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SIGCSE News in Brief

The 2012 SIGCSE Symposium was a great success! Did you miss the business meeting? If so, Doug Baldwin, SIGCSE Treasurer, and Dan Joyce, SIGCSE Vice-Chair, will tell you what you missed.

If you saw a great presentation at the Symposium and want to bring the speaker to a conference you are organizing, the SIGCSE Speaker’s Fund may be able provide some support. Amber Settle, SIGCSE Board Member-at-Large, gives us the details.

ITiCSE 21012 is coming up soon. Tami Lapidot, Conference Co-Chair, gives us an update on the keynote speakers and the venue.

It is almost time for SIGCSE elections! Our Chair, Renee McCauley, describes the process and invites you to participate.

Know someone who should be at an ACM advanced membership grade? If so, you can help the SIGCSE Awards Committee. Amber Settle tells us how.

Chris Stephenson, Executive Director of the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA), gives us an update on the new CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards.

And Henry Walker, SIGCSE Newsletter Co-Editor, takes a look at international trends in paper submissions at the Symposium in SIGCSE by the Numbers.

SIGCE Business Meeting 2012

by Doug Baldwin, SIGCSE Treasurer, and Daniel Joyce, SIGCSE Vice-Chair

SIGCSE held its annual business meeting at 5:00 PM Friday during the 2012 SIGCSE Symposium. The business meetings each year are an excellent opportunity to learn about our SIG. In case you missed it, here is a summary of what we discussed.

Treasurer Doug Baldwin discussed SIGCSE's finances. SIGCSE is in good financial shape. SIGCSE's annual budget is about \$600,000. At about 2/3rd of the way through the current fiscal year (at the time of the meeting) Doug estimates that SIGCSE will end this fiscal year with a net gain of a few thousand dollars. (This stands in contrast to ACM's projection at the beginning of the year of a \$17,000 loss.)

Doug Baldwin and Board Member-at-Large Amber Settle talked about the Special Projects and Speaker's Fund programs. The Special Projects program gives grants of up to \$5,000 to SIGCSE members for projects that benefit the computing education community. The Speaker's Fund provides up to \$1,000 to conferences that are in-cooperation with SIGCSE so they can host "reprise presentations" of talks from a SIGCSE conference.

In the current fiscal year, four Special Projects grants and one Speaker's Fund proposal have been funded.

Special Projects proposals will henceforth be reviewed twice a year, with the next reviews starting May 15, 2012. Speaker's Fund requests are reviewed as received. Questions on either program can be emailed to apply@sigcse.org.

Board Chair Renee McCauley announced that elections to the Board will be held next year. Past Chair Barbara Owens chairs the nominating committee. (See Renee's article in this newsletter for more details.)

Our SIGCSE-related publications are always seeking contributions and article ideas.

ACM Inroads, with Editor-in-Chief John Impagliazzo, publishes articles and columns of interest to ACM members (and beyond) concerning computing education. Within Inroads, the SIGCSE Spotlight column, edited by Kurt White, draws attention to trends of interest to SIGCSE.

The SIGCSE Bulletin, co-edited by Henry Walker and Z Sweedyk, publishes short (230 to 460 words) news reports of interest to SIGCSE members.

We also discussed upcoming SIGCSE conferences. ITiCSE 2012 will be held in Israel this summer. ICER 2012 is taking shape for September in New Zealand, and next year's Symposium will be in Denver, Colorado. Thanks to the chairs and committees of all of the past, present, and upcoming conferences.

Finally, this year saw the first prize drawing (free registration to next year's Symposium) for attendees at the business meeting. The winner was Madeleine Shepp - congratulations!

SIGCSE Seaker's Fund

By Amber Settle, SIGCSE Board Member-at-Large

Since 2005, the SIGCSE Speaker's Fund Program has funded presentations at in-cooperation conferences. Speakers from previous SIGCSE conferences, including the Symposium, ITiCSE, and ICER, can be invited by the organizers of non-ACM conferences that are in-cooperation with SIGCSE. The fund pays for up to \$1000 of travel support for the speakers and is intended to disseminate outstanding presentations to other venues.

There are currently two speakers scheduled for 2012. In late March Dan Garcia will present "The Beauty and Joy of Computing (BJC), AP CS Principles and the CS 10K Effort" at the 18th Annual Consortium for Computing Science in Colleges Central Plains Region. This work has been presented previously at multiple SIGCSE Symposia. In April Edward Lazoweska will talk about "Computer Science: Past, Present, and Future" at the 17th Annual Conference of the Northeast region of the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges. This talk is based on a 2008 SIGCSE Symposium presentation.

The application process for the Speaker's Fund is relatively informal, and more information can be found on the SIGCSE web site:

<http://sigcse.org/programs/outreach/apply>

If you are organizing an in-cooperation conference and would like to bring a SIGCSE speaker, please consider applying. The level of funding depends on the quality of proposals received and the availability of funds.



ITiCSE 2012

By Tami Lapidot, ITiCSE Conference Co-chair

ITiCSE 2012 welcomes all researchers and professionals interested in Computing Sciences Education: Legacy, Innovation and Future Trends. ITiCSE 2012 program consists of invited keynotes, working groups, exhibits, and technical sessions featuring papers, panels, posters, tips, techniques, and student posters.

All three Keynotes of ITiCSE 2012 will be in conjunction with the Turing Centenary events of the Alan Turing Year. Keynote speakers include Prof. Michael Rabin, a Turing Award recipient, from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Harvard University; Prof. Lenore Blum from Carnegie Mellon University; and Prof. David Harel from the Weizmann Institute of Science.

We invite you to attend ITiCSE 2012 and become acquainted with the Israeli experience.

Israel is a tiny country and yet, it is a place of amazing variety, rich history, varied geography, ancient background and modern present, with globally unique contrasts. Israel is also a startup nation and home to a great concentration of high-tech start-up companies, and known for its excellent computer science research community and computer science education.

The conference will be held on the Technion Campus in Haifa. Haifa is the largest city in Northern Israel, and the third-largest city in the country. Haifa is a city of tolerance with people of all religions living together.

Why 2013 is SIGCSE election year

by Renee McCauley, SIGCSE Chair

Every three years, the SIGCSE organization elects a new governing board to fill positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and three At-Large Members. These board members work together with the previous chair to set policy and direction for SIGCSE.

A slate of candidates must be submitted to ACM by January 2013. Barbara Boucher Owens has agreed to chair the nominating committee. If you are interested in working with the nominating committee or in making a nomination (self-nominations are welcome), please contact Barbara (owensb@southwestern.edu).

The nominating committee must submit its list of nominations to ACM by January 2013. ACM announces the slate to the membership by January 31, 2013. Additional candidates can be added to the ballot through March 15 by a petition of 1% of the membership.

Please consider participating in this very important process.

Membership on the SIGCSE Board is a rewarding experience, but not an onerous one. Currently, the board currently meets face-to-face twice each year, and by telephone as necessary (about 4 or 5 times a year). If you want to see what sorts of issues the board considers, read the minutes from our meetings, which are available from the SIGCSE web page: <http://sigcse.org/about/reports/minutes>.

If you have questions, please contact me, or any of the current members of the board (<http://sigcse.org/about/board>).

Wanted: More ACM Advanced Members!

By Amber Settle, SIGCE Board Member-at-Large

In the past 18 months the SIGCSE Awards Committee has worked to increase the number of SIGCSE members who are nominated for ACM Advanced Membership grades in order to raise the profile of computing education within ACM.

There are three levels of ACM Advanced Membership: Senior, Distinguished, and Fellow, which are further described here: http://awards.acm.org/html/amg_call.cfm.

ACM members can apply for the entry-level membership grade, Senior Membership, every three months. This grade is self-nominating and many of you reading this qualify, so nominate yourself!

Applications for Distinguished Membership with three categories (Educator, Engineer, and Scientist) are due August 1, 2012. Fellows must apply by September 1, 2012. It is recommended/required that Distinguished and Fellow candidates be nominated by another ACM member.

The Awards Committee is particularly interested in identifying qualified SIGCSE members to nominate for Distinguished Membership. If you know of a SIGCSE member who should be a distinguished member but is not, please complete the following survey by May 15, 2012: <http://www.itd.depaul.edu/quickdata2/viewwebform.asp?id=6879>.

Feel free to contact either Amber Settle (asettle@cdm.depaul.edu) or Daniel Joyce (daniel.joyce@villanova.edu) if you any have questions. Check out the following web sites for more details on requirements <http://www.acm.org/membership/distinguished> and current Distinguished members <http://sigcse.org/programs/awards/grades>.

New CSTA K-12 CS Standards

By Chris Stephenson, CSTA Executive Director

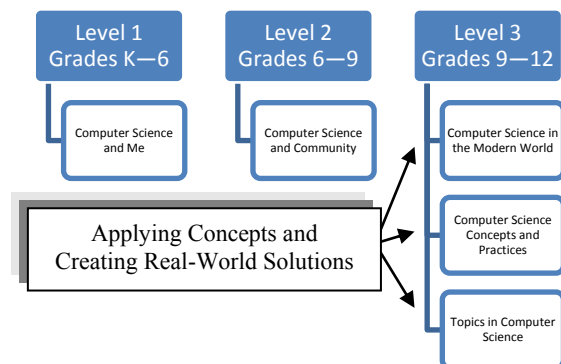
In 2011, the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) undertook an extensive review and revision process for its K-12 computer science learning standards and this process resulted in the release of the new CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards.

The standards development committee included representatives from all educational levels and was chaired by Deborah Seehorn of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The review process consisted of three rounds of review and feedback. The first review round was a community-wide process resulting in substantial feedback, primarily from university faculty. The second round of reviews was focused on high school and middle school educators. The third round was focused on elementary educators.

The standards committee considered all of the suggestions from each of the review rounds and more than two-thirds of them resulted in direct changes to the standards.

The new standards are organized around five strands: computational thinking; collaboration; computing practice and programming; computers and communication devices; and community, global, and ethical impacts. The standards are based on a model where each of the three levels represent a specific set of grades and courses: Level 1 for students in Grades K–6, Level 2 for students in Grades 6–9, and Level 3 with three discrete courses in grades 9–12.

For more information or to download the standards, please visit:
<http://csta.acm.org/Curriculum/sub/K12Standards.html>



Conference Update



The 17th Annual Conference on Innovation and Technology (ITiCSE) will be held in Haifa, Israel July 3-5, 2012. Registration is open. See the web site for details:
<http://www.iticse12.org.il/htmls/home.aspx>



The 2012 International Computing Education Research (ICER) conference will be September 10-12 in Auckland, New Zealand. The deadline for papers is April 22, 2012. More details can be found at:
<http://wp.acm.org/icer-conference/>



The 44th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education will be held March 6-9, 2012 in Denver, CO, USA. The call for papers has been issued:
<http://www.sigcse.org/sigcse2013/authors/call.php>

SIGCSE by the Numbers
by Henry M. Walker, Grinnell College

Are the SIGCSE Symposia becoming more international in representation? In the June 2011 issue of the SIGCSE Bulletin newsletter, I examined paper submissions from SIGCSE 2011 and ITiCSE 2011 according to the continent of the authors.

This article examines trends in paper submissions for SIGCSE 2010, SIGCSE 2011, and SIGCSE 2012, according to the continent(s) of the author(s). As in the June 2011 article, I use the following categories:

Author categories	
1	North American authors only
2	European authors only
3	African, Asian, South American
4	Authors from categories 1 and 2 (not 3)
5	Authors from categories 1 and 3 (not 2)
6	Authors from categories 2 and 3 (not 1)
7	Authors from categories 1, 2 and 3

For example, a paper is in category 4, if one or more of its authors live in North America AND one or more of its authors live in Europe, BUT none of its authors live in Africa, Asia, or South America. (Since the number of submissions from the continents of Africa and South America is very small, I combine those counts with submissions from Asia to preserve author anonymity.)

The next table provides acceptances, submissions, and acceptance rates by category for SIGCSE symposia 2010, 2011 and 2012. These statistics suggest that the number of papers with co-authors from several continents is decreasing, and the acceptance rates from non-North American papers is generally increasing. For SIGCSE 2012 for the first time, the

acceptance rate was highest for papers with European authors.

Acceptances/Submissions (percent) by year			
Category	2010	2011	2012
1	88/250(35.2%)	90/251(35.7%)	82/226(36.3%)
2	4/18(22.2%)	10/29(34.5%)	10/26(38.4%)
3	4/23(17.4%)	2/23 (8.7%)	7/32(21.9%)
4	3/4(75.0%)	1/5(20%)	1/3 (33.3%)
5	4/7(57.1%)	2/3(66.7%)	0/4(0%)
6	0/1(0%)	2/2(100%)	0/0(---)
7	0/0(---)	0/1(0%)	0/0(---)
Total	103/303(34.0%)	107/314(34.1%)	100/291(34.4%)

Another way to explore international representation within the symposia is to consider the percentage of papers presented from each continent.

Percentage of Accepted Papers by Continent			
Category	2010	2011	2012
1	85.4%	84.1%	82%
2	3.9%	9.3%	10%
3	3.9%	1.9%	7%
4	2.9%	0.9%	1%
5	3.9%	1.9%	0%
6	0%	1.9%	0%
7	0%	0%	0/0%
Total	103(100.0%)	107(100.0%)	100(100%)

Overall, papers written by North American authors clearly continue to dominate SIGCSE symposia, but the percentage of North American papers is gradually decreasing. Similarly, the fraction of papers with European authors is steadily increasing. The trend for papers written by authors in Asia, Africa, and South America is not as clear, although the percentage was up significantly for SIGCSE 2012.