



In this Edition: Local & Victorian Events, News, Articles & Conferences.

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.

Events

Networking Evening - Geelong

You are cordially invited to attend a networking evening for men and women in the ICT and Science professions on Thursday 27th October, 2005

Presentations, finger food and a glass of wine or other beverage will be included in your registration.

Music is provided by talented local artist Nick Costa. Registration is essential at the ACS Vic website.

http://www.acs.org.au/vic/

Pearcey Foundation Dinner

Senator The Hon Helen Coonan, Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, will present the National Pearcey Medal. Victorian Minister for Information and Communication Technology, The Hon Marsha Thomson will present the Victorian Pearcey State Award.

Friday 14th October 2005, RACV Conference & Banquet Centre, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne Vic 3000. 6:00pm - Cocktail Reception - 7:00pm - Banquet Reception

http://www.pearcey.org.au/index.php/2005_Pearcey_Foundation_National_Event

Victorian ICT for Women Breakfast

Keynote speakers will discuss getting balance back in your life through the concept of "Slow"

Date: November 11, 2005

Further details from Bianca Brownlow bbrownlow@novell.com

http://www.vicictforwomen.com.au/Events.html

Conference

2nd Computing Women Congress (CWC)

Feb. 2006, University of Waikato, NZ

Call for papers is open

Further details at:

http://cwc.org.nz

QualIT 2005: Early Bird Registration Deadline 1 Oct & Nvivo 7

The deadline for the Early Bird Registration for QualIT 2005, hosted by Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia on 23-25 November is fast approaching.

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His plenary will show NVivo 7 for the first time and discuss the implications of its entirely new architecture, user interface and functions.

http://www.cit.gu.edu.au/conferences/QualIT2005/

The WINIT International and Interdisciplinary conference on Gender, Technology and the ICT workplace

Information Systems institute (ISI), University of Salford Greater Manchester

Call for papers is open

Futher details from:

http://www.winit-salford.com/conference/



News

Call for nominations for election to the auDA Board

The election will take place at auDA's Annual General Meeting, to be held in November 2005 in Melbourne. AGM details will be announced in early October.

People intending to stand for election to the Board should note that their signed nominations must be received by 5pm AEST, Friday 7 October 2005. Late nominations will not be accepted.

http://www.auda.org.au/news.php?newsid=46

Education & Skills

How are emerging technologies affecting the delivery and enhancement of teaching and learning in Australia?

This report, produced by education.au limited for the Australian Capital Territory Government's Department of Education and Training, reviews emerging educational technologies related to education and training in the ACT education sectors. "Emerging Technologies: A Framework For Thinking" looks at such technologies as P2P, podcasts, wikis, blogs, VoIP, and digital TV.

http://www.det.act.gov.au/publicat/pdf/emergingtechnologies.pdf

partICIPation Summit

On 22 September the above named summit was held in Sydney. The event was initiated in response to an election promise by Senator Helen Coonan. T

Representing VicWIC, ACS-W, ACM-W, AWISE were Annemieke Craig, Catherine Lang, Julie Fisher, Sonja Bernhardt, and Su Spencer. Ask us about it if you would like more detail

Why girls don't get IT

Female attitudes towards a technology career will be examined as part of a landmark three-year study launched across three states involving 22 high schools.

The collaborative study, which has received a \$220,000 Australian Research Council linkage grant, will be done in NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

The research, to be completed in 2007, will be headed by Professor Margaret Vickers from the University of Western Sydney, along with the NSW Department of Education and Training, SA Department of Education and Children's Services, Victorian Department of Education, the NSW Office of Women and Deakin University.

http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,16631283%5E15841%5E%5Enbv%5E,00.html

ACS

ACS seeks CRPIT EDITOR

A new Series Editor is needed for the Australian Computer Society's Conferences in Research and Practice in Information Technology (CRPIT) series. The CRPIT series is a parallel series to the Journal of Research and Practice in Information Technology (JRPIT) which aims to facilitate the dissemination of proceedings from peer-reviewed conferences in all areas of IT.

The term of the current editor is completing and thus the Society is looking for a new editor to commence as soon as possible, preferably for a period of three years. The position is honorary and reports to the Director, Membership Lifecycle Board through its Publications Committee chair. The position would suit an ACS member who has experience in the academic or research community.

Expressions of interest, outlining past editorial experience, qualifications and a short CV should be sent to the current editor, Professor John Roddick, at crpit@infoeng.flinders.edu.au, by 31 October 2005. Further details can be found on the CRPIT website.

http://crpit.com/

ACS Victorian Branch Executive Committee Elections

Nominations are called for the following positions on the ACS Victorian Branch Executive Committee for 2006.



Branch Chair, Branch Vice Chair, Branch Secretary, Branch Treasurer, Ordinary Committee Members - 9 positions. Appointment commences 1 January, 2006.

Please note that nominations must be received by 4.30pm Friday 28 October, 2005. A nomination form is available on the ACS Vic website.

www.acs.org.au/vic

ACM

Closing the Gender Gap

University of Southampton computer science professor Wendy Hall cites a British Computer Society (BCS) survey of U.K. schoolgirls concluding that girls' interest in computing and IT is being discouraged by their perception of IT careers as tedious and unrewarding, indicating the failure of career advisors and the IT profession to communicate to girls that IT careers are more exciting, diverse, and fulfilling than they think.

Gender bias and a lack of female role models are significant factors in women's lack of enthusiasm toward technology careers. Hall says women are now thought to account for approximately 20 percent of the total workforce, while a mere 17 percent of U.K. computer science degree entrants are female, most of them from overseas.

She says the BCS is taking an active role in improving these numbers by hosting a women's group and recognizing organizations that encourage women to pursue tech careers by including a Women in IT Award in its BCS IT Professional Awards; on the horizon is a women's forum that will probe the gender gap and advise business and government on how this divide can be closed. Hall raises the need for more organizations such as Women Into IT and the Women in IT Forum, and says career advisors should tell girls that companies are very flexible when it comes to rearranging work schedules and accommodating families.

<http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2005/09/20/211872/Closingthegendergap.htm>

Computer Science Majors Find Jobs Easily

College students in the El Paso-Las Cruces area came out for a free seminar involving IBM executives to learn more about the opportunities available to them in pursuing a career in information technology. "Hundreds of thousands of high-tech jobs in the United States go unfulfilled because of the lack of qualified computer science graduates," said IBM's Mark Hanny. Hanny participated in the seminar at the University of Texas El Paso

El Paso Times (TX) (09/16/05); Flynn, Ken

Read more at:

<http://www.elpasotimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050916/BUSINESS/509160352/1003>

Fewer CS Majors Not a Big Concern

Chela Education Financing CIO Virginia Robbins argues that most corporations have little use for people with computer science degrees per se. Rather, business-oriented personnel (marketers, accountants, and the like) with computer skills are desired. Robbins does not think the decline ...

Computerworld (08/29/05) P. 19; Robbins, Virginia

Read more at:

<http://www.computerworld.com/managementtopics/management/story/0.10801.104182.00.html>

Pushing Girls Toward Science

A report from the National Science Foundation estimates that in 2001, 35% of the students enrolled in undergraduate physics, computer science, and math classes and 16% of those enrolled in undergraduate engineering classes were female. Meanwhile, women comprised less than 10% of students enrolled in graduate physics and engineering classes.

A team of researchers at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) recently received a \$360,000 grant designed to boost the participation of women in engineering and the sciences through efforts such as a high school robotics competition coordinated by professor Jerry Weinberg with the SIUE School of Engineering's Computer Science faculty.

http://www.goedwardsville.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15156993&BRD=2291&PAG=461&dept_id=473648&rfi=6

Women and Technology movie

Women Make Movies is proud to offer a new documentary and a special offer that will be of interest to organizations which focus on issues of women, technology and globalization. COPY ME: I WANT TO TRAVEL is a fascinating look at women and the computer industry in Bulgaria which will be a valuable educational resource in the study of women's labor issues, the history of technology, and transitional economies. To learn more about this film and other films from WMM that explore these themes, please see our announcement below.

Women Make Movies is a non-profit media arts organization and the world's leading distributor of films and videos by and about women



www.wmm.com

Women Are 'Put Off' Hi-Tech Jobs

An Intellect report finds that the British technology industry must make a better effort to recruit, persuade, and retain women in the high-tech work force, which is characterized by a bias toward males and a lack of female role models.

The Office of National Statistics estimates that the percentage of women in technology industries declined from 27% to 21% between 1997 and 2005, while the British Computer Society reports that 28% of U.K. organizations do not employ female technologists.

The Intellect report attributes the defection of women from the IT industry to long hours, a dearth of networking opportunities, and their perception of IT as a boys' club.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/low/technology/4225470.stm>