



**Australian
Women in
Computing**



**Newsletter
Easter
2007**



In this Edition: Events, Conferences, News, 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 & www.acs.org.au/acswomen
Copy and paste URL's in to your browser to link to articles.

Events & Conferences

April 2007: ACS Young IT Professionals 2007 National Conference

19 & 20 April 2007: Accelerate Your Career

Want to develop the critical skills for a successful career in IT? Then join you peers from around the country to network at this challenging and inspiring two day event. You'll leave with confidence, energy and know-how to let your career soar.

Register now at: <https://www.acs.org.au/youngit/2007conference/>

How can your company guarantee it has the skills it needs for future growth?

Take a trip into the future and explore how generational change and technology will affect the workforce of the twenty first century.

AIIA's first *Education and Industry Linkages Forum* presents acclaimed futurist, **Sohail Inayatullah**, who will lead a challenging exploration on alternative workforce scenarios.

Then, ICT educators and business leaders, together with human resource managers and university business partners, will bring discussions back to what our industry can do **NOW** to ensure it has the skills it needs.

Date: Thursday 19 April

Time: 12.30pm-5.30pm (includes lunch and afternoon tea)

Venue: State Library, Melbourne

Cost: AIIA members, government and education - \$65 - Non members - \$98

To register: <http://www.aiia.com.au/events>

The Australian Software Engineering Conference 2007, 10 – 13 April

World-wide efforts in software engineering have led to increasingly powerful and sophisticated tools and techniques, as well as new processes and methodologies, but the complexity of software we want to build continues to grow (e.g., with increasingly pervasive devices and computation), even as the need for greater development efficiency and reliability increases. The Australian Software Engineering Conference (ASWEC 2007) welcomes researchers and practitioners world-wide to discuss state-of-the-art software engineering techniques and tools that can help successfully build highly complex software applications.

ASWEC is Australasia 's leading forum for the software engineering profession to exchange project experiences and describe important new research results. Software engineering is a world-wide endeavour and international efforts will be required for the continual development of the field - ASWEC welcomes an international representation.

ASWEC was established in 1986, and attracts high quality contributions covering the whole spectrum of

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software engineering research and practice. It provides an excellent opportunity for interaction between software engineering researchers and industry practitioners.

<http://aswec07.cs.latrobe.edu.au/>

Submission Date Extended for GHC2007 - Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing

2007 is now an annual event! This year's conference is the seventh in a series of conferences designed to bring the research and career interests of women in computing to the forefront. Presenters are leaders in their respective fields, representing industrial, academic and government communities. Leading researchers present their current work, while special sessions focus on the role of women in today's technology fields.

This year's theme, "I Invent the Future", recognizes and celebrates the significant role women have in the creation, use and leadership of computing and technology. "This is one of the most inspiring and regenerating conferences I have ever attended" Catherine Lang

Past Grace Hopper Celebrations have resulted in collaborative proposals, networking, mentoring, and increased visibility for the contributions of women in computing.

<http://gracehopper.org/2007/>

<http://gracehopper.org/2007/participate.html>

FCRC Conference, June 8 - 16, 2007

The 2007 Federated Computing Research Conference (FCRC) will be held from June 8-16, 2007, in San Diego, California. Held once every four years, the 2007 FCRC will present 16 conferences, and 40 tutorials and workshops during the week long event. Dr. Francis Allen is a Keynote Speaker.

<http://www.acm.org/fcrc/>

News

ICT an industry of opportunities for AIIA CEO

Sheryle Moon discusses the industry and her career.

Now is a good time to be in the ICT industry, but there is still more to be done for the industry to enjoy continued growth and success in Australia, says Sheryl Moon, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Information Industry Association.

Besides attracting new recruits to ICT, industry players should also work towards re-skilling mature workers, and retaining women who traditionally leave their careers at child-rearing age, she said.

The industry must also look at the issue of climate change, Moon said, suggesting that technologies that allow workers to telecommute could address employees concerns about work-life balance as well as potentially reducing the industry's overall carbon footprint.

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=1807486664&eid=-257>

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AussieChix is Open! (Source...)

The worldwide LinuxChix community welcomes its latest chapter, AussieChix, on International Women's Day. Following on the heels of Frances E. Allen being the first woman ever to receive the prestigious 'Turing Award,' AussieChix aims to highlight and encourage women in computing.

While the organisation has a key interest in free and open source software (eg Linux, Firefox and OpenOffice.org) the focus of the group is to show women in computing that they are not alone.

AussieChix has emerged from the amalgamation of the Sydney and Melbourne chapters of LinuxChix, and throws open its doors to women across Australia. AussieChix is not an exclusive club - far from it. It is free to join, and the only requirements are "Be polite, be helpful." (Which makes us sound like the new millennium version of the Country Women's Authority - next, a virtual lamington drive!)

AussieChix is a fun and encouraging environment, inclusive and conducive to networking. For beginners, administrators, programmers and hobbyists.

Chix should click on <http://au.linuxchix.org> or google 'aussiechix.'

For more information and interview opportunities contact
Donna Benjamin
email: media@au.linuxchix.org
phone: +61 418 310 414

Numbers Show Big Decline of Women in IT

By Eric Chabrow

The proportion of employed women business technologists has fallen through the decade, a *CIO Insight* analysis of government data shows.

In 2000, 984,000 women worked in eight IT occupation categories tracked by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics: managers, computer scientists/systems analysts, programmers, software engineers, support specialists, database administrators, network/computer systems administrators, and network systems/data communications analysts. That year, women made up 28.9 percent of the nearly 3.41 million employed IT workers.

<http://www.cioinsight.com/article2/0,1540,2106559,00.asp?kc=COQFTEMNL032207EOAD>

Survey shows ICT gender gap continues to widen

Women make up 20 percent of ICT sector

The gender divide continues to widen as professional women in the science, engineering and technology sector do not receive equal pay for equal work.

A preview of a survey to be released by the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia (APESMA), found more than 25 per cent of professional women reported a pay disparity with their male counterparts.

For women with business qualifications and those in senior management positions, the figure was much higher at over 40 percent.

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=688081310&eid=-257>

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Interview with Frances Allen, Recipient of the 2006 ACM A.M. Turing Award

Fran Allen sat down recently with ACM staff to discuss her recognition as the first woman to win the top prize in computer science. During the conversation, she helped to redefine the meaning of "success."

<http://www.acm.org/membership/learnmore/FranAllenInterview.html>

Girls and ICT Website

We have just launched our ARC Linkage website with the findings and papers from the Girls & ICT and Women in Industry research conducted from 2004-2006. Under publications you can download some full papers and in other cases abstracts of papers that have been submitted. I am hoping that this website contains some information of interest to you.

You can access the JCU ARC site at: <http://www.soe.jcu.edu.au/subjects/itcairns/arclinkage>

Successful Ageing of Australia Baby Boom Career Women Online National Survey

If you are a baby boom career women, I invite your participation. Lyn Courtney, Senior Research Officer, JCU.

Lyn.Courtney@jcu.edu.au

ACS

Are you interested in forming an ACS Toastmasters Club?

Like to overcome those public speaking nerves? Public speaking is believed to be one of the greatest fears experienced by anyone who has to convey an important message to a group of people. Toastmasters can help you develop the skills and confidence to become a competent and entertaining public speaker.

If you are interested in helping to form an ACS Toastmasters Club, please email [Tom Rose](mailto:Tom.Rose@acsvic.com) (tom.rose@acsvic.com)

Most Toastmaster Clubs meet in the evening, however it would be very helpful if you could included your suggestions for meeting days and times.

The Club would meet at the Tea House, 28 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne.

Information on Toastmasters is available at: <http://www.d73.toastmasters.org.au/faq/>

ACM

Computer-science slide: Misconception of job prospects part of enrollment drop.

A life working with computers conjures up images of sitting in a cramped cubicle hunched over a computer or fiddling with wires in a dimly lit room. The perception is that it's a dull life, a geeky life, a life few people want.

<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/fortwayne/news/local/16832808.htm>

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New Computing Careers Brochure for High School Students

A new brochure is available to prepare High School students for careers in computing. Easily downloaded in PDF format, it describes the major areas of study available in the field, as well as a wide range of career opportunities.

<http://computingcareers.acm.org>

Is computer science dead?

Lia Timson, Mar 13

Some experts say IT professionals are a dying, increasingly unnecessary breed, and many undergraduates are focusing on careers outside of computing, even though Australia faces a national shortfall in IT personnel, a growing reliance on technology, and a population crazy for gadgets.

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/technology/is-computer-science-dead/2007/03/12/1173548107417.html>

Where Are the Programmers?

EE Times (03/12/07) Merritt, Rick

At a time when the amount of students pursuing computer science degrees is declining, researchers are struggling with the parallel programming that will run on the next generation of multicore processors.

<http://www.eetimes.com/news/latest/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=GISW1U3ELNEPWQSNDLSCKHA?articleID=197801653>

Girls Ask Alice for Programming Skills

eWeek (03/19/07) Taft, Darryl K.

A program called Alice, originally conceived by Carnegie Mellon's Stage 3 Research lab, has proved effective in getting young women excited about computer programming. Alice allows those who do not have high-level programming abilities to try their hand at creating 3D computer animated stories, using characters, scripting tools, and pre-existing graphic elements.

<http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,2105421,00.asp>

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