



THE ALICE NEWSLETTER

LEARNING TO PROGRAM WITH ALICE

March, 2009

Volume 5, Number 2

Topics For This Issue

- Alice Symposium – Call for Papers Deadline EXTENDED
- The Alice Institute
- A Storytelling Alice Sub-community
- Girls, Engineering, Math and Science
- A Plaque for Randy Pausch at Disney World
- Alice at NECC
- A Cool Alice Blog Post
- Know a Good Mentor?

All,

We were glad to see so many of you at SIGCSE last week! Thank you for stopping by to say “Hello!” We had an exhausting but fun SIGCSE, and have almost recovered.



Alice Symposium “Call for Papers” Deadline EXTENDED

Because of a lack of detail describing the paper and abstract submission process (for which I am particularly sorry), we have decided to extend the deadline for those wishing to present at the Alice Symposium at Duke until March 31. The process for submitting papers is detailed at the symposium website, <http://www.cs.duke.edu/csed/aliceSymposium2009/>

Please note that we have made the process significantly easier for K-12 teachers.

If you are interested in coming to the June 17 Symposium, or to the Alice workshop on the 15th/16th or to the Media Computation workshop on the 18th/19th, please register for the events in which you are interested soon. We have already given out all of our free hotel rooms, and with 81 people already registered, are close to running out of room at the Symposium itself. Barb Conover informs me that we probably cannot afford to feed more than about 110 people, which only leaves us with 29 more slots for attendees. Contact her at bconover@sju.edu for both submitting papers/abstracts or for registering for the workshops and Symposium!



The Alice Institute

Don Slater (dslater@andrew.cmu.edu), shares with us this information concerning the Alice Institute at CMU:

The Alice Institute at Carnegie Mellon (June 21 - 26) registration site is scheduled to open today...

Go to <http://www.intro.cs.cmu.edu/alice-institute>

All the best,
Don Slater

Editor's note: Please register early for this event, as the capacity is limited.

A Storytelling Alice Sub-Community

Leslie Daniels (dani711@aol.com) is interested in working with teachers who are teaching Storytelling Alice to middle school students. In her e-mail to us, she did not specify whether she was looking for in-school or after-school use, so we are guessing that both groups are fine. If you are such a teacher, and are interested in working with Leslie to collect and share materials, please get in touch with her directly.



Jeannette Gibbons shares with us the following:

"We are getting ready for a one-day GEMS (Girls, Engineering, Math and Science) workshop for 8th grade girls scheduled for March 28th. One of the classes will feature Storytelling Alice. Caitlin Kelleher visited SDSU campus last fall.

I am still very excited about Alice. I have the support of several of my colleagues in efforts to put together training classes for elementary/middle school teachers to try to get the word out to those target age groups. We feel strongly that captured interest in these young students will help lead to increases in CSC enrollments in years to come at the university level.

Thanks again for getting back to me with the information on housing benefits. I will let you know how the Alice feature is received at our upcoming workshop."

Jeanette Gibbons
Harding Hall 304, Box 2220
Computer Science Program
South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD 57007
Phone: (605) 688-6298
jeanette.gibbons@sdstate.edu



A plaque for Randy Pausch at Disney World

Peter Stepniewicz (peter@loranges.com), shares with us the following information:



"This morning a small dedication ceremony was held at the 'Mad Tea Party' attraction at the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World. Bob Iger unveiled a tribute plaque with a quote by Randy. The quote reads; 'Be good at something; It makes you valuable... Have something to bring to the table, because that will make you more welcome.'

Jai, the kids, and members of Randy's family were in attendance. They got to ride the teacups with Alice and the Mad Hatter afterwards. It was a lovely nod to Randy - typically only company veterans ever have their names placed in a Disney park."

If you are planning a trip to Disney World in the near future, we'd love it if you would be willing to share with us a picture of yourself at the plaque.



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 at NECC

Joe Kmoch, the president of SIGCT, shares with us the following about Alice at NECC:

"I've enjoyed receiving and reading your newsletter. I referred to it in the ISTE/SIGCT (Computing Teachers) Newsletter in October, 2007. I'm currently pulling together a list of resources and sites for our SIGCT membership wiki and I want to tell them the right way to subscribe. Is it still the case that a person can only subscribe by emailing you at this address? If you have plans for a website where people could view current and older editions of your newsletter, please let me know and I'll publicize it to our over 4800 members.



SIGCT is involved with the program for NECC. In addition to reviewing proposals, members of our board each year create a list of sessions which we think might be of interest to our SIGCT membership. From that list I noticed several sessions involving Alice that

you may wish to highlight in your next newsletter:

Workshop6/288:30-3:30

Student Showcase6/2911:00-1:00 (there are two separate ones listed here)

Session6/292pm

Session6/3012:30

For specifics including titles, I'll refer you to the link on the SIGCT wiki (<http://sigct.iste.wikispaces.net/>) where we list about 120 sessions of interest to SIGCT members. If you download the spreadsheet and search for sessions including Alice. If you have problems accessing this information, please let me know.

Thanks!"

*Joe Kmoch
President, SIGCT*

Editor's note: For those of you who are K-12 educators and haven't been to NECC before, you are missing quite an event! Steve will be giving a talk on Alice 3 at the CS&IT Symposium on June 27 (<http://csta.acm.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/sub/CSITSymposiaSite.html>),

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

Barbara Conover
Project Manager
Center for Visualization
Saint Joseph's University
5600 City Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19131
Tel/Fax 610-660-3026
E:bconover@sju.edu

held immediately before NECC, and will be staying for the first part of NECC (until he needs to leave for ITiCSE in Paris).

Editor's 2nd note: The answers to Joe's questions in his 1st paragraph are 1) to request the newsletter, email Barbara Conover bconover@sju.edu, and 2) in order to see past issues of this newsletter, go to <http://visualization.sju.edu> and click on "Alice Newsletter Archive."



A Cool Alice blog post

We were alerted about a cool Alice blog post, from Susan Rodger last summer. Take a look at:



<http://www.instructify.com/2008/07/24/adventures-in-alice-programming-workshop-at-duke-university>

This article was put together by Dr. Susan Rodger and several of the teachers who attended the Adventures in Alice Programming Workshop.

Know a Good Mentor?

The following story is not directly about Alice, but describes a wonderful program that virtually no one seems to know about! Daphne's note mentions some of the details of this program, but omits the fact that awardees also receive a check for \$10,000!



"The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) is the highest federal recognition award for mentoring in the country. The award is made to recognize individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to mentoring of students at any of several educational levels from underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Nominations can be made for individuals or organizations. Awards are intended as a symbol of recognition at the highest level and to highlight the achievements of individuals and organizations that serve the important function of developing our future scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. Awardees are invited to Washington, D.C. for a visit to the White House, photos with the President (his schedule permitting),

presentation of a citation signed by the President and a working session on mentoring at the National Science Foundation. I look forward to seeing a nomination package describing your own or your organization's work in this area.
<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04525/nsf04525.htm#toc>
(deadline of 21 April, 2009).
If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me."

*Best regards,
Daphne Rainey*

*Daphne Y. Rainey, Ph.D.
Program Director
Division of Undergraduate Education
Education and Human Resources
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd
Arlington, VA 22230
Phone (703) 292-4671
FAX (703) 292-9015
drainey@nsf.gov*



We hope that you are all enjoying the beginning of spring.

Regards,
Wanda and Steve

Stephen C. Cooper, PhD
Associate Professor
Director,
Center for Visualization
Saint Joseph's University
scooper@sju.edu

Wanda P. Dann, PhD
Associate Teaching
Professor
Director, Alice Project
Carnegie Mellon University
wpdann@andrew.cmu.edu