



THE ALICE NEWSLETTER

LEARNING TO PROGRAM WITH ALICE

February, 2007

Volume 3, Number 1

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Links

aliceprogramming.net
Helpful information on Teaching with Alice (course calendars, lectures, labs, assignments, exams, solutions, etc.)

alice.org
Download Alice, Alice community

visualization.sju.edu
The Center for Visualization website. Archive of past newsletters; listing of grants; useful information for users

Announcing our Alice Workshops for Summer 2007

We will be running several Alice workshops this summer. Below the workshops are listed, along with who you should contact if interested in attending. Please forward information about these workshops to colleagues who might be interested.

1) May 30-31: Beginning Alice workshop. Location: Garden City, NY
Please contact: Lori Postner postnel@ncc.edu or Darci Burdge
Darci.Burdge@ncc.edu

2) July 16-22: CMU Alice Institute. Location: Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
Please contact: Don Slater dslater@andrew.cmu.edu

3) July 26-28: Alice and Media Computation. Location: Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI
Note that this workshop will focus on the teaching of Alice and Media Computation together in a CS1 course
Please contact: Barb Conover bconover@sju.edu
Cost: free (supported by an NSF grant)

4) August 1-3: Alice and Media Computation. Location: Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA
Note that this workshop will focus on the teaching of Alice and Media Computation together in a CS1 course
Please contact: Barb Conover bconover@sju.edu
Cost: free (supported by an NSF grant)

5) August 8-10: Alice. Location: California State University-Dominquez Hills, slightly south of Los Angeles, CA
Please contact: Barb Conover bconover@sju.edu
Cost: probably free (recommended for support by NSF)

ITEST AWARD

We have recently received an NSF ITEST award. The award will provide professional development for K-12 teachers for teaching with Alice. If you are a middle school or high school teacher in or around Columbia, SC, Durham, NC, Oxford, MS, Denver, CO, or San Francisco, CA, and would like to participate in this grant, please let us know by sending an e-mail to Barb Conover (bconover@sju.edu) with the word ITEST in the title. We will be running several Alice workshops in these areas in summer 2008, and possibly in summer 2009.

Contact Us

- Recommend a colleague to the Alice Newsletter
- Share your success stories with other users
- Upcoming events / plans using Alice
- Comments, corrections or omissions

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Alice and BlueJ

We received an e-mail request from John Harrison (John.Harrison@vbschools.com) asking if anyone had experience with transitioning from Alice to programming Java using BlueJ. If you have done such a transition, please contact John, to let him know about how you did it, what went well, and what didn't. If there is interest, John has been willing to write up something for the next Alice newsletter.

Auburn University

Computer Literacy Academy for Children

Submitted by : Daniela Marghitu, Ph.D.
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Auburn University is offering a Computer Literacy Academy for children (ages 8 to 14) of Auburn University employees (<https://fp.auburn.edu/comp1000/SummerOutreach/index.html>). Children with disabilities and from varied cultural backgrounds are encouraged to enroll in this summer program. The Summer 2006 syllabus focused on helping children learn about computers and the Internet, how to use the Microsoft Office 2003 suite applications (Word, Excel, Power Point), how to design and publish a personal Web page using Microsoft FrontPage 2003, how to program computers using cutting edge educational technology interactive applications such as Alice (<http://www.alice.org>) and Lego Mindstorms (<http://mindstorms.lego.com/eng/default.aspx>).

While it was initially decided that a small group of very young kids will not be able to work on Alice, twenty four out of the twenty five children ended up working with Alice (at different levels). The only child that didn't work with Alice (he is only 8 years old and has a very severe form of Down syndrome) was clearly very interested in watching his colleagues while working with Alice. Four children (ages 12-14) worked with Alice at college/freshman level and ten children (ages 10 - 12) worked with Alice at high school level. The results of the end-of-program survey shows all children felt that, by using Alice, they learned about programming much more than they hopped and that an overwhelming majority of children were determined to continue working with Alice.

Hope that all is going well with your teaching this spring!

Regards,
Wanda Dann
Steve Cooper