SIGITE Newsletter

The Bi-annual Publication of the ACM Special Interest Group for Information Technology Education

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The Editor's Note

The change of title in this edition, from *Research in IT* to *SIGITE Newsletter*, reflects at least one reality, and suggests several more, each with consequences for SIGITE and the definitions of IT as a computing discipline. Despite the editorial board's efforts to attract research articles "that present original research findings … substantive additions, comments and challenges to the theory and practice of programming, networking, information management, web systems and user-centered design in rigorous ways," as the mission statement provides, we've had little success. It's time to once again reassess our venues of disseminating such information to our peers. One of our obligations to the ACM is to produce a newsletter twice a year, and that's what the SIGITE Executive Committee has decided to do – return to pre-*RIT* days and keep the content of the newsletter limited to news about events relevant to our membership. Peer-reviewed publications about IT research, however, will now be moving in three different streams. 2012 will bring the inaugural issue of *Transactions on IT Research*, an open source journal published through the Scholarly Publishing Studio at Rochester Institute of Technology, with co-editors in chief Steve Zilora and me. This year will also bring a co-located research conference at SIGITE 2012 in Calgary, led by Jeff Brewer. Papers related to IT education are most welcome in the ACM's *Transactions on Computing Education* (previously *JERIC*), on whose editorial board I sit, at the request of the ACM Publication Board to the SIGITE leadership, as Associate Editor. It is our hope that these distinct streams yield clarity for potential authors (in terms of paper placement) and help in crafting a definition of "research" in an applied discipline such as IT.

Note from the Chair

2012 Conferences!

Exciting news for our community! This year SIGITE's 1st Annual Research in IT Conference will take place. I'm hoping you and your students are all considering writing papers for publication in the proceedings along with the annual IT Education Conference both taking place October, 11-13th in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Our program and conference chairs are working hard and you will see the call for papers go out very soon.

The idea for the Research in IT Conference comes from the fact that faculty and students are conducting IT research at our institutions but much of it is not being published. The way for information technology to grow and gain respect as a discipline is to create new knowledge by publishing existing IT research then building off that work. Without publication of research, everyone ends up doing the same work making the growth of knowledge quite slow. Additionally, works published from a traditional research based event will lend credibility to current and future academics when it comes time for hire, promotion, and tenure decisions. I for one am requiring all of the students for whom I've advising projects to draft a paper for submission to this conference.

This of course does not overshadow the passion that many of us still have for pedagogical research. The 13th Annual IT Education Conference should be excellent in these changing times in computing. Personally, I am quite interested in how many of you are including concepts of cloud computing, PAAS, and the commoditization of IT into your curriculum.

And to have these events held in beautiful Calgary is great. Don't forget to start applying for those passports (for you, your family, and students) right away if you are like me and don't travel outside the United States often!

New Sponsor/Training Registration Discounts!

A potential new sponsor of the SIGITE conferences, MacTech reached out to me this week and would like to start supporting our membership. If you are not familiar with MacTech, they are a group focused on IT for the Apple products. Their long running magazine covers all aspects of supporting, managing, integrating, and developing applications for Apple products. If you are like us at the University of Cincinnati, your department is probably quickly trying to get this type of knowledge into the hands of students. The Publisher/Editor in Chief, Neil Ticktin, has offered us discounts at their training events with a 6-month free subscription. Follow this link to take a look at their offerings and obtain the discount (http://www.mactech.com/events/locations?rid=ACM_SIGITE).

SIGITE Elections

Very soon you will be receiving ballots for a new slate of officers of SIGITE.

The slate:

Chair: Rob Friedman and Ed Sobiesk
Vice Chair: Chuck Winer and Mihaela Sabin
Sec/Treasurer: Hazem Said and Rick Homkes

It has been a real pleasure to serve as Chair for the past three years. I'm confident that all of the candidates on the ballot would do great things for this organization.

-- Mark