



THE ALICE NEWSLETTER

LEARNING TO PROGRAM WITH ALICE

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Saluting our Alice Instructors!



Welcome to our third Alice e-newsletter this spring 2007 semester. We received a good number of interesting Alice reports from the field, and wish to dedicate this e-newsletter to sharing them with you!

Alice as part of the NSF Chautauqua Program in Summer 2007

Funding has been approved for the NSF Chautauqua program this summer. Judy Gersting has an Alice workshop scheduled. Here's the pertinent information:

The NSF Chautauqua program, which makes short courses available to college and university faculty at various locations around the country, has just been funded for this summer. These three-day Chautauqua Courses are funded by the National Science Foundation and the only course charge is the \$50 application fee which is refunded if appointment is not possible. There is an Alice workshop in Dayton, Ohio, on June 13-15.

DAY-16 Programming with Alice: A New Strategy for Introductory Computer Science Courses, June 13-15

A description for this course is attached. One can apply online at:
<http://www.massachusetts.edu/chautauqua/>

For questions or application, contact Dr. George K. Miner, Chautauqua Field Center Director at the University of Dayton. He can be reached at (859) 229-2327, or at miner@udayton.edu. Ideally, application should be made by April 30 so that preparations can be made for one's participation. Applications will be accepted later if space is available.

Thanks,
Judy Gersting
gersting@hawaii.edu

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

Alice on NPR (National Public Radio)

Dr. Jeff Gray, of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, was interviewed recently on NPR radio, regarding UAB's K-12 outreach efforts in Alabama. This broadcast was heard in the southeast US, and is archived (with permission from WTSU) at

<http://www.cis.uab.edu/gray/Pubs/npr-4-3-07.mp3>

The interview includes slightly more than five minutes of discussion about Alice in the CS curriculum and summer Alice camps (for middle and high school students), as well as a general discussion on the need for CS education in light of the needs of the job market. Truly worth a listen!



Alice at the Sally Ride Science Festival

Dan Lewis reports:

Santa Clara University just hosted one of the Sally Ride Science Festivals for about six hundred 5th through 8th grade girls on the Santa Clara University campus this past Sunday. (I was the campus coordinator.) The Festival included a variety of 45 minute workshops in the afternoon, and I arranged for one of them to be on Alice - taught by two of my department faculty. They were VERY excited about how fast the young girls caught on and how well they did, so I asked one of them to describe their experience. Her report concludes with the observation that: "Considering that we only had about 45 minutes, the results were astounding... [The girls] absolutely loved it. After the time was over, none of them wanted to leave. They kept playing until the volunteer said it was really time to go." Here's a photo from that workshop:

http://www.cse.scu.edu/srs/slides/132-3207_IMG.html

All the best,

Dan Lewis
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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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University of Alabama at Birmingham Offers Several Alice Outreach Events

The Computer and Information Sciences Department at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is offering several events that are focused on Alice. These include:

EVENT: The Alice Film Festival

Contact: gray@cis.uab.edu (Jeff Gray, Ph.D.)

Web Site: <http://www.cis.uab.edu/programs/alice-festival>

General information: The UAB Alice Film Festival provides an opportunity for Alabama K-12 students to create animated movies using Alice and submit them to a competition. Movies from the film festival will be shown at a special event and awards will be given in several categories. A keynote presentation will be offered by Dr. Caitlin Kelleher from Carnegie-Mellon University. The film festival will take place on May 12, 2007. Deadline and registration materials are available on the film festival web site. This event is co-located with the UAB High School Programming Contest
<http://www.cis.uab.edu/programs/hspc>

EVENT: Middle School Computer Science Camp: Introduction to Alice

Contact: gray@cis.uab.edu (Jeff Gray, Ph.D.)

<http://www.cis.uab.edu/programs/camps>

General information: During this one-week camp, students will learn common programming constructs, basic algorithm design, and storyboarding of movies/games. Projects throughout the week will involve the creation of video games and movies using Alice. The middle school camp targets rising seventh through ninth graders. The camp will be held during the week of July 16-20, 2007. **Additionally**, one week of a **5-week summer camp series for high school students** will also focus on Alice (please see web site above for details on both summer camps).

Using Alice in an Extracurricular Setting

Elaine Witkowski reports:

I'm a middle school teacher in North Carolina who has been facilitating Alice instruction to students during weekly after school video club meetings. I've also been encouraging my students to be instructors by sharing each week what they have learned. My web site is

http://www.randolph.k12.nc.us/schools/atmiddle/teachers_websites/Witkowski/davidson.htm

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REMINDER! SUMMER 2007 ALICE WORKSHOPS

Please do let others know about our upcoming summer 2007 Alice workshops.
They are filling up fast but all still have space available.

May 30-31 -- Nassau Community College, NY

July 16-22 -- Carnegie Mellon University, PA

July 26-28 -- Roger Williams University, RI

August 1-3 -- Georgia Tech, GA

August 8-10 -- California State University - Dominguez Hills, CA

Further details are available at:

<http://www.aliceprogramming.net/workshop2007.html>

Regards,
Wanda and Steve