



**Australian
Women in
Computing**



**Newsletter
March
2007**



In this Edition: Conferences, Events, News, ACS and 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.

Conferences

Education, Employment and Everything

... **the triple layer of a woman's life**, international women's conference will be held at USQ from 26-29th September 2007. The conference will be held at the Toowoomba Campus from 26 to 28 September and at USQ Springfield on 29 September. This conference is a USQ 40th Anniversary Event.

<http://www.usq.edu.au/iwc2007/>

Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference

As the world's largest gathering of women in computing, the Grace Hopper Celebration is a technical conference featuring well-known keynote speakers and invited technical speakers, panels, workshops, new investigator technical papers, PhD forums, technical posters, birds of a feather sessions (BOFs), the ACM Student Research Competition and Awards Celebrations.

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.

Submissions are now being accepted for the 7th Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing conference (October 17-20, 2007 – Orlando, Florida). Deadline March 31.

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

Events

International Womens Day Breakfast in Melbourne

To celebrate International Womens Day, ACS-W (Australian Computer Society Women) and Vic ICT for Women Network will be holding their first joint event!

This exciting event will be held on **Thursday 8th March, 7.15 for 7.30am - 9.00am**, Centre for Innovation and Technology Commercialisation, Level 1 - 257, Collins St, Melbourne.

Keynote speaker is Dr. Catherine Jaktman, a Director for Gartner Consulting Asia-Pacific and Australian Computer Society Vice President. Special guest speakers are Renata Singer and Marion Webster, founders of Fitted for Work, <http://www.fittedforwork.org/>.

Registrations essential - please visit the Vic ICT for Women website:

<http://www.vicictforwomen.com.au/www/html/178-international-womens-day-networking-breakfast.asp>

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How far we've come, how far yet to go - Prof. Barbara J. Grosz, Miegunyah lecture

Wednesday 14 March, 1.00 pm – 2.15 pm Theatre 2, Old Geology Building, University of Melbourne, Parkville Campus.

For several decades, the numbers (and proportions) of women obtaining university degrees, including doctoral degrees, in the sciences and engineering have increased steadily. In the United States, since 1998 girls have been as likely as boys to enrol in advanced high school mathematics and science courses, currently more women than men undertake graduate study in the life sciences, and women receive more than a quarter of the Ph.D. degrees in mathematics and about one fifth of those in the physical sciences.

Despite these significant increases in all levels of advanced education, women remain a small portion of the science and engineering faculties at major research universities, well below the numbers of women qualified to serve on these faculties. The pipeline cannot explain this discrepancy.

Professor Grosz will discuss steps universities can take to increase the participation of women in academic science and engineering, drawing on the findings and recommendations of the Harvard Task Force on Women in Science and Engineering, which she chaired, and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences report, "Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering" for which she served on the committee writing the report, as well as on her experience as Dean of Science at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

<http://www.dis.unimelb.edu.au/miegunyah.html>

Leadership and Career Growth in an Engineering Technical Environment

Friday 9 March, Hilton on Park, Melbourne.

Mary D. Petryszyn is vice president of Joint Battleship Integration for Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems (IDS). Raytheon Company, with 2006 sales of \$20.3 billion, is an industry leader in defense and government electronics, space, information technology, technical services, and business and special mission aircraft.

Petryszyn joined Raytheon in 1986 and has held a wide range of challenging positions. She has published papers such as but not limited to "Modular Design of a Moving-Target Simulation in Support of Mission Training Objectives". In addition to her professional accomplishments, Petryszyn serves on many boards such as Corporate Advisory Council for the Women in Engineering Program at the University of Colorado (CU) at Boulder; the Corporate Partnership Council for the Society of Women Engineers (SWE); and the Board of Directors for Colorado Mile Hi Girl Scout Council.

<http://www.ieeevic.org/chapters/wie/>

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The Future ICT Professional

Venue: Telstra Conference Centre, 242 Exhibition Street , MELBOURNE

Date: Wednesday 21 March, 2007

Time: 5.30pm for 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Free to all ACS members and you can bring a non member for free.

These quarter one EdXN sessions look at employment trends in ICT as a career and industry growth areas and are specifically aimed at the human perspective of the ICT employment evolution, based on industry insight into ICT recruitment trends.

Presenter: Cyrus D'Cruz

As Executive General Manager, Information Technology & Telecommunications for Hudson Australia , Cyrus D'Cruz is responsible for the management and continued growth of Hudsons ' specialist national IT&T recruitment practice. An Applications Engineer with an honors degree in Engineering and Marketing as well as numerous post-graduate course studies in Business Management, Cyrus has been in recruitment with Hudson for over 10 years and is an expert in best-practice recruitment.

Who Should Attend?

Anyone with an interest in Information and Communication Technology employment trends. Drinks & Snacks provided after the presentation. **1.5 PCP Points**

For more information and bookings visit the ACS website,

https://www.acs.org.au/acs_events/index.cfm?action=eventdetails&eveID=1947&branch=VIC

News

Back to school: Getting girls into IT

How IBM and Cisco are getting them while they're young

[Carmen Nobel \(InfoWorld\)](#) 29/01/2007 16:00:47

Despite the success of various education initiatives in the past several years, there's little doubt that the shortage of women in technology begins on the playground. As such, many industry leaders and experts believe the long-term solution to the gender imbalance in IT lies in women technologists going back to school -- way back, to high schools and even elementary schools to mentor young girls, who too often give up on math and science at an early age.

"Young girls have been deselected math for a while," says Sandy Carter, vice president of SOA and WebSphere strategy at IBM. "They do very well in math and science for a while, and then seem to lose interest. We started looking at these statistics and decided that at IBM we needed to start attracting young girls."

In 1999, IBM launched a pilot day camp for seventh- and eighth-grade girls, staffed by women volunteers with technical backgrounds. The program, dubbed EXITE (EXploring Interests in Technology and Engineering), has grown annually. In 2006, IBM hosted more than 50 week-long EXITE camps worldwide, including [three in Australia](#).

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=719998530&eid=-257>

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Call for Papers - Special Issue of Women's Studies

Women and Technology: Reversing the Trends of Attrition and Obtaining a Balance

Studies show that girls ask fewer questions in the classroom. Girls and minorities are less likely to have access to computers in the education system or self-select out due to peer and family pressures. Society reflects the trend by providing Gameboys but no Gamegirls. Game makers produce far more titles aimed at boys than girls. Often girls opt out of technical fields because they feel that they are less experienced and will be at a disadvantage. The antisocial "geek" image associated with computer scientists is a much stronger deterrent to women than men. Recently retention problems of women in STEM disciplines has been linked to women perceiving their intelligence as a gift as opposed to the male perception that intelligence is learned.

With this special issue, we would like to invite papers that shed light on this phenomenon and that discuss potential solutions. We are looking for original research, careful case studies and thoughtful review papers. The work should be focused on computer science, information science, software engineering, information technology, or any combination of these. We use the term 'information technology' as an umbrella term.

Topics include but are not limited to:

- Interventions that worked/failed to introduce girls and women to the field or to retain them.
- Comparisons across countries, years, or companies of how women enter the field and remain there (or not) and possible causal factors.
- Studies that explain what aspects attract women to enter and remain in the field.
- Comparisons and evaluations of current initiatives, activities and groups that focus on women in IT.
- Childhood development and early education indicators, particularly those that cite key turning points that contribute to this trend.
- Cultural and environmental factors that contribute to the imbalance between genders.
- Insightful analyses of existing datasets such as those provided by Census Bureau, NSF Science Indicators, World Development Indicators, Eurostat and others.
- Proposals that offer advice for government, universities, companies, and parents. We expect these proposals to be substantiated by data.

Inquiries should be sent to the guest editors:

Gondy Leroy, Claremont Graduate University, gondy.leroy@cgu.edu

Kristin M. Tolle, Microsoft Corporation, ktolle@microsoft.com

Linda Perkins, Claremont Graduate University, linda.perkins@cgu.edu

Manuscripts must be submitted electronically in PDF format directly to gondy.leroy@cgu.edu no later than March 31, 2007, (acknowledgement will be sent upon receipt). Accepted papers will need to comply with the required publication style and material for Women's Studies. Authors should consult the "Instructions for Authors" section at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/00497878.asp>

Fellows gets top Microsoft post

Tracey Fellows to succeed Vamos as Microsoft's new managing director for A/NZ

Nadia Cameron (ARN) 09/01/2007 16:42:40

Microsoft has selected local employee, Tracey Fellows, as its new managing director for A/NZ. The appointment comes a month after former boss, Steve Vamos, announced he would take up a role as vice-president, international online service group in the software giant's US office.

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Fellows was most recently Microsoft's local director of business and marketing operations. She initially joined the vendor in 2003 as director of the server business group. Prior to this, she held senior roles with Dell's home and SMB business and IBM's PC division. Fellows has spent 19 years in the IT industry.

In a statement, regional vice-president, Emilio Umeoka, said Fellows' IT experience was vital to enhancing customer and partner relationships. According to a spokesperson, several internal and external candidates were considered.

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=1014277019&eid=-257>

ACS

Member Get Member Program

The ACS is running a promotion for the next 12 months encouraging ACS members to recommend and promote ACS membership to their colleagues and peers? Each time an ACS member refers a non Student member they will go in the draw for a trip for two to Europe. The new member will also go in the draw for a travel voucher worth \$1,000. There will be an additional draw for a travel voucher each for referring members and new members 6 months into the promotion.

Details are at www.acs.org.au/mgm

Entry is open to all residents of Australia except employees and immediate families of the promoter, associated companies and agencies.

ACS Foundation set to open Queensland chapter

The Australian Computer Society (ACS) Foundation, which raises funds for scholarships and ICT research, will launch a chapter in Queensland this Wednesday, February 21, 2007.

The launch will take place at Queensland's parliament house and will be officially launched by the Qld Minister for Public Works and ICT, Robert Schwarten, and the inaugural chair of the chapter, Dr Prins Ralston.

As a former ACS president, Ralston is ideally placed to take on this new role and to identify funding sources to support local scholarships.

The ACS established the Foundation in August, 2001, to promote ICT careers and research. Since its inception, more than \$9 million has been raised and students have received over 600 scholarships. ACS Foundation executive director, John Ridge, said the Queensland chapter will focus on addressing skills shortages and increasing the uptake of ICT careers.

The Queensland chapter of the Foundation will focus on addressing industry skills shortages and increasing the uptake of ICT careers. "Queensland's contribution to the success and prosperity of Australia's ICT industry is crucial because the state produces seven percent of the nation's ICT exports," Ridge said.

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=1689621539&eid=-257>

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 your 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.

Registrations are now open at: <https://www.acs.org.au/youngit/2007conference/>

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Victorian ICT Minister meets with ACS

The Hon. Tim Holding, Victorian Minister for Information & Communication Technology, met privately with Philip Argy, ACS National President and Ian Dennis, ACS Victorian Branch Chairman on Monday 26 February. A number of points of importance to Victoria's ICT Industry and Profession were discussed.

These included;

- ICT employment in Victoria , especially the problem of quantifying future ICT Skills demand;
- the on-going and highly constructive work of the Victorian ICT Skills Committee, upon which ACS is represented by Deputy Chairman , Victoria , Richard Hogg;
- the ACS YIT National Conference in April, at which the Minister will present the opening address;
- the unacceptably low levels of Federal funding for Victorian ICT research projects;
- Victorian Government ICT purchasing policy, and the commitment to continue the Government's focus on ICT project quality control; and
- the Victorian Government's leading role in creating national ICT industry and professional policy.

Ian Dennis noted that the meeting was very constructive and re-confirmed the Victorian Government's long-term commitment to Victorian ICT.

Minister Holding made it clear that he wishes to maintain an open and continuing dialogue with key ICT stakeholders and that he recognises that the ACS plays a significant role in the ongoing growth and professional quality of ICT in Victoria .

ACM

Be Yourself and Prove Yourself, Carly Tells Women in IT

ITworldcanada.com (01/22/07) Nobel, Carmen

Former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina was the first women to run a Fortune 20 company and has since written a book titled "Tough Choices" that discusses what it takes for a woman to succeed in a male-dominated environment. In an interview, Fiorina stressed the importance of role models, and while females can provide inspiration for young women, it is also the responsibility of men to recognize potential. She encourages women to be themselves, since "people are most effective when they bring all of themselves to a challenge."

<http://www.itworldcanada.com/Pages/Docbase/ViewArticle.aspx?id=idgml-ebec1e44-d617-442c&Portal=1fa35bf9-d296-4571-8fff-c665a851ec1d?=494975>

Carnegie Mellon Professor Jeannette Wing Chosen to Head Computer & Information Science & Engineering Directorate at NSF

National Science Foundation (01/31/07)

National Science Foundation (NSF) funding for computer science will soon be in the hands of Jeannette Wing, who has been hired as assistant director for Computer & Information Science and Engineering (CISE) at the federal agency. Wing, head of the Computer Science Department at Carnegie Mellon University, will join the NSF on July 1, 2007.

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=108322&org=NSF&from=news

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Frances E. Allen Named 2006 A.M. Turing Award Recipient

ACM has named Frances E. Allen the recipient of the 2006 A. M. Turing Award for contributions that fundamentally improved the performance of computer programs in solving problems, and accelerated the use of high performance computing. This award marks the first time that a woman has received this honor. The news of this recognition has cascaded throughout the country and into the international media as well, with coverage from major national news outlets, daily newspapers, technology and trade magazines, online media, and broadcast outlets.

http://campus.acm.org/public/pressroom/press_releases/2_2007/turing2006.cfm

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