



# THE ALICE NEWSLETTER

LEARNING TO PROGRAM WITH ALICE

May, 2007

Volume 3, Number 4

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Hi all,

We hope that your spring semesters are finishing up nicely. Before jumping in to the details of this issue, we'd like to note that the summer Alice workshops at Georgia Tech, Carnegie Mellon, and California State University - Dominguez Hills still have some space available (though the one at Georgia Tech may only have one or maybe two spots left). So, if you know someone who is considering an Alice workshop, please have them go to [www.aliceprogramming.net](http://www.aliceprogramming.net) to find details and to sign up.

### Alice Demonstrated at the Great Computer Challenge

*John Harrison (John.Harrison@VBSchools.com)  
from Princess Anne HS in Virginia Beach reports:*



WHRO, the local PBS station, and Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA sponsored the 22nd Annual Great Computer Challenge, drawing 150 teams from over 40 Middle and High Schools from the Tidewater Virginia area on Saturday March 10, 2007. John Harrison, Computer Science Teacher at Princess Anne High School in Virginia Beach, VA, hosted two one-hour sessions introducing Alice to about a dozen Middle and High School teachers. Using the materials developed by Susan Roger for the Duke Femmes 2007 Workshop (<http://www.cs.duke.edu/csed/alice/dukeFemmes>), these teachers created their own interpretations of the Snowpeople worlds. Everyone had a great time working with Alice, and many expressed interest in attending future Alice Workshops and learning how to incorporate Alice into their schools.



### A Request from Down Under

Alan Fekete (fekete@it.usyd.edu.au), from the University of Sydney, has contacted us about teaching Alice at the start of CS1. If you can help him, please reply to him directly. Here is his note:

## Links

[aliceprogramming.net](http://aliceprogramming.net)  
*Helpful information on Teaching with Alice (course calendars, lectures, labs, assignments, exams, solutions, etc.)*

[alice.org](http://alice.org)  
*Download Alice, Alice community*

[visualization.sju.edu](http://visualization.sju.edu)  
*The Center for Visualization website. Archive of past newsletters; listing of grants; useful information for users*

I noticed references in various Alice talks to schools that teach Alice for a few weeks at the start of a predominantly Java CS1. Can you point me to people who have done this, who could be contacted for information and/or resources?

Regards,  
Alan Fekete  
University of Sydney  
fekete@it.usyd.edu.au

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## Alice and Robots

*Daniela Marghitu (daniela@eng.auburn.edu), from Auburn, reports:*

### **Auburn University Robotics Community Course: A Success Story**

<https://fp.auburn.edu/comp1000/RoboCamp/index.html>

The **Auburn University Robotics Community Course (ROBO CAMP)** designed for children in grades 5-10 meets every Saturday for two hours between February 3rd and April 21st. The ROBO CAMP <http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/robo/index.html> 20 hours course curriculum reinforces children's computer literacy knowledge while introducing them to more advanced concepts and hands on applications of computer programming and robotics. Students use the Train and Assess IT application skill-based training modules to reinforce their knowledge about Personal Computer hardware, software architecture, Windows XP, the Internet, and the WWW. More advanced concepts, such as basic computer programming and robotics, are taught using Alice Programming System and the Lego Mindstorms and Robotics Invention System.



Wanda Dann visited the AU campus on April 19th - 21st, where she conducted a “**Learning Styles Research**” seminar and a hands-on “**Why Everybody Loves Alice**” workshop. Wanda also attended, as guest of honor, the Robo Camp graduation ceremony. As part of this unique ceremony, the students presented the Alice and Lego Mindstorms & Robotics Invention

System projects they had worked on throughout the camp.

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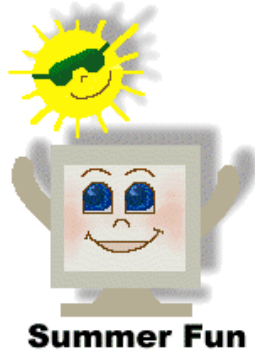
## Contact Us

- 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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## Alice as part of a TECS workshop

Bucks County Community College will be running a Teacher Enrichment in Computer Science (TECS) workshop June 26 and 27th. One of the sessions will be on Alice. Other sessions will focus on robotics, social networking, information literacy, security, smart boards, and adaptive technology. Twelve Act 48 hours will be issued as part of the successful completion of this workshop. Contact Kay Chen (chenk@bucks.edu) or Arta Szathmary (szathmar@bucks.edu) for further details.



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## Alice in Summer Camps - Camp E!magination

Janet Renwick (jrenwick@uafortsmith.edu), from the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, sent us information about some neat summer camps she is running this summer in Arkansas. Please contact her directly for details and further information.

We are offering two summer camps here at UA Fort Smith for junior high students. Here are the particulars

### **Camp E!magination**

(this is our umbrella camp name -covers a couple of different things)

June 11-15, "iTea Party" Programming in Alice for girls, grades 6-9

June 18-22, "Camp Techno-Toons" Programming in Alice for boys and girls, grades 6-9

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## Alice in Summer Camps -Auburn University

Auburn University Offers Two Summer 2007 Alice Outreach Events. The Computer Sciences and Software Engineering Department at Auburn University (AU) is offering several events that are focused on Alice. These include:

### **EVENT: Computer Literacy Academy for Children (dealing with disabilities)**

Contact: Daniela Marghitu (daniela@eng.auburn.edu)

Web Site: <https://fp.auburn.edu/comp1000/SummerOutreach/index.html>

**General information:** The purpose of AU Computer Literacy Academy for Children (dealing with disabilities) ages 7-12 is to help typical and special needs children learn about computers and the Internet, how to browse, navigate and search the World Wide Web (WWW), 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 create video games and movies using Alice, and how to program Lego Mindstorms robots using the Robotics Invention System (RIS) visual programming language (<http://mindstorms.lego.com/eng/default.aspx>).

Deadline and registration materials will be available on the Computer Literacy Academy web site:

<https://fp.auburn.edu/comp1000/SummerOutreach/index.html>

**EVENT: Summer Resident Robo Camp: Introduction to Alice and Lego MindStorms & Robotics Invention System**

Contact: Daniela Marghita ([daniela@eng.auburn.edu](mailto:daniela@eng.auburn.edu))

Web Site: <https://fp.auburn.edu/comp1000/SummerRoboCamp/index.html>

**General information:** During this 5 days resident camp, students will learn common programming constructs, basic algorithm design, and storyboarding of movies/games. Projects throughout the program will involve the creation of video games and movies using Alice. Students will also learn about the basic components of the Mindstorms robot and how to program Mindstorms robots using the Robotics Invention System (RIS) visual programming language. Robo Camp targets rising seventh through twelfth graders. The camp will be held on July 18 - 22, 2007. Deadline and registration materials are available on the AU Outreach Web site:

<http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/robo/index.html>.

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## Alice in Summer Camps -Camden County College

*Anita Wright (AWright@camdencc.edu), from Camden County College, reports:*

Just thought I should let you know that I will be running two middle school summer camps in July -- one for girls and one for boys. Each camp will run 4 hours/day (mornings) for two weeks with a "show off" day for friends and family the last day of camp. The plan is to use your "brief" edition of the text, therefore we will be purchasing the Brief text and a jump drive for all campers. This is a "test run" of sorts -- if all goes well, I would like to pursue getting some grant funding and opening it up (in the fall on Sat. and/or next summer) to students with "scholarships" as well as for those who's parents can afford it.

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**WELCOME** to the 65 new members who asked to join  
our Alice Newsletter since last month!!

We hope to see many of you this summer.

Regards,  
Wanda and Steve