



THE ALICE NEWSLETTER

LEARNING TO PROGRAM WITH ALICE

December, 2008

Seasons Greetings

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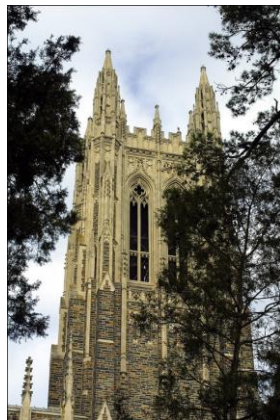
Topics For This Issue

- The 2nd Duke Alice Symposium, June 09
- The Alice Blog
- Interesting post by Peter Lee
- Alice in the Netherlands
- Five (5) reports of Alice usage!
- Kind words from Alice Teachers

All,

Our best wishes for a season of celebration, joy & peace!

The Second Duke Alice Symposium



We will be running an **Alice 3 workshop** and conference at Duke University June 15-19, 2009. A formal announcement will be made in early January. For now, we are pre-alerting you to this event. Our plans are:

- June 15-16 Alice 3 workshop (two tracks: beginner and advanced)
- June 17 Alice conference (papers, presentations, and a keynote)
- June 18-19 Media Computation in Java workshop (two tracks: beginner and advanced)

The symposium will be free, and we intend to provide housing and partial travel for attendees who register early (until all funds are depleted.) Plus, please consider either submitting an abstract (for presentation) or a conference paper for the conference part of the symposium. This will likely be our only free summer workshop in 2009, so please save the date!

The Alice Blog

After many requests, we finally have an Alice blog. Please go to: <http://blog.alice.org> and enjoy! The focus has been mainly on Alice 3 development and design.

An interesting blog post by Peter Lee

Peter Lee is the chair of the CS department at CMU. While he is obviously somewhat biased in Alice's favor (being from CMU), it was nice to see what he had to say about his thoughts on Alice 3.

Go to:

<http://www.csdhead.cs.cmu.edu/blog/2008/10/22/alice-v30-is-a-hit-with-students-in-alpha-test/>

to take a look!



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 in the Netherlands

Els van Tol (evtol@hageveld.nl) reports:

"Some news from the Netherlands and Alice:

1. For my study: Master of Science of Education And Communication. I am doing a research on Alice. "De toepasbaarheid van Alice in het onderwijs (HAVO/VWO)." This will be a research for approximately half a year. So, If you have any idea's or suggestions, let me know!

Could you ask for Dutch and Belgian schools using Alice to contact me?

2. In April there is the Dutch teaching informatics conference. (Nationale Informatica Onderwijs Congres). NIOC:
<http://www.nioc.nl/index.php?pgid=overnioc&menu=7>

There, I am invited to give a workshop about Alice programming.

Thank you in advance, for next week: Happy Christmas and good (Alice) year!"



REPORT #1: Alice in the field

The Severn School, Severna Park, Maryland

Mary Alice Gehrdes reports:

"I had my Passport to Programming students do the Alice e-card project that I got from the Alice resources for teachers. They had to create a card with a Halloween theme, it had to have at least two methods, one method had to have a parameter, and the method had to be used at least twice with different arguments."

"If you'd like to see some of the animations my students did, I'm posting them through the rest of the semester at this link:
<http://sites.google.com/site/mrsgehrdes/>

"This year, I am teaching my classes in a Mac lab. Bootcamp is on the machines -- I teach using the Mac OS first quarter then Windows second quarter."

"We used SnapzPro X to capture the animations from the Alice worlds. It was the easiest way I've found yet to capture animations and create a movie file with sound. In my Passport to Programming class, a pre-requisite to AP



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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Computer Science at my school, I include some basic html and in part of the webpage project they do, I have them capture screen shots of some of their Alice worlds and post them on the page. Having a way to easily capture the animation, I now have had them add their Halloween e-card movies to the web page.”

“It is so fun to have computer science kids bring their friends into the lab to see their work...”

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Gehrdes



REPORT #2: Alice in the field

Mill Springs Academy, Alpharetta, Georgia

Cindy Thorne reports:



I am presenting with our upper grades tech teacher at the Georgia Independent School Association on Nov 3. The presentation is called: Through the Looking Glass—Programming with Alice 2.0. we should have an audience of 20+/- . Our students are in LOVE with Alice. I am using the tutorials with the 5th and 6th graders. They are just getting started this week on their own projects. We are moving at a bit slower pace than the older students. The concepts are hard to grasp for the younger ones.

REPORT #3: Alice in the field



Honolulu, Hawaii

Chris Russell reports:

We are using Storytelling Alice in the GEAR UP program through isisHawaii for STEM enrichment programs. We accomplished one of these days for 70 students from Farrington, Waianae, and Nanakuli High Schools. You can find pictures and more at

<http://www.isishawaii.org/PhotoAlbum.aspx?QueryID=2008%20UHM%20GEAR%20UP%20STEM%20Enrichment%20Day>

REPORT #4: Alice in the field

University of Texas at Austin



Mike Scott reports:

Here are links to a couple of Alice movies created by girls who attended our CS summer camp.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/FirstBytes>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rh86BdbaMmg>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uq7ZgHpVmuk>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8gFMLyx9o>

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Mike Scott
UTCS

REPORT #5: Alice in the field

Delaware Area Career Center, Delaware, Ohio

Suzanne MacLean reports:

I need to report on an incredible Fall!
Remember our discussions in Las Vegas
about the programming curriculum with a
business focus that I wanted to create?
Here's what's happening:



Two people from different departments at the Ohio Department of Education want to be kept apprised of my progress one is head of the technology area.. Our ITA lab advisory committee - including people from Columbus Community College, programming professionals, an IT director from a Fortune 1000 company, and a director of a digital academy were very encouraging!

Then today!! Ohio School Boards Association has its annual conference this week. It draws several thousands of board members and administrators from all over the state. (I served on two school boards so I'm very comfortable here.) I had been talking to the current State President, Ed Bischoff, about Alice and this morning in his opening speech to this group, he talked about Dr. Pausch's CMU Virtual Worlds class and then he mentioned Alice! The National School Boards Association President, from Western PA, was also in



attendance today.

This afternoon Governor Strickland talked about the need for our schools to focus on the STEM initiatives, teaching critical thinking skills, and how our country needs to maintain its edge in innovation! So now I am so excited about how Alice fits into everything they are talking about! Then at the President's reception tonight, Ed comes up to me and asks if I will show him Alice!! Okay now I am pumped!

I just had to share this great news with you! Now I really have to be part of the v3 Beta group.

Thanks for listening to my ramblings! Hope that your Fall has been as exciting!

Kind words from Alice teachers

Gerry Donaldson, a longtime Alice instructor from North of the border (Sir Winston Churchill High School, Calgary, Alberta), shares some very kind words on Alice:

"My Alice course has been the most popular course that I have taught in my 30+ year career.

It is magical in that students learn faster and have fun doing it."

Julie Briney (Gibson City- Melvin Sibley High School, Gibson City, IL) tells us:

"My students, of all abilities and interests simply LOVE Alice!!!"



We hope that all of you have a wonderful holiday season!!!

Regards,
Wanda and Steve

Seasons Greetings

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