

Australian Women in Computing Newsletter March 2008

Plenty of news and a joke

Ubiquity reader William Dunk of <http://Globalprovince.com/williamdunkpartners.htm> pointed out this funny bit on YouTube called "Medieval Tech Support." Take a look at: <http://www.flixy.com/medieval-tech-support.htm>

Conferences & Events:

1. Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing 2008

Please be sure to submit your proposal for the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing - October 1-4, 2008 in Keystone CO. This year's theme "*We Build a Better World*" recognizes the significant role women play in creating and utilizing technology to improve our world. Submissions on both technical and professional topics are encouraged. The Grace Hopper Conference committee is requesting submissions that reflect the conference theme "*We Build a Better World*" in the areas of innovation within a company, academia, or individual contribution through social and environmental entrepreneurship. The GHC Committee encourages technical submissions that cross disciplines and other boundaries. The deadline for all submissions has been extended. We need more submissions in all categories including:

- Panels, Workshops and Presentations - new deadline - **March 26, 2008**
- PhD Forum - new deadline - **April 15, 2008**
- Technical Posters - new deadline - **April 15, 2008**
- ACM Student Research Competition - new deadline - **April 15, 2008**
- Birds of a Feather Sessions - new deadline - **April 15, 2008**
- New Investigator Technical Papers - new deadline - **April 15, 2008**

All details at the GHC web site: <http://gracehopper.org/2008/>

2. WOB - 1st National Diversity on Boards Conference

Call for papers. You are invited to join Women on Boards at the inaugural National Diversity on Boards Conference at Sydney's most famous stretch of sand and surf, Bondi Beach. Executives, managers, academics and existing and aspiring directors will enjoy a dynamic and innovative program featuring:

- Leading edge SME, start-up, NFP and rural sector discussions
- Facilitated introductions and mentoring
- Interviews with company directors
- Career positioning workshops
- Contemporary research papers
- Cocktail party and gala dinner with guest directors

Details on the program, speakers, director profiles, registration and sponsorship opportunities are at: www.womenonboards.org.au/events/diversity2008/

3. 20th World Computer Congress Italian Computer Association (03/12/08)

The Italian Computer Association (AICA) will organize the 20th IFIP World Computer Congress from Sept. 7-10 in Milan, Italy. An innovative program accommodates a record number of 13 technical and 17 industry conferences with cross-links and presentations on

national experiences and best practices. Globalization in the Digital Scenario will be the subject of the opening session. Hosted conferences include Women and Technology, e-Inclusion, and the AICA's 46th National Congress. Industry conferences at WCC 2008 will include e-Government, Web 2.0, Smart Grids, Intelligent Building, Service Science, and ICT for Innovation in Finance. Technical conferences include Distributed and Parallel Embedded Systems, Human Computer Interaction, IFIP Artificial Intelligence 2008, 23rd IFIP International Information Security Conference, Knowledge Management in Action, Biologically Inspired Cooperative Computing, 1st IFIP Entertainment Computing Symposium, Open Source Systems 2008, and the 5th IFIP International Conference on Theoretical Computer Science. WCC 2008 will also offer a topical session on Computer-Aided Innovation. AICA is determined to make this event one of the best ever and extends a cordial invitation to ACM members to join the international ICT community at the Congress. For more information and to register, go to: www.wcc2008.org.

4. Call for mentors

Victorian ICT for Women Network is in need of mentors for its mentor program this year. If you would like to mentor another female ICT professional and share your knowledge and experience, we want you. You do not have to be a member to be a mentor. More information at: <http://www.vicictforwomen.com.au>

5. Go Girl, Go for IT

This IT career showcase event is scheduled to run once more this year, on October 28 & 29. Mark your diaries, volunteer time, expertise, other. More information at: <http://www.vicictforwomen.com.au>

6. Bloggers & Wordpress Gurus - we want you!

Shoot The Player is an online music video project. We are looking to turn www.shoottheplayer.com into a good-looking interactive, dynamic wordpress blog. Can you make a blog that doesn't look like a blog? We've started the process but our skills are limited, it looks like our grandma made it. Get in touch if you want to be part of exciting new online film exhibition forum and you know something about wordpress and blogging. We want to hear from you! We value your skills & will pay. Don't be shy. aatovey@gmail.com, 0404 563 082. Check out www.shoottheplayer.com or visit www.myspace.com/shoottheplayer to get an idea of what we do.

7. Seeking ICT Professionals in Data Management and Project Management

ACSEducation, the division of the ACS responsible for professional development, is seeking volunteers to assist with assessment of candidates sitting the ACS Diploma of Information Technology examinations (<http://www.acs.org.au/dit/>). Volunteers must be ACS Members with current PCP status.

The commitment is not great yet the rewards include:

up to 25 hours recognised professional development activity (claimable as PCP hours).

an honorarium to cover costs.

a richer and more interesting CV.

the satisfaction of contributing to the ICT profession and the ACS.

For further information, please contact the Registrar of ACSEducation, Ms Pam Barnes, at pam.barnes@acs.org.au or phone 1800 671 003 (Freecall within Australia).

ACM news and articles of interest:

1. 'Women Wanted in Europe's ICT Industry!' eGov Monitor (03/07/08)

Getting young women in Europe interested in a career in information and communications technology (ICT) was the focus of a recent conference in Brussels. The European Commission launched the pilot "Shadowing initiative" two years ago, and last year more than 50 young women spent a day in the workplace with a female senior manager working in the ICT sector. Europe has a shortage of about 300,000 qualified staff in its ICT industry, and some observers believe it will have to make a strong effort to target young people, including women, if it is to maintain its level of competitiveness in the global economy. "If this shortage of computer scientists and engineers is not addressed, it will eventually slow down the European economic growth and Europe runs the risks of falling behind its Asian competitors," says Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media. "We need to overcome common stereotypes which describe ICT careers as boring and too technical for women, and instead encourage women to succeed in this exciting, innovative and multi-faceted sector." Women received only 19 percent of European engineering degrees in 2004. <http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/17565>

2. New Study Suggest Current Journal Practices are Biased against Female Authors

Traditional single-blind peer review practices hinder the number of women authors who get their work published. Virginia Valian's 1999 book, *Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women* documented evidence that operating across our society are *gender schema*, meaning that many of us, frequently unintentionally and without realizing it, undervalue the accomplishments and abilities of women compared to those of men. A new piece of research casts further light on how this unconscious bias affects the practice of peer review in scientific journals, and suggests a strategy for improving the practice to help eliminate such bias. Peer review is the practice by which the quality of scholarly work and accomplishment is evaluated by those who are best positioned to know the technical details of the work and can evaluate its significance in light of existing knowledge – the peers of the individual whose work is being evaluated. Such review by other scholars in the field is supposed to ensure that only high quality manuscripts are accepted for publication, that limited grants funds are allocated to research with the most potential, and that the best nominee for an award is selected. More detail at: <http://www.mentornet.net/news/newsart.aspx?nid=32&sid=1>

3. Status of women in world's parliaments - IPU Report

Australia is 30th on this list of countries in regard to female parliamentarians.- full list is at this site. <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

4. See how the other half earns

Men and women in Australia are equal, right? Wrong! **Can you guess, for every dollar a man earns, how much a woman earns?** Here's a hint - it's one of the biggest gaps of all developed nations. And even more worrying? **We're not even heading in the right direction; the gap is getting bigger.** It's a pretty sobering statistic for a country that prides itself on being egalitarian - **so we've created a pay calculator to show just how the other half lives.** Click here to find out what you'd earn as the opposite sex, then sign our petition demanding equal pay for women:

www.getup.org.au/campaign/HowTheOtherHalfEarns

Brought to you by: Catherine Lang ACM-W Australian Ambassador MACS MACM
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