



THE ALICE NEWSLETTER

LEARNING TO PROGRAM WITH ALICE

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Happy Halloween to all of you!
We hope that your semesters are going well.

Brief Summary of Alice workshops from Summer, 2007

This past summer, we ran Alice workshops at Nassau Community College (NY), Carnegie Mellon University (PA), and at California State University - Dominguez Hills (CA), and combined Alice and Media Computation workshops at Roger Williams University (RI) and at Georgia Institute of Technology (GA). We especially want to thank all of the local coordinators who helped us make these workshops the success that they were. In all, more than 100 middle school, high school, community college and four-year school teachers attended, from 26 states, and 4 countries (three, excluding the US). This is the most diverse group of teachers Wanda and Steve have met in a summer, and we had a wonderful time meeting and working with you all.

A Request for from those of you teaching in K-12

Wanda Kunkle, a PhD student from Drexel University, sends us the following request:

"Below is the announcement for the survey I'm conducting as part of a research project with Susan Wiedenbeck in the College of IST at Drexel. Thanks, in advance, for including it in your next Alice newsletter!"

Online Survey of Teachers Who Use Software Development Tools

We would like your help with a survey on the subject of K-12 teachers or administrators who use software development tools/programming

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

languages. We wish to gain a better understanding of activities, challenges, and needs in this area. We seek your assistance because your teaching background and experience in software development/programming will provide us with invaluable information about this topic. To access the survey, visit:

<https://websurveyor.net/wsb.dll/32487/TeacherSurvey.htm>

Participation is anonymous and voluntary and should take about 20 minutes of your time. If you have any questions about the survey, e-mail your questions to kunkle@elvis.rowan.edu or wanda.m.kunkle@drexel.edu."

A fun 8th Grade Story

As reported by Joyce Howard:

"I have seven 8th Grade boys in my Alice class this semester. Yesterday I walked into the lab and 2 of them were in there and had Alice running. I asked what they were up to and they said they were working on a French project. I said it didn't look that way to me. They told me they needed a visual part for the project and the teacher gave them permission to use Alice for it. I double-checked with her later and she said yes and asked 'Is that okay?' Of course I'm delighted that they are using it for something else.

This particular teacher filled in for me one afternoon and the boys were working on some work for me. They had to pick a letter and along the Sesame Street lines, had to do a 'This program is brought to you by the letter ???'. One boy was doing the letter F and had a fish on the page. She said, 'Oh, be creative. Put the fish in the blender!' So, he did! The French teacher got a kick out of their work and told me she'd fill in anytime."

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<<http://www.knology.net/%7Ecomputerkids>>

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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SHARING Ideas

We have recently been contacted by several college and high-school instructors wishing to have a forum where they can discuss various Alice teaching issues with other like educators. The

<http://www.alice.org/community/>

web site was designed exactly for this purpose, where you can create a new thread of discussion, or join into an existing thread!

Some Middle School Ideas for Alice Usage

(in their own words)

From Carolyn Bell (bellc@apsd.k12.ar.us), relayed through Misti Clark (clarkm@OBU.EDU) to Don Slater (dslater@andrew.cmu.edu)

"Here's a partial list of what **8th grade students suggested** for ways to use Alice in other classes:

1. Book talks in English (book reports)
2. Use as visual in their History Day projects
3. Create character ed movies for younger children
4. Create advertisements for school program and then show them after our Channel One daily news (ex: fundraisers, special events, field trips)
5. Any/all class projects (science, social studies, etc.)
6. A new media for Art classes
7. Public service announcements (a way to teach handbook rules?)"



Update on Summer 2008 Alice & Media Computation Workshops

We wanted to provide you more details about next summer's Alice and Media Computation workshops. The first piece of news is that we will be running a beginner and an advanced track for each of Alice and Media Computation. (Please note that we expect you to be comfortable with programming in Java, as the Media Computation part of this workshop will

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involve the programming in Java using the special Media Computation libraries.) The presenters will be Steve Cooper, Wanda Dann, and Don Slater for the Alice materials and Steve Cooper and Barb Ericson for the Media Computation materials.

The Las Vegas workshop will be held at the Circus Circus Hotel (<http://www.circuscircus.com/>) on the Las Vegas strip on July 27-30. This hotel has an amusement park and a circus for those of you who might be bringing family members. The Orlando workshop will be held on August 10-13 at the Regal Sun Hotel (<http://www.regalsunresort.com/index.asp>). This is a "Disney affiliated" hotel, located in downtown Disney (a great nightspot with lots of great restaurants, shopping and evening entertainment), and provides free shuttle service to all Disney attractions. We will be announcing these workshops to the larger computer science education community in February. But, if you or a colleague is interested in attending, please contact Barb Conover as soon as possible to reserve a place. Space will be capped at 44 teachers per workshop. ****Please note**** we will be requesting a refundable \$500 deposit in March to confirm your reservation. *We have no intention of cashing your checks*, and will give you back your checks upon successful completion of the entire four-day workshop. (We are sorry to be tough about this, but fear that a free room and food at a popular tourist attraction might otherwise be too much of a distraction for some.)

Regards to all,
Wanda and Steve