



THE ALICE NEWSLETTER

LEARNING TO PROGRAM WITH ALICE

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All,

We hope that your spring semesters are starting well, and that the weather has not been too terrible.

Alice Workshop at Duke CALL FOR PAPER & ABSTRACTS

Deadline: March 15th, 2009

The 2009 Alice Symposium
Duke University, Durham, NC
June 17, 2009

The one-day Alice Symposium is June 17, 2009. This symposium is for Alice teachers at levels of instruction ranging from Middle School and High School to College and University. Symposium website:

<http://www.cs.duke.edu/csed/aliceSymposium2009>

Note: 2-day workshops will be available before and after the Alice Symposium.

June 15-16: Alice 3 workshop focusing on Alice in AP and CS1 courses

June 15-16: Alice 2.2 workshop focusing on Alice in pre-AP, pre-CS1 and non-majors courses

June 18-19: Media Computation

You are invited to submit a paper or an abstract for the symposium.

All accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings. We have requested "in-cooperation" status with SIGCSE. If this status is granted, papers will also be made available for publication to the ACM Digital Library.

SUGGESTED TOPICS:

- Studies involving the use of Alice
- Experience papers
- Nifty Alice teaching ideas
- Interdisciplinary use of Alice
- How to teach with Alice
- Alice use outside of the classroom



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

SUGGESTED TOPICS (continued)

- Alice and computing concepts
- Alice and animation
- Other Alice ideas

There are two types of submissions: Abstracts and Papers.

ABSTRACTS

If you wish to give a presentation, but do not wish to submit a full paper, you may instead submit a 250 word abstract describing what you wish to present. Presenters will have approximately 20 minutes for their presentations, including questions and answers. (Please note that abstracts, while available in the conference proceedings, will not be made available to the ACM Digital Library.)

PAPERS

Papers will undergo a blind reviewing process. Papers must not exceed five pages. Authors will have approximately 25 minutes for their presentations, including questions and answers. Papers submitted should follow the ACM SIG Proceedings format. Information is available from the symposium web site.

Please join us in making this a great symposium.

*Steve Cooper, Wanda Dann, and Susan Rodger
2009 Alice Symposium Co-Chairs
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rodger@cs.duke.edu*

Please send submissions to Barb Conover (bconover@sju.edu). Additionally, we should have the website up and running very soon for folks wishing to register for any part of the extravaganza. Please do register early.

Alice 2.2 Update

A new version of Alice 2.2 is available at:

http://www.alice.org/index.php?page=downloads/alice2_2_info

It includes fixes to many of the Alice 2.0 bugs. It loads much faster, and runs more bug-free. Please download it, and give it a try. We will periodically provide updates to Alice 2.2 as more bugs get fixed. So do continue to check back at this site periodically, and continue to let us know about any Alice 2.2 bugs that you find.

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 3 and

For those of you who are planning to attend SIGCSE (<http://www.cs.arizona.edu/groups/sigcse09/>) this year, we have one more treat for those of you willing to come for lunch at the Alice Tea Party on Friday. In addition to a fun show, we are intending to provide all attendees with the latest copy of Alice 3. Thanks to the generosity of Pearson/Prentice Hall, we will have free lunches for the first 250 folks who attend the Tea Party. Also, thanks to Sun Microsystems, we will have a free 2G USB drive containing Alice 3 beta for all Tea Party attendees.



Unfortunately, the Alice 3 workshop at SIGCSE filled up! We have petitioned the conference organizers to allow us a larger room. Rumor has it that we will be given one, so that more of you will be able to take an Alice 3 workshop. Unfortunately, the workshop is not free, but the money goes to support the running of SIGCSE (so at least it goes to a good cause).

Alice at the Computer Science & Information Technology Symposium



The Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) has been getting larger and larger, and attendance at its national CS&IT Symposium has been growing. Steve will be giving a presentation on Alice 3 at the symposium, on June 27, 2009. For any of you high school and middle school teachers thinking of attending, this should give you one more reason! CS&IT (register at: <http://visualization.sju.edu/csta/>) is being held immediately before NECC (<http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009/>), so it works out pretty well to attend both. The complete CS&IT symposium is available from <http://csta.acm.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/sub/CSIT09TentAgenda.pdf>

For any of you who aren't yet CSTA members, you should join (<http://csta.acm.org/Membership/sub/IndividualMembership.html>). The price is right, and it's good to have a national organization working on our behalf.

(Truth in advertising statement: Steve is the Vice President of the CSTA Board of Directors, so is not completely impartial.)

Alice Workshop in Texas this summer

Phyllis Tedford shares with us information about an exciting Alice workshop this summer:



"Here's the deal:

- The workshop will be held Tuesday, June 9, through Friday, June 12, 2009 on the campus of Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi.*
- Don Slater will be coming to Corpus Christi for the workshop. He and I are planning on sharing the presentation responsibilities.*
- The target audience is secondary and post-secondary educators. A stipend of \$200 will be paid to each participant who completes the workshop.*
- I will be the contact person at TAMUCC for the workshop. My email address is phyllis.tedford@tamucc.edu, my phone number is 361-825-3711, and my mailing address is 6300 Ocean Dr. Unit 5824, Corpus Christi, TX, 78412-5824."*

Please get in touch with Phyllis directly for more information.

Reports from the field:



Steven Pleau shares with us the following:

"I have attended several of yours, Steve's, and Mark's conferences over the past couple of summers. I would greatly appreciate being able to attend this one coming up in June at Duke! I love the material and methods you all utilize and have incorporated much of it already into my program and plan to continue to incorporate more of it in the Fall of 2009. It really interests my students and gets & keeps them motivated.

My student population was on a decline for the past few years (only able to gain one freshman each of the past 2 years) so my class sizes have shrunk from a norm of about 10 to 14 students down to 1 to 4! This was not good for the program...but after introducing your materials and methods and improving my own over the past two years I am happy to say I have had 20 freshmen sign up for my program this year and I fully expect to retain at least 14 of them! I can't thank you and the others enough for helping me to accomplish what I wanted to accomplish, but just wasn't sure how until I was enlightened by your classes."

*Steven Pleau
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Alice at the North Carolina Technology in Education Society Conference

Elaine Witkowski shares with us an exciting upcoming event:

"Elaine Witkowski and Jill Elbersson will be presenting *Alice- the Free, Fun, and Easy Way to Introduce Students to Programming *at the NCTIES (*North Carolina Technology In Education Society) (*<http://www.ncties.org/>) Conference on March 4-6, 2009 at the Raleigh Convention Center.



The presentation will be Thursday from 11:45 - 12:30 in Room 301A. The write up for the class is "Alice is a FREE animation/programming software program donated by Carnegie Mellon University. It encourages students especially girls and minorities to learn programming in a fun way by creating animation and/or video games as they learn concepts. Studies show students using Alice continue and succeed in future programming classes. <http://www.alice.org> Bring laptop for hands-on demonstration."

See <http://www.learnalice.blogspot.com/> for last year's presentation information. New information will be added late February. Please invite teachers you know that will be attending the conference to come to our session."

Best of luck in your spring semesters!
Wanda and Steve

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