



Victorian Women in Computing (VicWIC) Newsletter Winter 2010



This newsletter is brought to you by the ACM-W (Association of Computing Machinery Women) Australian Ambassador. It is also available at www.ozwit.org. Copy and paste URL's in to your browser to link to articles.

Events & Conferences

VicWIC dinner

Our next get together is **Friday September 17th**

Location: Breizoz French Creperie, 139 Nelson Place, Williamstown, ph 93972300

Time: 7pm

RSVP: by Monday 13th September to Jo.Coldwell@deakin.edu.au

OzWIT, International Collaboration & ACM-W Ambassador update

I have been pretty quiet on the site updates this year. However, recently Annemieke and I had the pleasure of delivering a paper at a conference in Italy about international collaboration in women in IT. The presentation has been added to the site, as well as details of the full paper and where to download it from.

Annemieke will be going to the Grace Hopper Celebration for Women in Computing in the USA later this year where some decisions should be made regarding the future of the ACM-W Ambassador program. We will keep you informed.

ACM News – a few of the articles that have caught my interest...

Are Female IT Graduates Still Underrepresented?

Women in Technology (07/27/2010)

Women are still underrepresented in technology-related degree programs, according to the latest data from the U.K.'s Higher Education Statistics Agency. The data shows that 38 percent of women are pursuing studies in mathematical sciences, the same percentage as 10 years ago. Women account for just 15 percent of students pursuing engineering and technology degrees, and the number of women studying computer science has fallen over the past five years, from 24 percent to 19 percent. "We need to be very worried that ... these figures are low and not getting any better," says the Institution of Engineering and Technology's Peter Hicks. Meanwhile, a new report from the Royal Society says the low number of people going into the science and technology profession could affect the U.K. economy. The report suggests that having more science teachers in early education could help improve the numbers. Hicks agrees that primary schools should have more responsibility in encouraging girls to choose technology careers, and adds that there is a need for more female role models teaching science at the primary school level.

Full Article at: <http://www.womenintechology.co.uk/news/are-female-it-graduates-still-underrepresented--news-800006423>

Blog is a must read: [Stubbornella](#) » [Blog Archive](#) » [Woman in technology](#)

Usually I avoid topics like women in technology because (1) it is a can of worms, and (2) I can really only speak for myself. For the most part, I'd rather be seen as a person in technology than a woman, but this weekend the twitterverse erupted with opinions about Google sponsoring female students ...

Full blog at: <http://www.stubbornella.org/content/2010/07/26/woman-in-technology/>

To send a message or submission to the Newsletter for the next edition email
Catherine Lang (clang@swin.edu.au)
Thank- you!



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Wanted: Cybersecurity Pros

Baltimore Sun (08/01/10) Sentementes, Gus G.

Demand for a cybersecurity workforce is heavy, as U.S. federal agencies, contractors, and technology companies vie for a limited pool of qualified employees. A Booz Allen Hamilton study on national cybersecurity readiness found that federal scholarship programs designed to fill government openings produced just 120 graduates annually, when about 1,000 are needed yearly across federal agencies. Meanwhile, federal officials announced a \$10 million grant to establish a National Cyber Security Center of Excellence at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which would enable public-private collaboration on digital security standards. There are abundant challenges inherent in building a cybersecurity workforce, especially for the federal government's intelligence and defense agencies and the private contractors that collaborate with them. Finding people with sufficient skills is only part of the solution, as they also must be able to qualify for a security clearance. This translates into competition between government agencies and the private sector for experienced cybersecurity specialists.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/business/bs-bz-cybersecurity-technology-jobs-20100801,0,1072907.story>

Are Biases Keeping You From Hiring the Best Candidate?

Network World (via Computerworld), July 30

Hiring managers and recruiters need to guard against common preconceptions that simply don't apply in today's job market. For example, sometimes it pays to bring in a candidate even though the applicant has no directly relevant technical experience. A candidate's unique background could signal a unique ability to think on his or her feet and have a broader view beyond just technology. In a similar way, IT managers need to push beyond preconceived notions about factors like education and age. To make a great hire for a tech position, they need to avoid bringing their professional biases to the hiring process.

The most common assumption is that good IT workers always have tech-centric backgrounds. However, if your bias is that candidates have to have a purely technical background, then you could eliminate a pool of good talent. Another mistaken assumption is that the best hires come from big-name technical or engineering schools. People who didn't attend these schools had to work a little harder to get that experience and to get the recognition. Another assumption is that intensive tech backgrounds are best. Yet, workers who know a particular technology very well aren't always the best people for IT jobs over the long term.

<http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/073010-are-biases-keeping-you-from.html?hpgl=bn>