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### **SIGCSE News in Brief**

January is a busy month! First, we look back at the many exciting events that SIGCSE members held during CS Education Week 2014 (p.2). Next we look forward to several conferences coming up in 2015. We listen in as Adrienne and Kurt busily finish planning for the 2015 Symposium (p. 4), while the ICER cochairs tell us of updates to that conference for 2015 (p. 6). In case you're wondering what happened to ITiCSE, we'll preview that conference in the next issue of the Bulletin. And don't miss information about the second Learning@Scale conference (p. 12). Finally, Tiffany Barnes and George Thiruvathukal talk about a new conference focused on broadening participation in CS: RESPECT 2015, in what we anticipate will be a new regular Bulletin column focused on broadening participation (p. 7).

Our member spotlight features our two SIGCSE 2015 award winners: Frank Young and Mark Allen Weiss (p. 8). Amber Settle announces the SIGCSE Travel Grant recipients (p. 11) and Sue Fitzgerald reports on the recent ACM Education Council meeting (p. 7).

Finally, if you're curious about how many people actually join you in reading this Bulletin, read Dave's article on page 11.

#### **Newsletter Credits**

- Editors: Christine Alvarado and David Kauchak
- Contributors: Christine Alvarado, Tiffany Barnes, Kerry Boland, Maria Charters, Quintin Cutts, Adrienne Decker, Brian Dorn, Kurt Eiselt, Sue Fitzgerald, Steve Hadfield, Nadeem Abdul Hamid, Marti Hearst, David Kauchak, Amber Settle, Judy Sheard, Xiangyin Shuai, Ross Sowell, George Thiruvathukal, Mark Allen Weiss, Frank Young
- Photo credits: Steve Hadfield, Nadeem Abdul Hamid, Susan Maurice, Xiangyin Shuai, Terre Haute Tribune-Star, Dan Ziegler

# Hour of Code: What You Did

Compiled by David Kauchak, Bulletin co-Editor Each year during CS Education Week

(which was December 8-14, 2014), events are setup all over the world that introduce people to computer science. The "Hour of Code" has become one of the most popular CS Ed Week events. Below are a few of the different activities that were done by SIGCSE members, representing just a sampling of the great events that went on.

## **Cornell College**

#### by Ross Sowell, Assistant Professor

In addition to holding an Hour of Code at our student union on campus, we also connected with the local Mount Vernon Middle School. We helped organize and facilitate Hour Of Code events throughout the week so that each of the ~400 students in grades 5-8 at the middle school had the opportunity to try an Hour Of Code. At the end of the week, we held an after-school program where interested middle school students established their own computing club. This allows us to keep some of the momentum going from the Hour of Code. Students from our Cornell College ACM Student Chapter will continue to serve as mentors for students in the middle school computing club and work with them at events throughout the year.



Cornell College participates in CS Ed Week. Photo by Susan Maurice

## **Berry College**

by Nadeem Abdul Hamid, Associate Professor

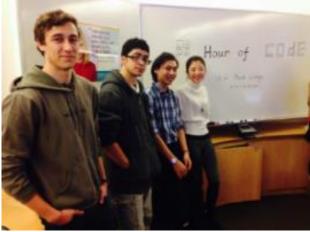
On December 8th 2014, students in Berry College's informal Casual Coding group hosted an Hour of Code event for the campus community. This coincided with a worldwide campaign to promote computer science awareness and show that everyone is able to, and should, learn to code. For many people, coding seems scary and intimidating, when in reality it is something that anyone can do. All it takes is some practice and dedication. Numerous students and faculty members attended the event, many of whom were coding for the first time. They were surprised at how it did not live up to their expectations-in a good way! Jacob Lammie, a junior Finance major, stated, "I had never thought of coding before. It was never something that I thought I could do. I actually really enjoyed it!"



The Hour of Code at Berry College. Photo by Nadeem Abdul Hamid

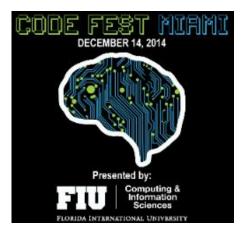
Bard College by Xiangyin Shuai

The workshop was very successful because the participants (about 25 people) consisted of Bard students, staff members, professors, and senior citizens from the Bard College Lifetime Learning Institute. We started the workshop by showing the participants a YouTube video of President Obama kicking off the Hour of Code. Everyone was encouraged and ready to learn. We then used the MIT App Inventor and taught everyone how to make the HelloPurr and Digital Doodle apps. Everyone successfully finished creating the two apps, and some participants even tried to come up with new ones.



Bard College students. Photo by Xiangyin Shuai

Florida International University by Maria Charters, Instructor



Florida International University, School of Computing and Information Sciences, hosted an Hour of Code event on Sunday, December 14, 2014, at one of the school's computer labs, for children ages 7 to 17.

The event was called "CodeFest Miami," and was a festival-themed celebration of Computer Science, aimed to stimulate interest in the field and broaden awareness of all its applications. Balloons, decorations, and party food were part of this fun and inviting atmosphere for participants. Children from Miami-Dade County Public Schools were invited to participate as the grand finale to Computer Science Education Week. At the event, students formed teams of 3 and solved a mystery challenge by developing an animation or computer game using MIT's Scratch programming language. This year's theme was Robots, and FIU's very own TeleBot Robot made an appearance at the event. Even the Mayor of Miami-Dade County, along with the Board of County Commissioners, proclaimed Sunday, December 14, 2014, as CodeFest Miami Day.

#### U.S. Air Force Academy by Steve Hadfield

One of the two USAFA CS Ed Week events was a school-wide Hour of Code led by Tess Livingston and Matt Kiser at Woodmen-Roberts Elementary School in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The event kicked off with a visit from a Nao robot and his human friends from the Department of Computer Science at the United States Air Force Academy. With the help of Cadet Lilly Warner, the Nao robot demonstrated its dexterity with a Tai Chi Chuan exercise, sang "Let it go" from the Frozen soundtrack, danced to "Happy" from Despicable Me, and conversed with the children motivating them to learn how to write code. Follow on activities in the computer lab with Mr. Kiser focused on the Hour of Code tutorials from code.org and tynker.com. The children from grades K through 5 all had a great time.



Elementary students in Colorado Springs, CO learn to code. Photo by Steve Hadfield

## Drexel University

by Kerry Boland

As part of Drexel's annual celebration of National Computer Science Education Week (November 17 – 21, 2014), Drexel student tech volunteer organization DUCSTeach (Drexel University Computer Science Teachers) visited middle school students at St. Francis de Sales School on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2014 to lead an "Hour of Code," where volunteers gave introductory computer science activities designed to demystify coding, and show students that anyone can learn the basics to be a maker, a creator or an innovator.



Johanna Oberto leads an hour of code session at St. Francis De Sales School. Photo by Dan Ziegler

## **Bucks County Community College**

See the write-up in their local newspaper: <a href="http://goo.gl/elBKcq">http://goo.gl/elBKcq</a>

## **Southern Utah University**

See the write-up in their local newspaper: <u>http://goo.gl/G36eF6</u>

## **SIGCSE Symposium Preview**

By Adrienne Decker and Kurt Eiselt, Symposium cochairs



And now for a word about the upcoming SIGCSE 2015 Symposium. In order not to disturb the symposium chairs (Adrienne Decker and Kurt Eiselt) while they are busy preparing for the conference, we have installed an app that allows us to listen in on their weekly Skype meeting, already in progress...

*Adrienne*: Alright, let's go over this again, the conference is in Kansas City....

Kurt: Kansas!

Adrienne: No. Missouri.

*Kurt*: Right – you mentioned that. It's March  $4^{th}$ - $7^{th}$ , 2015. Hey – it's 2015 now. That means the conference is only a few weeks away.

*Adrienne*: Yep. The program is all set. You can see it on our website: <u>http://sigcse2015.sigcse.org/</u>.

*Kurt*: Hey – there is stuff in there that wasn't at SIGCSE before. I see a Demos track presented in the exhibit hall during

breaks and a session of Lightning Talks on Friday afternoon at 3:45.

Adrienne: Yes, that's right. We added those new tracks this year, don't you remember?

*Kurt.* Nope. Do we have invited speakers?

*Adrienne*: Um, yeah. We've been over this already too.

*Kurt.* OK. Pretend we haven't and go over it with me again?

Adrienne: \*sigh\*. On Thursday, our opening keynote is Jessica Hodgins. She's a VP of Research at Disney Research and a Professor at Carnegie Mellon University. She will be talking to us about the need for students to be hybrids, mixing both the creative and the technology.

*Kurt.* Will she talk about Disney Research? Did I ever tell you I really like Disney?

*Adrienne*: No, you've NEVER mentioned that. But, we also have Keith Hampton from Rutgers University giving our closing luncheon keynote on Saturday afternoon. He will be discussing his work looking at the way we use social media and how it is impacting our relationships with others.

*Kurt*: Plus, don't forget the Friday morning keynote by Mark Allen Weiss, this year's winner of the SIGCSE Award for Outstanding Contribution to Computer Science Education, and Frank Young, the winner of SIGCSE Award for Lifetime Service to the Computer Science Education Community this year, who will address the First Timers at the First Timers' Lunch on Thursday.

Adrienne: You do pay attention! That makes me so happy!

*Kurt*: Nope – just reading from the website. Speaking of website, I should probably register to attend the conference. Early registration ends on February 1<sup>st</sup> and then rates go up. Did you see that we have special rates for K-12 teachers for one or two days and that we have a rate for retirees?

*Adrienne*: Yes, I've seen that. We've discussed both of these things before too. Did you order your t-shirt?

### Kurt: What t-shirt?

Adrienne: Urgghh! The SIGCSE t-shirt! Everyone who comes to the conference has the option to pre-order a SIGCSE 2015 t-shirt. They are only \$6. When you register, you can order.

*Kurt*. Oh, but I didn't register yet. Should I do that?

Adrienne: Did you remember to book a room at the conference hotel?

*Kurt*: Nope. Should I do that before I get to Kansas City?

*Adrienne*: Yes. The conference hotel is the Kansas City Marriott Downtown and the room rate of \$159 per night is only guaranteed until February 3<sup>rd</sup>. You are going to come to the conference right?

Kurt: Not sure yet. When is it again?

It appears that something has gone wrong with our app. There was a sudden loud scream and we seem to have lost connection to the meeting. Well, it seems as though things are going as we expected for our symposium chairs. On behalf of Adrienne and Kurt, we are inviting you to attend SIGCSE 2015. Check out all the fun, engaging, and exciting things the conference has to offer: <u>http://sigcse2015.sigcse.org/</u> and we will see you in March in Kansas

City....MISSOURI.

#### **ICER2015 Preview**

By Brian Dorn, Judy Sheard, and Quintin Cutts, ICER'15 Co-Chairs

We are pleased to welcome ICER to the University of Nebraska at Omaha as the conference starts its second decade! ICER2015 will take place August 10-12, 2015 with co-located events occurring both before and after.

ICER continues to evolve based on your feedback, and ICER'15 will be no exception. The conference will continue its single-track format with integrated discussion periods, but we are excited to introduce a number of new and improved participation categories this year.

High quality research papers continue to be a cornerstone of the ICER community, and we have updated the page length requirements this year to better meet the needs of our authors. *New for this year*, paper submissions will be allowed 8 pages of body text plus up to 2 additional pages for references.

We will also offer a variety of other submission types at ICER'15. As always, the Doctoral Consortium will take place the day before the main conference begins, and we look forward to seeing a large number of graduate students participate this year.

We will again feature 3-minute "lighting talks" as part of the conference program, but we have also expanded the schedule to include a **new poster track** for the first time. Presenters have the option of submitting a standalone poster, or one coupled with a lighting talk.

The "Critical Research Review" event held during ICER2014 was such a resounding success that we have decided to incorporate it formally as part of the conference. For 2015 it has been renamed the "*Work in Progress Workshop*", but it will still provide participants with the same great venue to get extensive feedback on a fledgling idea, a draft grant proposal, or a tricky design for a new study.

In addition to these official activities, we are inviting proposals for co-located workshops to take place prior to the conference. It has been a few years since we've had an event like this, so if you and your colleagues think you have an idea that would be of interest to computing education researchers, please drop us a line!

If all that weren't enough, there is a lot to enjoy about our host city. For example, it may surprise you to discover that Omaha is home to a world-class zoo, a 100-acre botanical garden, and a thriving restaurant scene. Omaha's museums are a great starting place to explore the history of both the early pioneers and the US Strategic Air Command.

We eagerly await your submissions and look forward to seeing you this summer!

For full details: http://icer-conference.org/

## **ICER2015 Submission Deadlines:**

- Apr 13 & 20: Research paper abstracts (Apr 13) and complete drafts (Apr 20)
- Apr 20: Co-located workshop proposals
- May 20: Doctoral Consortium submissions
- June 15: Abstracts and applications for lighting talks, posters, and the work-in-progress workshop

#### Broadening Participation and RESPECT: Join our new professional organization and conference!

By Tiffany Barnes and George Thiruvathukal, IEEE Computer's STC-BP co-chairs

In computing and STEM fields, broadening participation is both a matter of driving creativity and innovation and a matter of equity. It is critical that we, as the CS education community, improve inclusion of diverse people, especially those from underrepresented populations. Globally, underrepresentation differs regionally and culturally by gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic advantage, physical, mental, and cognitive ability, and LGBT status. Lest we think that this is a minority-only issue, consider developing countries or the poor of every nation, where computing could help build the economy, health, education, and financial systems.

We invite you to join IEEE Computer's newly-established Special Technical Community on Broadening Participation (stcbp.org) to create a collective global strategy to research and improve participation and inclusion in computing.

Research on Equity and Sustained Participation in Engineering, Computing, and Technology (RESPECT) is the focus of our first international meeting. Co-located with the STARS Celebration in Charlotte, NC, just after ICER, RESPECT 2015 will be a premier research conference with research papers, experience reports (due March 27), posters and panels (due June 5). We invite all interdisciplinary work that draws on computer science, education, learning sciences, and the social sciences.

Get involved today by joining <u>stcbp.org</u>, submitting to and/or attending RESPECT 2015 (<u>stcbp.org/RESPECT</u>), or contacting the STC-BP chairs Tiffany Barnes, <u>tiffany.barnes@gmail.com</u>, or George K. Thiruvathukal, <u>gkt@cs.luc.edu</u>.

#### ACM Education Council Report By Sue Fitzgerald, SIGCSE Board member

At the ACM Education Council meeting in mid-September, 2014, issues of importance to those interested in computing education were discussed. In a brainstorming activity, Education Council members were asked to suggest topics of emerging importance. Among other ideas, members discussed ACM's international membership growth, the establishment of cybersecurity education curriculum guidelines, encouraging the study of computing in K-12 and promoting diversity.

As a result of these discussions,

- A taxonomy of international computing education terminology is to be developed.
- A proposal for having an ACM effort on a Data Science curricular volume will be written and presented to the ACM Education Board.
- A proposal for a CS2013 workshop in India will be considered.
- A mailing list will be set up to continue the discussion on diversity.
- A proposal for an ACM effort on a Cybersecurity curricular volume will be considered.
- A proposal for a landscape study of K-12 computer science education will be written.

The aim of the ACM Education Council is to promote the ACM's educational mission as widely as possible to universities, community colleges, high schools, corporations, the US government and others. The ACM Education Board has final decision-making authority to facilitate the work of the Education Council. See <u>http://www.acm.org/education/education b</u> <u>oard</u> for more information on ACM education activities.

Look for the ACM Education Council booth at the SIGCSE Technical Symposium in March, 2015!

# **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

In this feature of the Bulletin, we highlight recent accomplishments of our members. For this issue, we include interviews with the winners of the two 2015 SIGCSE awards.

## Frank Young



Bulletin co-editor Christine Alvarado interviewed Frank Young, recipient of the 2015 SIGCSE Award for Lifetime Service to the Computer Science Education Community. The following is an excerpt of that interview. The complete interview can

be found at http://bit.ly/1ASI3Gp.

Frank Young retired after serving for 15 years as the Head of the Department of Computer Science at Rose Hulman Institute of Technology. He has taught computer science and math at a number of other institutions including Knox College, the University of Iowa, the University of Lagos in Nigeria, Haverford College, Temple University, Tougaloo College, and the University of Hawaii at Hilo. He has been heavily involved in ABET accreditation as well as in SIGCSE conference leadership. (Above photo credit: Terre Haute Tribune-Star)

**CA**: What is your history with the SIGCSE community? What made you want to join and stay in the community?

**FY**: I joined ACM and SIGCSE [in the late 1970s] because I needed them, especially SIGCSE. With minimal academic credentials in computer science I needed to do lots of self-study. SIGCSE articles helped me find helpful resources that made my self-study easier. I also made some very useful personal contacts that helped me professionally.

**CA**: What has been your most memorable experience with the SIGCSE community?

**FY**: I can think of three. (1) As emcee at the 1995 SIGCSE Banquet Luncheon I wanted to demonstrate how important

volunteers are to SIGCSE. I asked various categories of volunteers to stand and remain standing. Finally I asked the firsttimers to stand and was able to remark that almost every attendee was standing. (2) The hotel room at the 1988 SIGCSE in Atlanta that was right above the garbage containers that were emptied every morning at 5:00am was considered memorable by my new colleagues at Rose-Hulman. (3) And my multiple attempts to get Edsger Dijkstra's name tag printed with his name spelled correctly (it took at least 3 attempts and he was standing right there looking at my failures!) was a memorable lesson in how not to document a registration database.

**CA**: Among your many contributions to the SIGCSE community is your contribution to the modernization of the SIGCSE registration system. How did you decide to undertake that project?

**FY**: The modernization of the registration system was actually many different projects. First, there was the challenge of persuading some of my Rose-Hulman colleagues that doing SIGCSE registration was a sensible idea. Then, there was the challenge of using the old registration system while making modifications. Then, there was the effort to get our students to design and create a completely new system. That was the easiest because it was a wonderful opportunity for our students. Cary Laxer and others have continued the improvements so that today the "new" system we created back in the late 90s would be considered (and is) an obsolete antique.

**CA**: You've been a strong advocate for CS and engineering accreditation. What drives your passion in that arena? Not everyone is excited about the process or idea of accreditation. What would you tell skeptics of the process?

FY: When I moved to Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in 1987 I found that all of the engineering programs were accredited by ABET. My computer science department was the only non-engineering department with a substantial number of majors. This made me somewhat worried about the status of my department in an institution that was renowned for its engineering programs. So, when CSAB started accreditation of computer science programs, I wanted to get involved. As I became more involved in accreditation, I saw that accreditation was done exceptionally well and that the accreditation process and criteria were fair to small schools.

After CSAB merged its CSAC with ABET there was a change to outcomes-based accreditation, and today there is additional emphasis on assessment and continuous improvement. ABET accreditation is more than a certification of meeting minimal qualifications. By completing the accreditation self-study [and through the accreditation visits] the program faculty members learn what improvements to the program may be needed in order to better prepare graduates to be (and to continue to develop as) professionals after graduation. Accreditation requires that program faculty members carefully examine the whole program, not just individual courses.

Rose-Hulman and its faculty members have been very supportive of accreditation.



Frank with his wife of 53 years, Julie, in Hawaii.

CA: Anything else you'd like to share?

**FY**: [Although I am retired], I am still taking on new volunteer jobs. Several years ago I celebrated 10 years of retirement by taking on a new full-time job that I was not really qualified for. I have now reached the age where I am able to get away with doing things for which I have no training or preparation. Life is too interesting to stop doing new things.

#### **Mark Allen Weiss**



Bulletin co-editor David Kauchak interviewed Mark Allen Weiss, recipient of the 2015 SIGCSE Award for Outstanding Contribution to Computer Science Education. Mark Allen Weiss is SCIS Eminent Scholar Professor and Associate Director for

the School of Computing and Information Sciences at Florida International University, where he has been a professor since 1987.

**DK:** Tell us a little about your background. How did you first get involved with CS education and the SIGCSE community?

MAW: Originally I was a Chemical Engineering major, but in my first year at Cooper Union, I had a great experience in the programming course and a not so great experience in Chemistry, so I switched majors to Electrical Engineering. With the CS elective courses I took back then, we might nowadays call my undergraduate degree Computer Engineering. After the first programming course, all the CS courses were taught by adjuncts, generally working at Bell Labs who had done graduate work at Princeton. So not surprisingly, that's where I went and I moved to theoretical CS. When I joined FIU, I was teaching data structures and algorithms courses almost exclusively and thought I would write a textbook. That's not

a particularly great idea for an untenured assistant professor. Who knew? But once the book was out, I decided to join SIGCSE (I think this was in 1992) and go to the annual conference to get some expert advice.

**DK:** What projects have you been involved in that you are most proud of?

MAW: One "project" was my work with the AP program that occurred roughly from 1995-2004. My first experience was serving on a committee that was formed after it had been decided to switch languages from Pascal to C++. The committee was charged with trying to figure out how to incorporate C++ into the AP Exam. I was the "new guy" on a committee with SIGCSE heavyweights<sup>1</sup>; I don't think anyone in the committee knew me. That committee was only a one year gig, but what a great experience to be involved in it. I always thought the switch to C++ went really well and helped keep things going, even though it didn't necessarily look that way at the time. Now the APCS business is booming, and CS Principles is on the way. I can't believe that was twenty years ago!

**DK:** You have been very active in your career in putting together textbooks, particularly at the introductory level. Can you talk about your experiences with that?

**MAW:** My very first book was published in November 1991. It was in

Pascal/pseudocode, as were all the books at the time. It did unexpectedly well and a few months later my editor said I should do a C version. That struck me as a bit strange at the time... why not just write up the C code and stick it on an ftp site? But I was fluent in C... and he talked me into it, and before I knew what happened, I had ten editions in five programming languages in seven years. I'm glad those days are over. At least I hope they are.

**DK:** What do you think is the most pressing issue(s) facing CS education today?

**MAW:** It has to be success in the intro courses and broadening participation. This seems to still be a universal problem. But that has many tentacles, including more efforts in high schools to give students better problem solving skills – not necessarily programming skills, not to mention the huge enrollment growth we are all experiencing. For universities such as FIU that primarily serve underrepresented minorities and first generation college students, the challenges are even greater, as I see first-hand every day.

**DK:** What does winning the SIGCSE Award for Outstanding Contribution to Computer Science Education award mean to you?

**MAW:** Professors are still in the education business. So to be recognized as one of the top contributors to CS education is truly humbling, and certainly an honor way beyond what I would have expected in my career. I am completely blown away to join the list of winners of this award.

**DK:** What advice do you have for those who are new to the CS education community?

**MAW:** Anyone who is new to the CS education community needs—if at all possible—to attend at least one of the major conferences a year to talk to people. The networking is essential for junior faculty especially. My own involvement in the AP program was initiated by a chance conversation with a College Board representative at SIGCSE '95.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~walker/sigcse-ap/index.95-</u> <u>96.html</u>

#### SIGCSE Travel Grants By Amber Settle, SIGCSE Treasurer

The SIGCSE Board is pleased to announce that the following people have been selected to receive Travel Grant Program awards for 2015:

- Daniel T. Fokum, The University of the West Indies, Jamaica
- Dimitris Papamichail, The College of New Jersey, United States
- Courtney Starrett, Winthrop University, United States
- Yu Sun, California State Polytechnic University, United States
- Narasimha Rao Vajjhala, University of New York, Tirana, Albania
- Mark Zarb, Robert Gordon University, United Kingdom
- Khalid Khurshid from Bahauddin Zakariya University in Pakistan will also be attending the 2015 Symposium using an award from the 2014 program.

The SIGCSE Board once again thanks Henry Walker for his efforts in establishing a program that addresses a clear need in the community. We encourage anyone who wishes to support this program to donate by mail at the address given on the Travel Grant page (<u>http://sigcse.org/travelGrant</u>) or donate

when you register to attend the 2015 SIGCSE Symposium.

# Bulletin Readership Analysis

By David Kauchak, SIGCSE Bulletin co-Editor

Like many people, we, the SIGCSE Bulletin co-Editors, were curious what impact the work that we, and the many, many contributing authors, were having by putting together the *Bulletin*. This turns out to be a hard question to answer, so we decided to try and answer the simpler question, "How many people are reading the Bulletin each issue?" Even this turned out to be a bit of a challenge, but I'll try and give you our best guess.

To keep things simple, I looked only at the readership for just the most recent *Bulletin* (October issue--Volume 46, Issue 4) as a representative sample. The *Bulletin* is distributed in two main ways, through the SIGCSE-members mailing list and also via the ACM Digital Library (DL). Let me start with the latter since it's a bit easier to tackle. I logged on to the ACM DL and pulled up the cumulative activity on this article: 23 downloads. It's a start.

To figure out how many people read the October *Bulletin* from the mailing list, I pulled the server logs from the webserver that currently hosts the *Bulletin* and counted downloads. I preprocessed the data to remove crawlers and duplicate downloads from a particular individual (identified by IP address) within a small timeframe (1 minute). The grand total for unique downloads: 309.

Putting it all together, we get a grand total of 332 (plus or minus a decent sized fudge factor). We're glad that it's getting read, but we'd love to get the information out more broadly to the SIGCSE community, so give us feedback on things that can be improved and spread the word!

## Learning@Scale 2015

By Marti Hearst, Professor, UC Berkeley

The 2nd ACM Conference on Learning at Scale will take place in March 2015, just before, and in conjunction with, the ACM CSCW conference.

Inspired by the emergence of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and a huge shift in thinking about education, Learning@Scale was created by ACM in 2014 as a new scholarly venue for the presentation of the best research on how learning and teaching can change and improve when done at scale. The conference is rapidly becoming the key place to publish and learn about innovations in very large online learning systems, covering topics from automated feedback and peer assessment, to understanding different learning materials at scale.

The 2015 program has accepted 22 full papers, many of which are on topics of interest to SIGCSE members. These include, why doing is better than watching for learning in a MOOC; a new method for automatic assessment that helps students understand the details of a problem before they begin coding; a study of a class discussion forum as it evolves across multiple years of a course; and a comparison of releasing course content all at once vs. rolling it out to match the timing of course deadlines.

Keynote talks will feature Peter Norvig of Google and Zoran Popović of the University of Washington and Founder of Enlearn.

## **Deadline SIGCSE**

Here are some upcoming deadlines and dates you won't want to miss!

Feb 1	Last day for SIGCSE early registration
Mar 4-7	SIGCSE Symposium
	http://sigcse2015.sigcse.org/
Mar 14-15	Learning @ Scale conference (co-located with CSCW)
	http://learningatscale.acm.org/
Mar 15	ITICSE <i>Tips, Techniques, and</i> <i>Courseware</i> and <i>Faculty or</i> <i>Student Poster</i> submissions:
	http://iticse2014.it.uu.se/
Mar 18	Due date for NSF STEM-CP proposals
Mar 27	RESPECT research papers and experience reports
Apr 13	Due date ICER Research Paper Abstracts
Apr 20	Due date for ICER Research Papers