



In this Edition: Conferences, News & Articles.

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.

Conference

ASWEC 2006: Call For Industry Report Submissions

ASWEC 2006 invites all software engineering practitioners to submit industry experience reports. Submissions will be reviewed for relevance and suitability for the conference. Authors of the accepted abstracts will then be invited to make a final submission of either text or slides as MSWord, PDF or RTF files in camera-ready format ready for printing on the conference CD. At least one of the authors of each accepted experience report must register as a delegate and make a presentation at the conference.

Initial submissions should consist of abstracts of not more than 200 words.

http://www.aswec.org/expreport_submission/openconf.php

First Year in Higher Education

The organising committee of the 9th Pacific Rim First Year in Higher Education Conference are currently inviting proposals for papers, nuts and bolts, round table discussions and poster presentations.

The 2006 Conference continues to address the key challenges students face in their first year at university, and how to best equip them with the tools for academic and personal success. The theme Engaging Students, focuses on ways to increase the engagement of students with their learning, their peers, and in their learning environments to ensure they can contribute to the world they inherit.

Futher information at:

http://www.fyhe.qut.edu.au/

News

Beattie calls skills summit

Just a few months after he got the state's ICT industry offside, Queensland Premier Peter Beattie has announced a national summit to focus on skills challenges facing the ICT industry to be held there early next year.

Beattie said that the looming skills crisis was not only limited to the ICT sector; however, at the same time as demand for ICT skills has increased, young Australians enrolments in undergrad university ICT courses are dropping. Early in the year the premier's comments after extending a multinational's contract, that he "had to choose the best", resulted in an uproar in the local IT sector and saw the industry set up a special group to work with government.

Speaking at the Australian Computer Society's ICT Industry lunch in Brisbane last week, Beattie said even though university applications from year 12 students has increased by 1400 applications over last year, demand for ICT courses in 2006 fell by 12 percent on top of a massive 30 percent drop for the previous year.

http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=1019289124&eid=-257

Gender, age, culture and CMC

I am writing a paper which examines the effect of gender, age and culture

Does anyone know of any good research papers in this area? To be honest, I have been having trouble finding information, although my search is young.

Contact: Yasmine Howard <Yasmine.Howard@UTAS.EDU.AU>

Microsoft to open Office document format

Microsoft Monday said it will offer its Word, Excel and PowerPoint document formats as open standards, a move that could spark a war with technology rivals over standard document formats.

Microsoft said it would submit its Office Open XML (Extensible Markup Language) document format technology to the International Standards Organization (ISO) to be adopted as an international standard in time for the launch of the next version of its Office software suite, code-named Office 12.



The development comes as a group of technology rivals led by IBM and Sun Microsystems are mobilizing a global effort to push the OASIS consortium's Open Document Format for Office Applications (OpenDocument) as a global standard format for these kinds of documents. The effort was spurred in part by a highly publicized proposal in Massachusetts requiring compliance with OpenDocument for government documents, which would mean the phasing out of Microsoft Office and its proprietary format.

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=1846913025&eid=-301>

Vice-Chancellor wins national advancement of women award

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sally Walker, has won a national award for the advancement of women in the workforce. Professor Walker's achievement was announced last month at the Australian Government's Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency's Business Achievement Awards. The awards showcase leading initiatives that are attracting and retaining women in the workforce.

Professor Walker is a passionate advocate for access and equity. She believes in the power of education to transform lives for those who have access to it. " Education gives us confidence in our abilities and the confidence to creatively negotiate all possibilities in determining our path in life," Professor Walker explained.

" I left school thinking that I could do anything or, perhaps, more accurately, thinking that to question whether there were any limitations on what I could do, because I happened to be female, would be to imply a state of affairs that was completely outside my experience."

http://www.deakin.edu.au/alumni/news_events/newsletter/2005_summer/vc_award.php

ACS

ACS Elects New President

Monday, November 28, 2005: The Australian Computer Society (ACS) has elected a new National President, and two new Vice Presidents after a meeting of the ACS Council, the Society's peak decision-making body. After presentations from candidates from around Australia, the Council elected Sydney ICT lawyer, Philip Argy, as President for the next two years. Dr Catherine Jaktman was elected as Vice-President for the next two years and Kumar Parakala was elected as Vice-President for two years and one year respectively.[snip]

Mr Argy formally takes over as ACS National President on 1 January 2006, when current President, Edward Mandla, completes his two year term in the top job.

Mr Argy said he would devote significant energy and resources to ensuring that the ICT industry is seen as a legitimate career aspiration for young people. "I will also work to ensure that Australia's ICT teaching skills are improved right across the education system so that technology is provided as a life skill to young people entering our workforce. This is critical to maintaining Australia's position in the global economy." [snip]

[Should you want to locate any print media clippings about the ACS, you can download them from https://www.acs.org.au/media/mclippings.htm](https://www.acs.org.au/media/mclippings.htm)

ACS Recognises Outstanding ICT Professionals In Queensland

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The ICT Graduate of the Year award was presented to Kimberley Yee, who obtained a GPA of 7.0 for her degree in Information Technology from QUT as well as numerous University awards. The judging panel were also impressed with her active contribution to the ICT industry.

[Continued at www.acs.org.au/news/241105.htm](http://www.acs.org.au/news/241105.htm)

ACM

A new resource on Women and IT

The Bibliography on Gender and Technology in Education has been created by gender equity specialist Jo Sanders and is now available on the Center for Women and Information Technology (CWIT) website at in both the PDF and Endnotes format.

Find it at:

<http://www.umbc.edu/cwit/itgenderbib/>

Cisco Promotes Careers For Women in IT

TechWeb (11/07/05); Sullivan, Laurie

Cisco Systems has partnered with the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) to increase the number of women and girls in science, technology, math, and engineering, which has significantly declined in recent years. NCWIT reports a 42 percent drop in the number of ...



read more at

<http://www.techweb.com/wire/173500418>

Cut IT Skills Shortage by Closing Gender Gap, Say Female IT Professionals"

As female participation in the U.K. technology industry dropped from 27 percent to 21 percent from 1997 to 2004, a panel of several prominent female IT professionals cautioned the government and industry to overcome the gender gap to solve both the mounting IT worker shortage and the fear ...

Computer Weekly (11/28/05); Savvas, Antony

Teaching Tech to Girls Can Open Doors"

Enabling young girls to take apart computers in an environment that encourages exploration and not competition is the type of experience that could eventually lead more young women to pursue careers in science, engineering, and technology, according to a recent report by the American Association of University Women's Commission on Technology, Gender, and Teacher Education.

Futher information at:

<http://www.babwnews.com/article.php?id=410>