



THE ALICE NEWSLETTER

LEARNING TO PROGRAM WITH ALICE

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All,

Welcome to our first post-SIGCSE 2008 e-newsletter. While things are not quite back to normal, they are settling down.

Enjoy this month's newsletter!



Get PAID for your Alice Exercises / Projects

Prentice Hall has just contacted us requesting that Wanda and I create 30% more exercises and projects! We nearly fainted (we are working on the second edition of Learning to Program with Alice, a combined Alice and Media Computation CS1 text, and a new Alice book for Alice 3.0, and in our spare time Wanda is running the Alice team and I am serving as an NSF program officer). We then asked if we might be able to contact our Alice community to see if folks might be willing to share their own exercises. **We** have no idea how much Prentice Hall is willing to compensate for selected exercises, but if you have exercises you'd be willing to share, please contact Barb Conover (bconover@sju.edu) at your earliest convenience. We'll create a list of the first 10 people interested in creating exercises and submit names and contact information to Prentice Hall.

An Alice Report from SIGCSE



We wanted to briefly report on the Alice events at SIGCSE

(<http://www.cs.duke.edu/sigcse08/>). As an aside, Susan Rodger and John Dougherty did an amazing job running this conference!!! Unfortunately, Randy Pausch wasn't well enough to give his keynote address on Alice (see <http://download.srv.cs.cmu.edu/~pausch/news/index.html> for more details of his battles). Dennis Cosgrove (the chief architect of Alice 3) stepped up and, with a bit of help from Wanda, gave a strong tribute to Randy. The Alice Tea Party was our best one yet, with over 300 folks in attendance. We expect the Alice playing cards that Prentice Hall provided to be great collectibles :-). The Alice Birds of a Feather session went extremely well. And, the Alice workshop likewise went very well. If you are planning to go to SIGCSE next year, in Chattanooga, sign up early for the Alice workshop, as we'll be teaching Alice with Alice 3.0!

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

The Alice Institute at CMU

Don Slater shares with us the details of the 2008 Summer Alice Institute:



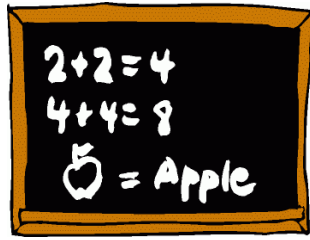
Carnegie Mellon will host an Alice Institute for interested high school and college instructors June 28 - July 3. Plan on arriving on Saturday, June 28. This institute will explore the Alice programming environment for all teachers looking for an effective and engaging tool to introduce students to programming and Computer Science. This workshop is designed for both high school and college teachers/professors. Working with nationally recognized experts in Alice, a tool developed at Carnegie Mellon, teachers will develop an understanding of Alice, and teaching methods suitable for presenting Alice in their own unique environment. The workshop is appropriate for any instructor who is considering or currently using Alice in a pre-CS1 or CS1 course. Cost for the workshop is \$275. The workshop fee will include materials and opening dinner/closing lunch; all other meals are on your own: if your school district is paying, you must add in an appropriate per-diem to cover meals. The cost for single-occupancy, on-campus housing at Resnik Hall is \$360. Unfortunately, we are not equipped to accept school purchase order or credit card payments.

The web site with more detailed information and for registration is <http://www.intro.cs.cmu.edu/alice-institute>. At this time there is room for only 40 participants. Please contact Don directly for further details.

Donald Slater
dslater@andrew.cmu.edu
Office phone: (412) 268-4370

Update on Alice 2.2

Since the last newsletter, we have received many questions about specifically when Alice 2.2 will be available, and when the second edition of Learning to Program with Alice will be available. Wanda has committed that Alice 2.2 will be available online by **June 1, 2008**. And, the second edition of Learning to Program with Alice will be available for use in Fall 2008 classes. While the book is not yet available, we have been told that if you specify an ISBN of ISBN-10: 013208516X or ISBN-13: 9780132085168, your bookstore will order the second edition of the text.



Alice in Elementary School

We hear from Maria Smith:

"I am teaching (rather my students are learning) Alice 2.0.

Thank you so much for your wonderful resource. My students are enjoying it and we plan to attend the Alice Film Festival at UAB in May. I have 65 3rd- through 5th-grade gifted students and more than half are planning to submit a film!

Thank you in advance for your time, assistance, and generosity."

Maria Smith

mariasmith@jefcoed.com

Speaking about the Alice Film Festival at UAB...

Jeff Gray <gray@cis.uab.edu> and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, host this opportunity for Alabama K-12 students to create video games and animated movies using Alice and submit them to a competition. The film festival will take place on Saturday, May 10, 2008, from 1:00pm – 4:45pm on the UAB campus.

For much more information, please go to the website! www.cis.uab.edu/programs/alice-festival



Middle School Materials for Running Alice Workshops

Eileen Peluso shares with us some materials that she created for running a summer Alice workshop for middle school students:

"I presented a workshop for middle school girls last summer. It was approximately 2 hours long. The materials I used and some comments on my experience (it was my first attempt at such a workshop) can be found at www.lycoming.edu/~pelusoem/SummerOutreach/BU2007.htm."

Best wishes,

Eileen M. Peluso

Chair, Mathematical Sciences Department

Lycoming College

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

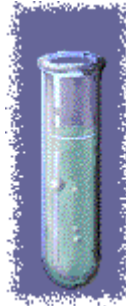
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Interested in Being a Beta Tester for Alice 3.0?

Gabe Yu writes:

"In your next newsletter, can you point people to this link:

http://www.alice.org/index.php?page=alice3_progress_report



We are requesting teachers who are interested in beta testing Alice 3.0 in the Spring of 2009 contact us with their information. Hopefully, we can build up a nice list of schools over the next several months.

Thanks,
Gabe Yu
gfy@andrew.cmu.edu

Two Teachers' Journeys through the Looking Glass of Student Programming

Elaine Witkowski and Jill Nelson presented a class called "**Alice- the Free, Fun and Easy Way to Introduce Students to Programming**" at the NCAECT (NC Association of Educational Communication and Technology) 2008 Conference (<http://www.ncaect.org>) in Concord, NC on Friday, March 14th. They have a web site at <http://learnalice.googlepages.com> that has the presentation on it for those who didn't attend. They also have a blog at <http://learnalice.blogspot.com> that has one student testimonial video on it and will include more as parental releases are returned.

A High School Story

Mary Alice Gehrdes reports:

"After I read the February 2008 newsletter, I realized that you may enjoy seeing this. This link is to a world a student created and wanted to show a friend who lived in another state. He loved it!

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sporksarecool&search_type=



Here's the setup:

My student is an 11th grade girl. She has been using Alice for three weeks; this is the one-semester Intro course that we call "Passport to Programming". I use Learning to Program with Alice; I do chapters 1, 2, 4, 3 and sections of other chapters for the first quarter of this semester course, then we do Java, but Alice stays part of the picture because the students don't seem to ever want to leave Alice. The students started seeing Alice in Java Style at the second week mark.

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I assigned Project 1, the greeting card project that I got from the Alice website when I first start teaching w/ Alice two years ago. The students always love this project; Valentine's Day was just too close to miss, so I assigned the project earlier than I have before, and it actually worked out fine – I used to think I had to do chap. 3 (functions and control structures) before Chap. 4 (methods), but this shows me that it works out fine this way, too.

My student used CamStudio to capture the world; she uploaded the .avi file to YouTube. She did record a snap to use where the Magician is snapping his fingers – we hear that when she plays the world in class; it didn't get recorded in CamStudio."

Mary Alice Gehrdes, Severn School
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Severn School

Alice Competitions in the UK

For any of you in the UK who are teaching with Alice, if your students build something neat,

they may wish to compete in the following:

<http://www.cs.manchester.ac.uk/Digital60/Digital60-AliceCompetition/animation-festival/>



Regards,
Wanda and Steve