



Australian Women in Computing



Newsletter
August
2006



In this Edition: Events, Conferences, News Articles, ACS & ACM News.

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. Copy and paste URL's in to your browser to link to articles.

Events

VicWIC dinner

Our next dinner is planned for Friday September 22nd, 7 for 7.30pm. We have a new location: Gurkhas Carlton (Nepalese) 258 Lygon Street Carlton.

RSVP bhurst@swin.edu.au

Weeklong Camp to EXITE Girls About IT

The first of three IT camps in Australia for teenage girls offered by IBM began in Queensland on Wednesday. The week-long Exploring Interests in IT and Engineering (EXITE) Gold Coast Camp will attempt to show 27 secondary school girls that careers in technology are not just for boys. "Skills shortages in IT, especially the shortage of women entering IT, is a significant issue for Australia if it is to remain competitive in the global market," says Megan Dalla-Camina, strategy and marketing director for IBM Australia-New Zealand.

read more at <http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php/id:274192769:fp:2:fpid:1>

GoGirls Go for IT – October 24-25

Go Girls Careers Showcase to be held in October is looking for sponsors and volunteers. If you or your company are able to assist, please contact event organisers.

Check with all the young women you know (your daughter, niece, neighbours daughter) that their school has enrolled for this event, if not - ask why!

<http://www.vicictforwomen.com.au/www/html/160-about-go-girl-go-for-it.asp>

Conferences

AusWIT06 Participation one year on

Don't miss this great networking event with international and national speakers, government, and industry representatives. See you at - Magill Campus, Uni of SA. December 4 & 5.

Register on-line at <http://www.auswit.org/index.php>

Anita Borg Institute Announces Speakers for Grace Hopper Celebration

Computing Conference, sponsored jointly by ACM and ACI. The keynote speakers will be iRobot co-founder and Chairman Helen Greiner, Princeton University President Shirley Tilghman, and Sally Ride, the first U.S. woman to travel in outer space.

read more at:

http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20060808005830&newsLang=en

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!



4th GERMAN WORKSHOP ON EXPERIENCE MANAGEMENT (GWEM2007)

Held in Conjunction with WM2007, Potsdam (28.3-30.3 2007)

Saving and disseminating experience is one of the main challenges for current knowledge management. Experience Management (EM) as a sub-discipline of Knowledge Management (KM) addresses these challenges by collecting, modeling, storing, reusing, evaluating, and maintaining experience knowledge, i.e., specific knowledge situated in a particular problem solving context.

The objective of this workshop is to provide an interdisciplinary forum where practitioners and researchers can exchange ideas concerning the development of EM, present practical experiences from applications, and discuss future research directions of EM.

Further Information (Topics, Submission Information can be found here)

<http://wi.uni->

potsdam.de/projekte/wmonline.nsf?Open&ID=63276164B4EBB76FC12571B5003803CE&Key=&Sel=&Lang=de

News

Anita Borg Scholarship

For female Australian Students enrolled in full time study in 2007, complete details at <http://www.google.com.au./anitaborg/>

It's Science, Jim, But Not as We Know It

More positive female role models of women in science in television and movies could lead to more women pursuing technical careers, claims Margaret Wertheim, an Australian science writer. In "Pythagoras' Trousers: God Physics and the Gender Wars," the 1997 book that brought her international acclaim, Wertheim argues that women have been underrepresented in science ever since its emergence 2,500 years ago.

read more at:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/education-news/its-science-jim-but-not-as-we-know-it/2006/08/12/1154803138238.html>

Microsoft Warns of 'Acute' UK Skills Shortage

Microsoft has released a report warning that the United Kingdom faces a critical shortage of workers with programming skills, citing the decline in interest among students since enrollment peaked in preparation for the Y2K bug. The number of applicants in the United Kingdom for degree programs in computer science, engineering, and information systems has dropped to pre-1996 levels.

read more at:

<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/business/employment/0,39020648,39278217,00.htm>

Carol Schwartz shares her insights at the Women in Management Dinner

Despite the progress made with equal opportunity in Australia, women only account for 8.2 per cent of board positions and 5 per cent of executive positions in ASX 200 companies. As part of the Women and Management Dinner tonight, guest keynote speaker Carol Schwartz will share her insights about women in management and work/life balance.

Carol Schwartz is a prominent business leader as the Director of Highpoint Property Group, Chairperson of Industry Superannuation Property Trust (ISPT), Melbourne International Arts Festival and Our Community.



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In April 2003 Carol was awarded the Centenary Medal and in the Australia Day Honours List 2006, she was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia for her business achievements and contributions to the community and arts. In addition to her impressive list of credentials and achievements, Carol is also a mother of four.

Throughout her career journey, Carol has always asked: "Where are all the female graduates – why are they not represented at senior levels in business?"

"Today's women are equal to their male counterparts in education, experience and skill," she says. "But when it's a painful choice between the client crisis and the six-year old's birthday party, the employee most likely to put company over family is the traditional work-orientated male."

Can women successfully combine family and a career?

Download Carols' speech here:

<http://www.mbs.edu/index.cfm?objectid=CDB93CE7-D60E-CDD8-8DAA80D5429BD61A>

ACS

ACS to release national ICT agenda today

18/08/2006

The Australian Computer Society (ACS) will hand over a long list of recommendations on how to improve Australia's ICT industry to Queensland Deputy Premier Anna Bligh today.

The recommendations were put together at the Technologists in Public Interest (TIPI) Summit.

Held during May and July 2006, the summit was aimed at building practical frameworks on how the IT industry could move forward and included members of the ICT Industry Workgroup (which represents nine industry associations in Queensland) and the state's ICT Minister Chris Cummins.

An estimated 85 percent of those participating in the ICT workshops believe IT workers would benefit from being grouped into logical specializations (such as engineering).

Around 77 percent supported establishing a defined education and experience framework for the ICT industry and strong support was shown for establishing a peak governance or compliance body for the ICT industry, with 65 percent favouring a local body similar to the Queensland College of Teachers and 80 percent nominating a national body similar to the Law Council of Australia.

The complete findings of the TIPI summit will be delivered as a "national statement to the governments of Australia".

National ACS president Philip Argy commended the TIPI recommendations to governments.

"Australia's economic prosperity is underpinned by productivity gains derived from innovation with technology," Argy said.

"The key to maintaining this innovation is a trustworthy technology environment, much of which is dependent on the people who work in the ICT sector."

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=874642163&eid=-257>

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Thank- you!



ACM

Program Works to Build Diverse New Generation of Computer Scientists

In an effort to boost participation among women and minorities in computer science, the University of Wisconsin is launching a freshman-level program called Wisconsin Emerging Scholars in Computer Science (WES-CS). Working with support from Microsoft and the NSF, Susan Horwitz, associate chair of computer sciences at Wisconsin, designed the department's introductory course to recruit freshmen from underrepresented groups and kindle interest through the use of parallel team-learning techniques.

read more at <http://www.news.wisc.edu/12767.html>

Girls Learning Technology Is Women's Work

This week Microsoft is bringing 73 high school girls to its headquarters for a week-long day camp to boost female interest in computing. DigiGirlz is aimed at changing the imbalance that has led to the 3-to-1 ratio of men to women among Microsoft's U.S. employees. Despite the computing industry's attempts to demonstrate that software is a field with limitless possibilities, girls often eschew technology in favor of what they perceive as more creative careers.

read more at http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/business/281416_msftgirls16.html

ACM Journals Rank High in Annual Journal Citation Reports

Several of ACM's publications are ranked first or second in their respective computing disciplines in the recently released annual Journal Citation Reports, published by Thomson Scientific. In addition, across four key computing categories, "Communications of the ACM" magazine had the third highest citation count. The 2005 Journal Citations Reports, released in June 2006

read more at <http://www.acm.org/pubs/periodicals/reviews/isiranking.html>

Computer Card Game Detects Cognitive Changes

Researchers at the Oregon Health & Science University have shown that the popular computer card game FreeCell can be modified with cognitive performance assessment algorithms to help detect cognitive changes in the elderly. Mild cognitive impairment is a leading indicator of a person's likelihood to develop dementia, which is most frequently caused by Alzheimer's disease. "We discovered that we can take an existing computer game that people already have found enjoyable and extract cognitive assessment measures from it," CL comment "This is how we should be marketing computing to women "

read more at: <http://www.ohsu.edu/ohsuedu/newspub/releases/071706dementia.cfm>

Introverted IT Students More Inclined to Cyber-Crime

A recent study has found that introverted technology students are more prone to "deviant" computer conduct, contradicting earlier research that suggested that malicious computing activities are most often the product of extroverts. The researchers polled 77 Purdue University computer science students with an anonymous online questionnaire, asking questions about their involvement in deviant computing activities, some of which are unlawful, such as using another person's password, writing and dispatching a virus, and obtaining credit card numbers. "Of 77 students, 68 admitted to engaging in an activity that could be classified as deviant," said Purdue computer scientist Marcus Rogers. CL comment "And this just reinforces the stereotype"

read more at:

<http://www.newscientisttech.com/article/dn9619-introverted-it-students-more-inclined-to-cybercrime.html>



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Knocking Down the Barriers to the \$100 Laptop

The One Laptop per Child group is close to clearing the most significant technology obstacle to its \$100 laptop: the display. The screen needs to be durable, inexpensive, and readable in both dim and brightly lit conditions. In commercial products, it often costs more to replace a broken display than to purchase a whole new notebook. But Mary Lou Jepsen, CTO of the One Laptop per Child initiative, claims to have developed a display that existing LCD factories can mass produce that will have a higher resolution than 95 percent of the laptops commercially available today.

read more at: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2006274,00.asp>

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