



Australian Women in Computing



Newsletter
July
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

Leadership Victoria's Board Orientation

This series is part of Leadership Victoria's commitment to encouraging leadership with the aim of teaching people the art of becoming an effective member of a not-for-profit board through a user friendly five sessions.

The series is relevant to you if you:

- are looking to take that first step into community activity
- are serving on a board and are wanting a broader perspective on your organisations potential
- are considering serving on a board and want to know what you might be letting yourself in for
- have now got the time to make a further strategic contribution

For further information and registration form click below;

<http://leadershipvictoria.org/events/events.cfm?siteaction=EventDet&mid=001.001.005>

Field of Women

Breast Cancer Network Australia is calling on 13,000 people - representing the number of Australians diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007 - to stand together and create the first ever Sydney Field of Women LIVE before the Sydney Swans v St Kilda match on Saturday evening, 11 August 2007.

Breast Cancer Network Australia welcomes everyone - supporters, friends, survivors - and anyone else who wants to be a part of this spectacular and memorable event.

Registration is \$50 and includes a pink poncho, admission to the AFL game and public transport. 100% of your registration will go to support Breast Cancer Network Australia's important work. You can register for this exciting event by accessing the registration page.

<http://www.fieldofwomen.org.au/>

Information Managements and E-Discovery Conference 2007

An intrinsic overview of document retention, destruction and discovery

Information Management has often been a challenge and now with the new legislation passed on Document retention and destruction, it will have widespread implications on companies. Melbourne, Rialto on Collins, 21, 22 August 2007

For further information call Kathy Katrivesis from CMS-chilli marketing solutions on: (02) 9818 6566 or visit <http://www.chillimarketing.com.au/conferences>

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Switched On: ICT Now (ICT Week 2007)

The highlight of Switched On: ICT Now (ICT Week 2007) is an ICT and Careers Expo collaboration between VITTA and Xavier College. This event will focus on student pathways and ICT industry career opportunities for school leavers.

This event is designed to encourage students to consider ICT as an exciting and advantageous tertiary and/or career choice and will allow them the opportunity to meet with tertiary and industry groups to gain a better understanding of career options in ICT.

For more information on this exciting event, contact the VITTA office on (03) 9495 6836 or email ictweek@vitta.org.au

Venue: Xavier College, Barkers Road, Kew
Date: Wednesday 25 July, 2007
Time: 7.15pm

News

Women positive about IT careers

Jennifer Foreshew, June 19, 2007

Australian women working in IT&T-related careers have faced many instances of "subtle discrimination", research shows. Over all, though, female professionals in the hi-tech sector say their careers are rewarding, provide opportunities and challenges, and are beneficial to society, the report says.

James Cook University in Cairns, released the final part of a three-year study last week that finds women in IT&T are more likely to recommend their career to others if they have been treated as equals in their workplace and have found management approachable.

<http://www.australianit.news.com.au/story/0,24897,21927502-15335,00.html>

Researchers seek interviews with women in Melbourne

Contraception. Pregnancy. Childbirth. Menopause: Elements of women's reproductive lives. What role does technology play?

We invite women aged 20-40 to participate in the research project "Reproductive lives in the technological age".

We want to learn from women about how they understand and manage the whole of their reproductive lives, whether or not they've had or ever expect to have children. We'll ask about whether technologies of reproduction figure in their lives or plans.

The research project is being conducted by Professor Doreen Rosenthal, Associate Professor Jane Fisher, Dr Maggie Kirkman, and Dr Susan Peake from The Key Centre for Women's Health in Society at The University of Melbourne.

For more information, email Susan Peake at speake@unimelb.edu.au, or phone 03 8344 7069.

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Survey of Women Working in IT

The K-12 Informal Education Hub of the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT), led by the Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA), is conducting a three-phase study to determine what experiences or factors influence females to pursue work in information technology (IT). Study results will help guide efforts to increase the number of women entering the IT field.

This 20 minute survey is intended for women who work in IT. For the purposes of this study, IT is defined as all forms of technology used to create, store, exchange and use information in all its forms; the design and use of computers and communications to improve the way we live, learn, work and play.

Please follow the link to the online survey: www.erasurvey.org/input/womeninit.htm

Call for nominations for the 2008 Victorian Honour Roll of Women

The Victorian Honour Roll of Women recognises and celebrates the achievements of women from all walks of life.

Do you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution in their community? Nominate her now for the 2008 Honour Roll.

Nominations forms in Word and PDF form can be downloaded from the Office of Women's Policy website (www.women.vic.gov.au). Hard copy versions can be forwarded by calling (03) 9208 3129.

If you are an organisation that would like to publicise the call for nominations and increase the awareness of the Honour Roll, please download the flyer to display on your organisation's noticeboard from the Office of Women's Policy website (www.women.vic.gov.au).

Nominations close on Friday 22 September 2007 at 5pm.

New Australian Women in IT website

The ACM-W sponsored website austwic.org and the Australian Women in IT Conference website has been merged to a new site.

Check out the new user friendly design at: <http://www.ozwit.org/>

Successful Ageing of Australian Baby Boom Career Women Survey

Lyn Courtney, James Cook University

Baby boomers are people born from 1946 to 1964 and career women refer to all working women (full-time, part-time or casually employed). I am hoping you are a baby boom career women and participate in my online survey or forward this email to your friends and colleague who may be a baby boomer, or know one. Additionally, they may be kind enough to print one of the flyers attached and post one/both on a conspicuous bulletin board.

The expected outcome of this research will inform policy makers and help ensure that baby boom career women will have a voice in shaping their retirement transitions and continue to have a meaningful and fulfilling lives in their later years.

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

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Sonja Bernhardt Interview

Young ACS professionals

It is with great honour that I introduce today's Interview with an IT Professional, Sonja Bernhardt. Sonja is one of the most influential women in ICT within Australia. In 2005, Sonja was the first Australian inducted into the Hall of Fame for Women in Technology International (Silicon Valley). She is a world class leader, and a mentor to many. Sonja was the mastermind behind the recent Screen Goddess Calendar, which helped raise the image of ICT around not only Australia, but throughout the world.

<http://deb.foocode.net/?p=72>

Former Novell chief appointed Freshtel CEO

Sandra Rossi 02/07/2007 12:22:48

IP telephony provider Freshtel Holdings has named former Telstra Victorian Businesswoman of the Year, and Novell Asia Pacific chairman, Rhonda O'Donnell as its new CEO.

O'Donnell has been working with Freshtel in an advisory capacity for the past two months.

She first joined Novell in 2001 as president and CEO of Novell Asia Pacific with responsibility for the management of Novell's entire regional operation spanning 13 markets and employing over 800 staff. She was a member of the company's Worldwide Management Committee.

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=985899840&eid=-257>

ACS

Member Get Member Program

The ACS is running a promotion 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. Closes 31st July 2007.

ACS Tea House Toastmasters Club Meeting

The next ACS Toastmasters Club meeting will demonstrate how meetings normally are conducted with member participation. It will be fun and entertaining as well as instructional. The Tea House Toastmasters Club is being chartered in the near future and more members are required. ACS Members and non members can apply for membership. For more information contact pam.barnes@acs.org.au

Refreshments at 6.00pm prior to the meeting.

Venue: The Tea House, 28 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne

Date: Tuesday 24 July, 2007

Time: 6.00pm for 6.15pm

Please register at:

https://www.acs.org.au/acs_events/index.cfm?action=eventdetails&eventID=2188&branch=VIC

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ACM

Gender Divide Growing in Computer Science

Wisconsin State Journal (03/29/07) LaRoi, Heather

Enrollment in computer science is declining just when computer science grads are becoming a valuable commodity due to an abundance of high-tech jobs and the prospects of continued job market expansion. There has been a 60 percent drop-off in the number of students who say they are interested in majoring in computer science since 2000, according to Jan Cuny with the National Science Foundation's Broadening Participation in Computing Initiative.

<http://www.madison.com/wsj/mad/top/index.php?ntid=126918&ntpid=1>

MS Student Survey Identifies Lack of IT Education, Soft Skills

ITBusiness.ca (04/04/07) Smith, Briony

A study and roundtable discussion by Microsoft Canada has found that IT education is lacking in communication and design training, or "soft skills," and that many 11th grade through second-year college students believe their technical skills are not being sufficiently developed. Courses that focus on soft skills would be more appealing to students, especially females, says CISP consultant Margaret Evered, as evidenced by the growth of social networking sites that focus on creativity and teamwork.

<http://www.itbusiness.ca/it/client/en/home/News.asp?id=42909>

IT Jobs: Tapping Teens to Fill the Gap

SearchCIO.com (04/05/07) Tucci, Linda

A Memphis summer program has had great success in stirring up interest in technology among students. After realizing that college was too late to get students interested in a career in computing, Society for Information Management (SIM) founder John Oglesby collaborated with a Memphis library to create Teen Tech Week. "We put together a program with SIM helping guide the curriculum, and the library doing all the heavy lifting," said Oglesby. Students ages 12-15 can apply for the program, which was kicked off by an orientation for students and parents that explained the opportunities available due to the current shortage of IT workers.

http://searchcio.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,289142,sid19_gci1250438,00.html

'Laura' Makes Digital Health Coaching Personal

Boston Globe (05/21/07) Elton, Catherine

Northeastern University computer science professor Timothy Bickmore has created a virtual health coach called "Laura" that can help patients remember to take pills on time or encourage them to get out for a walk. Bickmore hopes that as the population of baby boomers continues to age, virtual coaches such as Laura will be able to bridge the gap between the growing number of patients and the insufficient number of health care professionals.

http://www.boston.com/news/globe/health_science/articles/2007/05/21/laura_makes_digital_health_coaching_personal/

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How to Narrow IT's Gender Gap

Computerworld (05/15/07) Lanzalotto, Jim

Women account for only three out of every 10 computer scientists, system analysts, computer support specialists, and operations research analysts, according to the 2005 Current Population Survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which estimates that the percentage of women in such fields has dropped 7 percent at a time when the technology workforce is at an all-time high.

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=hiring_recruiting&articleId=290587&taxonomyId=57&intsrc=kc_feat

DePaul Scores Win for Women

Chicago Sun-Times (07/04/07) Guy, Sandra

At DePaul University, Project Her-CTI within the university's School of Computer Science, Telecommunications and Information Systems connects female students with mentors and peers. One of the programs is called Digital Divas, sponsored by ACM's DePaul chapter. The program seeks to enable students to create relationships by accessing professional networks.

<http://www.suntimes.com/technology/guy/455269,CST-FIN-ecol04.article>

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