



Australian Women in Computing



Newsletter
May
2006



In this Edition: Events, Conferences, News Articles & 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

Zest Restaurant – Bar, 44 King St, (cnr. Flinders Lane), upstairs function area (so same as last time...)

When: Friday June 2nd at 7pm

RSVP before May 26th (with any special dietary requirements).

acraig@deakin.edu.au

"Women in ICT Industry" Survey

James Cook University, along with Education Queensland and industry partner Technology One are collecting data on women in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) careers. This project is funded through an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant and the principal investigators are Associate Professor Neil Anderson, Professor Colin Lankshear and Associate Professor Mary Klein.

If you wish to find out more about this survey, and wish to participate in this important research, please go to the following website:

http://www.soe.jcu.edu.au/cgi-bin/rws3.pl?FORM=Industry_Survey_Women_Wizard

IT Victoria - Celebrating 50 Years of Computing in Victoria

The IT Victoria web site is now live. For Events and news go to

<http://www.itvictoria.net/>

Researcher of the Year Awards 2006

Call for Applications for the Researcher of the Year Awards 2006

The Researcher of the Year Awards 2006 is being held as part of the Smart Geelong Network's Research and Learning Expo which will be held in Geelong from 13 to 20 August 2006.

Applications are invited for 10 awards and each winner will receive a research grant to the value of \$5,000. One of the 10 winners will be chosen as the overall Geelong Region Researcher of the Year and receive an additional award of \$10,000.

In addition, one of the award winners will be chosen as highly commended and receive an additional award of \$4,000. To find out more, see the attached PDFs or go to the Geelong Chamber of Commerce's website at <http://www.geelongchamber.com.au/>.

The closing date for applications is 5pm Monday 3 July 2006.

Conferences

Young IT Conference

The 2006 ACS National Young IT Conference will feature quality speakers from within the IT sector and opportunities for networking. It provides an excellent opportunity for young IT professionals and students to learn and engage with their peers in a social and professional environment, whilst acquiring knowledge and skills that will advance their careers.

If you are a Manager of young IT professionals or know of any one who may benefit from participating in the conference, you may wish to refer them to the ACS web site at

www.acs.org.au/youngit/2006conference for information and registration details for the 2006 ACS National Young IT Conference.

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!



News

Innovate Webcasts

Resource for technology and education - some female related – webcasts available at
<http://www.innovateonline.info/index.php?view=event&type=webcast>

Google Offers Student Scholarship to Grace Hopper Conference

Google has decided to offer scholarships for female students outside of the United States to attend the Grace Hopper Conference happening on October 4 - 7th in San Diego, California. It is hoped that the \$2500 scholarship will provide talented Computer Science students with the opportunity to travel to the conference and learn from their peers and mentors. It would be great to have an Australian presence at this international event so have a go girls!

Eligibility Requirements Candidates must be: • Enrolled full-time in their undergraduate or graduate study in a university outside of the United States • In Computer Science, Computer Engineering, or related technical field major • Maintaining a strong academic background with demonstrated leadership ability

How To Apply Visit the link below to complete the online application.

<https://ssl.linklings.net/conferences/ghc2006/>

Women's career choices influenced more by culture than biology

University Park, Pa. -- The diversity of today's American workforce challenges information-technology organizations that have "one-size-fits-all" policies, and nowhere is that more evident than with women employees, says a Penn State researcher.

"Policy makers, educators, managers need to recognize that you can't generalize to all women," said Eileen Trauth, professor in the College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST). "There is far too much variation in the paths that women take for anyone to assume that women's career motivations are the same, their methods of balancing work and family are the same, or their responses to motherhood are the same."

read more at <http://live.psu.edu/story/17854>

Getting girls to go geek

May 15, 2006

...Now educators fear that — despite the best efforts of Sandra Bullock and Angelina Jolie playing geek grrls in the films *The Net* and *Hackers* — young women risk getting left behind. The proportion of females enrolled in IT studies at Australian tertiary institutions peaked at 27.7 per cent in the early '90s but decreased to 24.1 per cent in 2000 and continues to do so, according to PhD research by Catherine Lang out of the University of Melbourne's Centre for the Study of Higher Education.

To view the entire article:

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2006/05/14/1147545200759.html>

From geek to chic: The changing face of computing

You don't have to be a nerdy white guy to be a computer geek. In fact, you can be a woman, a minority, a person with a disability or someone who is downright cool.

That's the message of a group of Florida State University professors who are participating in a 10-member university consortium. The consortium, called the STARS (Students and Technology in Academia, Research and Service) Alliance, has received a \$2 million National Science Foundation grant to recruit a diverse group of students to earn college degrees in information technology (IT), computer science and other computing fields

read more at <http://www.fsu.edu/news/2006/05/11/geek.chic/>



IBM and the Computer Science Teachers Association make available free coursework and teaching tools to interest high school students in technology

Marianne Kolbasuk McGee

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read more at

<http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=NG5APJS0ZG44KQSNDBOCKH0CJUMK JVN?articleID=187001765&queryText=Marianne+Kolbasuk+McGee>

Women in IT: Catherine Jaktman

Dr Catherine Jaktman has been working in IT for more than 15 years and wears many hats: Australian Computer Society (ACS) vice president (only the second female to hold the role in 15 years), ACS Canberra branch chairperson and casual lecturer and principal of Nordic Technology. Jaktman holds a BA in Mathematics, MS in Computer Science and a PhD in Computer Science Engineering and has worked on projects in the US, Sweden, Hong Kong and New Zealand.

She hopes to be a role model for other women in IT, and believes it is a shame that females are still not encouraged to choose technology-based careers.

read more at

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php/id;62643238;fp;2;fpid;4>

Engineered by Women, for Girls

Published: May 8, 2006 by: Heidi Russell Rafferty

Courtney Hughes's brain is filled with algorithms, schematic drawings and big dreams of one day putting all of her newfound math and scientific knowledge towards an engineering career. While many 15-year-olds look forward to summer for its long and languid days, Hughes, a sophomore from Columbia High School in Maplewood, N.J., is eager for it to start so she can return to an intensive engineering training program at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark.

read more at

<http://www.connectforkids.org/node/4185>

Mothers Lead Best: 50 Women Who are Changing the Way Organizations Define Leadership

Contrary to popular opinion a woman today has a significantly better chance of reaching the top echelons of a corporation if she is a mother. A May 2003 joint study by Catalyst, the Families and Work Institute and Boston College, titled "The Leaders in a Global Economy Report," determined that women who were at reporting levels closer to CEO were more likely to have children than executive women of similar age at the same or lower levels. Also, for the last several years, over 70% of *Fortune's* list of *America's Most Powerful Women in Business* are mothers. So, despite the fact that there are more non-mothers in the pipeline and despite the likelihood that they are putting in more hours into their careers, career-centric women were stalling professionally while their mother peers were advancing through the ranks. Why is this?

full article at: http://www.worldwit.org/Columns/WiseWomenSpeak/Women_Business_Mothers/

ACM

Member-Get-A-Member Drive

Why is it so important to spread the word about ACM membership to other women? ACM increasingly speaks for the computing profession. Women need to be a significant part of ACM to help inform this discussion. - Women are frequently underrepresented for ACM recognition and awards. ACM needs more women members to raise the visibility of their accomplishments and to encourage other women.

More women need to be members so that we can hold leadership positions in ACM to help determine important positions and policies. <http://www.acm.org/memberdrive>