/CA256EAE0012F311/Womens%20Policy/About%20UsWorking%20for%20Women#FinanceSeminars>

Aust

Articles

Aussie wins prestigious international award

Sonja Bernhardt, Chair of AWISE (Australian Women in IT & Science Entity) will be inducted to the Hall of Fame for Women in Technology on 8 December 2005 in Silicon Valley.

The Hall Of Fame is now 10 years old and 55 people have been inducted so far. Ms Bernhardt is possibly the FIRST Australian to receive this very prestigious international award. Congratulations Sonja!



Articles

<http://www.witi.com/center/witimuseum/halloffame/>

Australia at E3 2005

Over 41 Australian based companies and 125 Australians attended the largest ever E3 show in Los Angeles in May 2005. Deals worth over \$A90m are projected to be signed over the next two years as a result of the event, and Australian companies signed \$A2.26m worth of deals at the show.

Announcements at E3 included Activision Value Publishing signing a co-publishing agreement with Brisbane based GDAA Member Krome Studios, for the third instalment of TY the Tasmanian Tiger currently in development at Krome Studios and to be available for PS2, Xbox, GameCube, and GBA later this year.

www.gdaa.com.au/features/E32005report.html

The Offshoring Debate

The increasing trend to offshore IT services is dividing opinion globally. The exact impact on the local demand and supply of IT people and the economy as a whole is particularly a source of highly emotive debate.

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<http://www.diversitypeople.com.au/news/displaynews.asp?id=53>

Conference

7th Annual Australian Game Developers Conference

The AGDC brings together over 1,000 Australian and international industry professionals to examine the future of game production, programming, design, games technology and games education.

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Together with a solid line up of speakers, the 2005 AGDC program will feature various activities including the Pitch to Publishers Day and Pitching Competition, a Trade and Retail Expo, and the Game Developers Awards.

www.agdc.com.au

New!

Apache Software Foundation

The Apache Software Foundation is looking to start a new mailing list for women!

The goal of the women@apache.org mailing list is to foster greater participation by women in the ASF community. The list provides a supportive, encouraging forum to help women become more involved in ASF projects.

The list is open to all genders - you might be a woman who wants to become more involved or you might be someone who would just like to help create a welcoming environment. Subscriptions are moderated, but public archives are available.

[If you are interested in joining, please send an email to women-subscribe@apache.org, with a brief sentence or two describing who you are.](mailto:women-subscribe@apache.org)

Other

ACM TechNews

A Techie, Absolutely, And More



ACM TechNews

Computer majors are finding that technical skills alone will not ensure steady, well-paying work as the offshoring of tech jobs to lower-wage countries increases due to advances in the Internet and low-cost computing.

They are therefore boosting their chances of landing secure and challenging work by acquiring skills in other areas. The latest IT students on campus usually need to combine their computing knowledge with proficiency in another field or fields, and are often more concerned with technology's applications in those fields than with the technology itself.

Jamika Burge is heading back to Virginia Tech this fall to pursue a Ph.D. in computer science, but her research is spiced with anthropology, sociology, psychology, psycholinguistics - as well as observing cranky couples trade barbs in computer instant messages.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/08/23/technology/23geeks.html>

Fewer Women Find Their Way Into Tech

With the number of women venturing into technology careers at its lowest point since the 1970s, nonprofits such as the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT)

at the University of Colorado's Boulder campus are endeavoring to find out why. A recent survey found that one quarter of 1 percent of incoming female college freshman list computer science as a probable major, down from the mid 1980s mark of 4.25 percent

read more

<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/8956555>

I.T. Staff Shortage Looming

As the perception of careers in IT has been tarnished by the dot-com collapse and widespread offshoring of jobs to India and China, many IT positions at home may go unfilled.

The approaching retirement of baby boomers and declining enrollment in IT worry Phil Zweig with the Society for Information Management (SIM) studying the future of the IT industry. A Gartner study projects the IT departments at midsize and large companies will be at least one-third smaller by 2010 than they were in 2000, and that by that same year, 10 percent to 15 percent of IT professionals will drop out of the industry, leaving an uncertain fate for that sector of the economy.

read more

http://www.newsfactor.com/news/I-T--Staff-Shortage-Looming/story.xhtml?story_id=0330027P96BU

Not Playing to Women

The video game industry needs more female programmers if it wants to expand its appeal beyond its core audience of men;

IDC analyst Schelley Olhava says 70 percent of console game players are male, but female players could comprise a lucrative market--if their views were considered by the gaming

Associated Press (07/22/05); Sandoval, Greg

<https://registration.mercurynews.com/reg/login.do?url=http://www.mercurynews.com%2Fmld%2Fmercurynews%2Fbusiness%2Ftechnology%2F12198625.htm> Note: Free access to site but first time users must register

Panel: Open-Source Needs More Women Developers

A panel discussion at the seventh annual O'Reilly Open Source Convention last week focused on the severe underrepresentation of women in open-source projects.

Panelists cited academic and private studies estimating that only about 2 percent of open-source software developers are female, ...

read more

<http://www.computerworld.com/developmenttopics/development/story/0.10801.103777.00.html>

Professor Tries to Instill Passion for Math, Science

Carnegie Mellon University computer science professor Lenore Blum recently earned the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring for her work to encourage young girls to pursue math and science careers.

She believes girls generally spend less time around computers than boys, noting that parents give boys more opportunities to learn how the technology works. A Bayer survey released in May gives some credibility to Blum's conclusions: The poll found that 64 percent of parents bought science-related toys for their sons in the past year, whereas just 47 percent bought such toys for their daughters.

read more

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/05233/557060.stm>

Articles

Engaging the Y Generation

To send a message or submission to the Newsletter editors for the next edition email Catherine Lang (clang@swin.edu.au) or Linda Batson (linda.batson@acslink.net.au)

Thank- you!



Articles

As Generation Y, those born from 1978 onwards, move into the professional stage of their life, so too are they flexing their muscles unlike any generation before them. This is leaving employers a little shaken and uncertain as to what the future holds.

Companies are starting to face enormous challenges in motivating and engaging this generation and must re-evaluate their employee value proposition or risk losing the battle for the minds of Generation Y. For industries already suffering from a poor image, skill shortages or lower graduate outputs, such as IT, the challenge will be even more poignant and perplexing.

http://www.diversitipeople.com.au/news/displaynews.asp?id=59

Kids click, but teachers don't compute

Cyber-savvy students are being held back because teachers do not know how to use information technology, analysts say.

A survey of 234 teachers and 2023 students from Sydney Catholic high schools also suggests teachers do not value the superior information technology skills of their students.

Half the teachers surveyed had little or no idea how to create a database, and a third said they were unsure what to do with a spreadsheet. Yet both are taught in the mandatory technology syllabus for year 7 students introduced this year. In fact, the NSW Board of Studies deems technology so important it has included Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) requirements in every subject from kindergarten to year 12.

http://theage.com.au/news/breaking/kids-click-but-teachers-dont-compute/2005/08/18/1123958156202.html?oneclick=true

Want women in IT? Make maths mandatory

A new study of 21 different nations has found that the male dominance of computer science at university level is pandemic.

At first glance the study looks to be yet more confirmation of what we already know. However, it gets more interesting. Differences between the countries indicate that women might not be genetically predisposed to shun all things high tech, and that there might be other factors at work.

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/08/15/women_it_maths_mandatory/

Conferences

Femtec - Women in IT Conference

2005-08-15 - 2005-08-16

Vom 15. bis zum 16. August 2005 findet die Femtec-Konferenz in der Universität zu Köln statt. Die Konferenz ist ein Treffpunkt für Frauen in der IT-Branche, um sich über aktuelle Entwicklungen zu informieren und sich gegenseitig zu unterstützen. Die Konferenz wird von der ACM-W und der IEEE Women in Computing Society unterstützt.

<http://femtec-konferenz.de/en/>

Melbourne Computing Education Conventicle

A one day conference to encourage the pursuit of scholarship and research in computing education

Contributions can be works in progress, workshops, recently accepted or published papers, topical interest papers

Expressions of Interest due: Friday 30th September

http://www.swin.edu.au/ict/conventicle_2005.htm

In the News

NZ Women Dominate Courses But Men Get Degrees

More women than men in New Zealand took IT courses at tertiary institutions last year, according to figures provided by the Tertiary Education Commission. While polytech IT courses had a slightly higher proportion of women, men continued to dominate in universities. The TEC reported that 52 per cent of the 82,000 students who enrolled in IT courses in 2004 were women, up from just under 50 per cent the year before. According to the figures, 20,000 or 55 per cent of students in polytech IT courses in 2004 were female.



Australian Women in Computing



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In the News

The proportion of women studying IT at university hovered around 38 per cent in 2003 and 2004. Overall, enrolments in IT courses rose 5000 to 82,000, mostly due to the rise in polytech students, while the number of students studying IT at university dipped slightly to 25,000, the TEC says. (The Age 5 Apr 2005)

read more

<http://theage.com.au/articles/2005/04/05/1112489454719.html>

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