CIS: Celebrate, Inform, Support

http://women.acm.org

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Inside this Issue

from the Chair

By Elaine Weyuker

ACM-W is very excited to announce that our new Executive Board is in place and has had its initial meeting. The board is comprised of outstanding individuals, each with a long-standing history of commitment to gender equality in computing, and a variety of different positions and associated experiences.

During this initial meeting, the board surveyed each of our projects and made suggestions on how to enhance several of them in exciting new ways. Our goal is not only to foster gender equality within the broad field of computing, but also make it an exciting home for women at all levels of expertise. In order to encourage this, we are making particular efforts to partner with other organizations that focus on gender diversity, as well as other organizations that focus on other diversity issues. For this reason, we hope to expand this board slightly to reflect these goals. The current board members are:

Barbara Grosz - Harvard University
Susan Landau - Sun Labs
Kelly Lyons - University of Toronto
Gloria Townsend - DePauw University
Lucy Sanders - NCWIT (ex officio)
Telle Whitney - ABI (ex officio)

As you can see, the board contains faculty at major research universities and a liberal arts college, industry as well as the CEOs of two of the major organizations focusing on gender diversity. We are very lucky to have the help of all of these outstanding leaders.

Spotlight on Dr Gloria Childress Townsend

by Bettina Bair

Gloria Childress Townsend has taught Computer Science at DePauw University for more than 25 years, serving as both professor and chair of her department. Dr Townsend is determined that women will be fully represented in her department and her profession. She has carried this determination, which was always evident in her teaching and mentoring of women students, into conference presentations, papers, and grant-writing. Recently Dr Townsend accepted a position on the Executive Board of the new ACM-W Council.

I interviewed Dr Townsend via email.

BB: Tell a little bit about how and why you got into a computing career.

GCT: I chose computing (or it chose me), after years of studying Mathematics. In my undergraduate years, no computer science classes existed at Indiana University Bloomington. I discovered computing through programmable calculators (of all places) and continued exploration by "reading a book" and teaching myself Pascal to work on a queuing problem involving banks. As many other Mathematics degree holders in the late 70s and early 80s era, I then "retrained" by taking formal Computer Science classes and forged a new career teaching Computer Science.

On a personal level, I chose Computer Science, because I lost very little of the beauty of Mathematics but found freedom (which is really important to me) to explore a wider swath of the world of science. It seems to me, that (with a PhD in Mathematics) one concentrates on a very small area of Mathematics and rarely ventures beyond the boundaries of that area. One solves problems and writes proofs in both Mathematics and Computer Science, but I've grown to appreciate and enjoy algorithmic tools along with proofs.

BB: What's going on with your research in the fields of Artificial Life and Computer Ethics these days that's new and promising?

GCT: I'm working in a sub-area of Artificial Life called Evolutionary Computation (EC). The area excites me, because I've chosen to apply computing research to Biology and Mathematics, working within a team composed of three scientists, representing the three fields. We recently completed a multi-year NSF grant project (Population Biology) investigating problems (butterflies, barnacles, snails) and using tools from all

three disciplines. This current semester, we're polishing off a Biology paper with the biologist as the lead author, and I'm writing another paper for the EC community, as the lead author.

I feel that each of us who works to recruit and retain women in computing is engaged in Computer Ethics (CE) efforts, because I subscribe to the beliefs of Deborah Johnson and Keith Miller, spelled out in their excellent editorial, "Is diversity in computing a moral matter?" http://portal.acm.org

BB: With all of the research, awards and travel in your life, what are you doing for fun? And how do you find time for it?

GCT: We have a "first grandchild" and are thoroughly smitten. My husband and I enjoy animals and nature too. He's feeding a huge crop of birds, and I love to watch them. This year about twenty blue jays arrived, where only two or three visited in years past. We also indulge five cats, one dog, her live-in boyfriend and a ferret. Our house lies about a mile from a state park, where we walk and feed a feral cat.

Timing has become easier, since my husband's retirement. He's always helped to shelter my career, but he has even more time to engage now. For example, I'm on sabbatical and taking a course in robotics at Indiana University Bloomington. Don drives me to class every day, so I need not be concerned about snow and parking.

BB: The proportion of women in computing has been decreasing for some time. How do you respond to critics who say that this is a natural course of events and that it is unproductive to push women into technical fields?

GCT: I return to Deborah's and Keith's article – a must-read, by the way. If readers have not examined the editorial or have forgotten it, they should look through the ACM portal, without fail. I agree with the authors' expressed view (and the great analogy of bald-headedness as a job prerequisite) that (whenever there are artificial and unfair requirements for a discipline, major or career) numbers of individuals most disenfranchised by the real or perceived requirements will decline. So, to answer your question, I think that the decrease is unnatural and that it is very productive for ACM, ACM-W, NCWIT, ABI, CRA-W and all other organizations dedicated to computing equity to work together to remove the artificial and unfair "requirements" (or the perception of the requirements) for computing.

BB: You have been a very active member of the ACMW, and now you are a member of the ACMW Council Executive Committee. Where do you see ACM-W in five years? What kind of organization will it be? And with what mission/goals?

GCT: I've seen a trend of much more cooperation among organizations dedicated to computing equity developing for some time. The trend is so encouraging and uplifting. I believe that the trend will continue and that in five years we'll see a coalition of gender workers dedicated to common principles linked together, practicing the art of synergy.

ACM-W's milieu, K-through-undergrad, defines us by demonstrating our strength for helping girls and women in the critical years of the Pipeline, as does our relationship to Computer Science's professional organization. We will undergo the expected transition over the next five years, strengthening our effective recruiting and retention projects and acquiring new projects and project leaders that befit the current "rebooting of computing". We will continue to celebrate women in computing and to build communities to sustain them, as my own ACM-W project (Regional Celebrations of Women in Computing) maintains as a goal.

BB: You've been successful at expanding your influence to create such programs as the Regional Celebrations of Women in Computing. What advice do you have for young women in computing, on overcoming obstacles like culture and distance to become leaders?

GCT: Besides the natural benefits of involving one's self in education and an eventual career in computing (where there are so many paths of interest), a great deal of satisfaction and pride comes from being a pioneer in gender issues, especially with the pursuit's ethical tones. I advise women to "reframe" situations. For example, I have heard women in smaller universities – with no female instructors or colleagues – bemoan the lack of mentors. This situation offers an opportunity, not a difficulty. ACM-W's Student Chapters project allows one to charter a local chapter with only two students. If one has no mentors, then become a mentor. Almost all women want to help others; helping others seems to be our universal (and admirable) motto. By helping others, we help ourselves – along with influencing the generation of women in computing who will follow us.

Projects Spotlight

Real Projects for Real Clients Course

By David Klappholz

It is fairly clear that, for various reasons that have been well documented in the computing education research literature, the programming-first approach to computing education turns off far more scientifically- and mathematically-talented middle/high school girls and college age young women than it turns on. To compound the problem, a 35-year-long educational psychology study that followed hundreds of scientifically- and mathematically-talented youngsters from middle school through middle age has shown that a large majority of women opt for careers in "organic" fields -- medicine, veterinary medicine, biology, psychology -- rather than careers in "inorganic" fields like programming.

So why try to attract more young women to computer science, software engineering, and information technology majors/careers in the first place? The answer is that 70% or more of a typical software development project involves organic skills rather than inorganic skills.

This begins with requirements elicitation, the most important aspect of software development. Requirements elicitation skills, which involve a large amount of interaction with the project's client and other critical stakeholders, to iteratively refine the pre-implementation design of the desired software are, in fact, more important than programming skills. How was that? The typical development project client approaches the development team with a perceived need for software to automate a set of workflows, to perform a set of simulations, etc., etc., but has little idea of precisely what the software should do or how it should operate. If requirements elicitation is not done well, then the best programmers in the world will code useless software – to say nothing of the fact that the cost of re-work will be on the order of 10 to 1000 times as high as if requirements elicitation had been done well and the coding done poorly.

All of this suggests that a high school or pre-choice-of-major college level course in which students are taught how to perform the highly organic pre-programming aspect of software development would be far more attractive to the vast majority of young women than a programming course. Such a course would be even more effective if students actually worked in teams to execute this part of a development project for a client from a socially-relevant agency, e.g., a welfare agency, a child care center, or an adoption agency.

(Implementation is done by students in a later course, possibly a college-level course.) Moreover, such an experience would elevate the students' self efficacy with respect to computing, rather than decreasing it – precisely because they would be better at these activities than the boys who happened to be in the class.

A Real Projects for Real Clients Course (RPRCC) is just such an introductory computing experience. I am working with four NYC/NJ-area high school teachers to start RPRCCs in their schools in the next year or so. (In addition to high school RPRCCs the RPRCC Initiative includes college-level RPRCCs in all four years of the college computing curriculum. The college-level aspect of the RPRCC Initiative will be the subject of a later article.)

If you are interested in discussing participation in either the high school or college recruitment or retention aspects of the RPRCC Initiative, or if you would like to be invited to join a listserv on which it will be discussed, please contact me at david@cs.stevens.edu

Awards & Recognitions

Congratulations, Dame Wendy Hall!

ACM President Wendy Hall has been appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) by Queen Elizabeth II. Announcement of this honor was made by Buckingham Palace as part of the 2009 New Year Honours list, and it will be bestowed later in the year. More information is available in the press release from the University of Southampton.

From all of us at ACM-W, congratulations!

Women at the Brazil National Database Conference

Faculty and students - we are all saying DATABASES

A few graduate students who are working in databases

Male faculty and students photograph female faculty and students

Another small – but surprisingly effective – awareness-raising initiative was taken during the 23th national database conference promoted by SBC. During the conference (October 2008), we decided to have a picture taken of all women present who are doing research in databases in Brazil. The pictures that follow show the overall group (teachers and students), as well as just the graduate students. The third picture is interesting in itself – it shows many amateur photographers (university faculty) who were recording this photographic event.

Though simple, this initiative had an immediate repercussion in many universities. Faculty and students present during the conference became immediately aware of "something happening". Some of them talked to us to understand the need for such a picture, and have since offered to help.

Notice that there are many faculty and few graduate students. Though this is another example of the decreasing number of women, one must remember that faculty, once hired, remain in their universities for thirty years or more, while students will stay for 2 (MSc) to 4 or 5 years (PhD). Hence, one would expect less female students overall – given that some of the faculty, like myself, have been active for over 25 years.

This research domain is considered in Brazil one that has been able to attract a larger amount of women – and, from the pictures, that really looks like it. There are far more women in databases, software engineering and interface design, in Brazil, than in, for instance, computer architecture. One possible explanation is that work in databases requires extensive human interaction, and discussions with end-users. The same applies to software engineering or human-computer interaction. This would conform to the hypothesis that women are more attracted to careers where there are more opportunities for social contact. Another factor concerns role models – given that proportionately more women conduct research in databases, female graduate students might be more attracted to the field, to become faculty in the future. Whatever the reason, the fact remains – there are many women still interested in conducting research careers in databases in Brazil, and we welcome newcomers!

Texas A&M University ACM-W Chapter: AWICS

By Suzanne J. Matthews
Communications Officer, AWICS

Top row (from left to right): Suzanne Matthews, Shawna Thomas, Shuai Ye, Cindy Yeh, Lydia Tapia, Yinan Fan
Bottom row(from left to right): Sarah Gray, Olga Pearce, Elham Khabiri, Jill Greczek

The Aggie Women in Computer Science(AWICS) is an ACM-W chapter located at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. While the majority of our members are female students and faculty from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, some of our 50+ members come from related departments, such as Electrical and Computer Engineering.

We host a broad range of activities for our members to enjoy, including study breaks and recreational events such as potlucks, day trips, and excursions to the local Starbucks. Recently, a group of us went to U-PaintIt, a pottery painting studio in College Station. We all picked a pottery piece, a set of paints, and let our imaginations run wild. All the pieces turned out beautifully, and two weeks later, we had a mini "art-show" to showcase our work. The outing was a huge success, and we are all looking forward to our next trip.

Deeply committed to the professional development of our members, we also have an active peer-mentoring program, host a Distinguished Lecturer series and an annual Leadership Workshop. Another one of our yearly highlights is our exodus to the Grace Hopper Conference. Last year, 14 AWICS members traveled as a group to attend the Grace Hopper Conference celebrations in Keystone, Colorado. At the conference, we had the opportunity to meet Fran Allen, the first female recipient of the prestigious Turing Award. The conference was a wonderful experience for all of us, especially for members who never attended previous Grace Hopper celebrations.

For more information about AWICS, you can visit us on the web at http://awics.cse.tamu.edu/. We also maintain a mailing list and an active Facebook group.

Top row (from left to right): Yue Wang, Ishita Patnaik, Chiao-Fang Hsu, Saira Viqar, Hu Jia, Fran Allen, Sarah Gray, Ann Condon, Nancy Amato, Olga Pearce
Bottom row (from left to right): Yinan Fan, Elham Khabiri, Lydia Tapia, Suzanne Matthews, Dhivya Padmanabhan, Shawna Thomas

Ohio Celebration of Women in Computing (OCWiC)

By Shannon Steinfadt, Graduate Student, Kent State University

"Everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects" Dr. Tracy Camp quoted President Woodrow Wilson in her opening invited talk. This quote hearkens attention to what is frequently called the "Imposter Syndrome" where one feels like a fake or an imposter in their professional position. This was one of the themes discussed throughout the weekend.

In its third gathering, OCWIC celebrated with over 115 attendees, many students, faculty, and industry members from around the region. Several of the speakers encouraged the participants to use their time to develop their professional networking skills. Dr Tracy Camp reminded us that professional networking is work. And Deanna Kosaraju presented some of networking Do's and Don'ts. Representing the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology, Ms. Kosaraju is one of the organizers of the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, the national conference that OCWIC is based on.

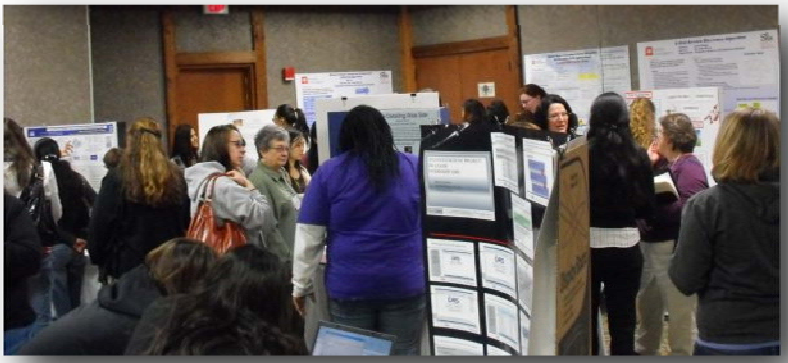
Over a shared dinner, Dr. Valerie Cross and Dr. L. Gwenn Volkert introduced some conversation about graduate school that were carried over into two panel sessions, one about industry and another about graduate school. As a member of the latter, it was refreshing to hear many basic questions of what graduate school is and how it is funded. The panel sessions transitioned into a boisterous hour of research poster presentations, followed by break-out sessions of ALICE programming, structured resume reviews, and some of the "cool" Microsoft Research.

Another recurring phrase was the "crooked path" of life and career that most of us take. Everybody has a story, and we were treated to several of the great stories at OCWIC during the Lightning Talks by Jennifer Marsman, Carol McKee and Marta Smith.

There were two industry speakers Mary E. Bradford, CIO of Aviation Systems Information Management at GE Aviation and Patty Morrison, former Executive VP and CIO of Motorola. Both women gave the audience a glimpse of their diverse, interesting and "crooked" career paths. Ms. Bradford shared her path and spoke of technology careers tracks and leadership philosophy. Ms. Morrison shared her career adventures, opening the latter half of her session for Q & A where she fielded many questions ranging from discrimination as a woman to how "Consumerization" of the workplace will affect employees and companies. She mentioned using public email

OCWIC is the biannual Ohio Celebration of Women in Computing. This year it was held at the Mohican Resort in Perrysville, Ohio on February 27 and 28, 2009.

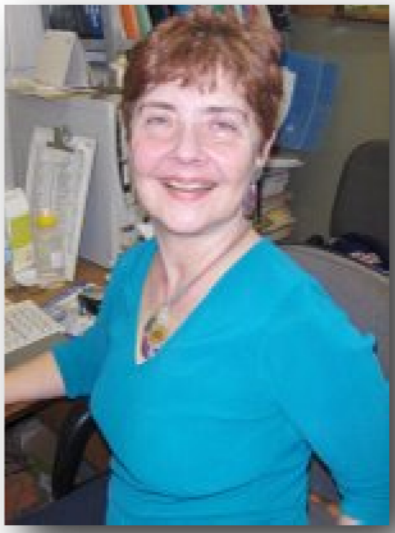
accounts like Gmail for work and the different policies that would need to change as data and application security needs are re-evaluated.



The two sessions of technical papers flowed smoothly with many well-presented, diverse topics being represented. The lunch and wrap-up session concluded in a community spirit that was pervasive throughout the short time together. Networking, shared experiences, mutual support and fun – everything a celebration should be!

Ambassador Blog

News from Brazil



Ambassador: Claudia Bauzer Medeiros – Institute of Computing, University of Campinas

Computer Science university teachers, in Brazil, are becoming increasingly conscious of the problem of the decreasing presence of women among undergraduate and even graduate students. As a result, a few initiatives are being organized. The first is the creation, in 2007, of an official event sponsored by the Brazilian Computer Society (Sociedade Brasileira de Computação) concerning issues surrounding Women in Information Technology (WIT). Interestingly enough, this event has attracted a large percentage of male participants, who are intrigued by this problem. The third WIT (WIT 2009) will take place in July, in the city of São Leopoldo, in the South of Brazil, being co-located with the SBC national conference.

All previous WIT (s) were also co-located with this conference, which is a very good decision, since it attracts every year over 2000 participants from all over Brazil. Hence, many people have become aware of the problem. Many of WIT participants are now actively promoting new initiatives to attract more women, and to raise the overall awareness about related issues.

One interesting initiative is to start a bimonthly column in a new electronic magazine, called SBC Horizons, to discuss opportunities and challenges for women in IT. SBC Horizons will be launched in December 2008, and is to be distributed to thousands of SBC student members. It will also be available on the Society´s Web site. I am the co-editor of this column, together with Prof. Sandra Fabbri from

the Federal University at São Carlos. The magazine is geared towards undergraduate students, and covers matters related to job market, career opportunities, curriculum options and research challenges. Several subjects are also of interest to high school students who are considering career options. Hence, this column – called Bits, Bytes e Batom (bits, bytes and lipstick) will hopefully attract more girls to IT courses. We welcome suggestions for subjects and material to cover!

Still a man's world

Ambassador: Maria Knobelsdorf, Germany

My name is Maria Knobelsdorf and I'm the new ambassador for Germany. Let me begin my report about Women in CS in Germany by giving you first a brief account of the overall situation today and in the past.

CS was established at German universities in the 1970s. Female students were attracted by the new CS programs (of all first CS students 25% were women) and their participation constantly rose. During the 1980s and 1990s, in West-Germany the famous shrinking pipeline was established and female participation dropped to 7%, then slowly leveling off to 14% in the 90s. In East-Germany by contrast, the percentage of female CS students remained high throughout and only started to drop down after the reunification in 1993. Since then it has remained constant at less than 20%. At the beginning of the new century, the German government established several "women into CS/IT/Computing"-programs to augment the percentages of CS female students up to 40% in 2004. Unfortunately, beside a small augmentation due to the dot.com-hype, CS female students still remain under 20% [1].

What are the reasons? Maybe one of the key points is that in German high schools CS is not taught nationwide in every grade like Math or German. For example, in some German states, schools do not need to offer CS classes, whereas in other states they must offer CS as a minor subject in 9th and 10th grade. By consequence, many students frequently have wrong, limited, or inadequate ideas about career opportunities in CS, as well as CS social environment and culture. Beliefs about IT jobs and careers are highly biased and restricted to the cliché of a lonely male programmer in front of a computer-screen. Here is a long-lasting battle field between administration, government and the German CS Education community. The latter persistently demands that CS becomes a full subject in high school, meanwhile the other side claims that "all this computing, web-surfing, and e-mail writing students learn at home.

How to use a word processor the German teacher, and how to use Excel for statistics the Math or Biology teacher can easily teach, too…"

Another reason for low CS interest among female students are certainly missing role models. CS teachers in high schools are mostly male and the university teaching and research staff in CS institutes or departments is male as well. Therefore, a lot of initiatives have been started to bring more women into CS, with "Informatica Feminale" probably being one of the most successful ones. Organized as a summer school for female CS students and faculty, Informatica feminale brings together students, research associates and professors to experience CS in an unfamiliar female environment. Younger students meet birds of a feather, and seniors act as role models. The CS summer school for women has been very successful for 12 years, and has also propagated the idea to Austria and New Zealand in the last years [2].

Altogether, female students in Germany remain a minority in CS at all levels, and many more initiatives are needed to bring about significant change. As a researcher in CS Education I investigate into students' pathways to CS. Many studies from countries with the same problematic situation like [3], [4] as well as my own results [5] show that male students start very early not only to use the computer but to explore it. They are curious how computers work and, together with peers and/or family members, explore the computer's functionalities and possibilities in an open, self-directed, and "learning-by-doing" learning habit. Women by contrast approach the computer more intellectually and seriously: computers are no toys for them but a tool. Therefore, they don't play, hack, or tinker around with it. When the computer is not working, they don't start to figure it out by themselves as long as they haven't exactly understood how it works and what they need to do. Last but not least, very often girls don't have a buddy they can ask for advice and discuss computer problems with.

The rest is history: the boys continue playing and exploring with the computer; they discover webpages and start to work with html; php, flash or other script languages follow; then, their buddy has an older brother who is learning Java in high school, etc. When boys start to major in CS in university, they are already very skilled computer users and administrators who knows a lot about programming. The girls on the contrary remain curious but also somehow "helpless" users. However, some of them are curious, interested, and brave enough to dare choosing CS as a major.

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Ada Lovelace Day

By Barbara Boucher Owens

Ada Lovelace Day is March 24, 2009.

A movement to promote female role models in technology is underfoot and you can help. But first some background, most of which I gleaned from Betty Toole's marvelous biography, *Ada, The Enchantress of Numbers, Prophet of the Computer Age*.

Most women in computing have probably heard Augusta Ada Lovelace, (or Ada Byron King, Countess of Lovelace) referred to as the world's first programmer. The more I learn about Ada's remarkable life the more I am impressed by her intellectual acumen. Augusta Ada was born 10 December 1815, the only legitimate child of the poet Lord Byron and his wife, Anne Isabella (Annabella) Milbanke, Lady Byron. Ada's mother left Lord Byron in January of 1816 and received full custody of Ada as she was thereafter known. Ada never had a significant relationship with her famous father, but when Ada Lovelace died at age 36 she was buried next to him at her own request.

Lady Byron insisted that 5-year old Ada be tutored from dawn to dusk, hoping her daughter would be a mathematician or scientist, not a poet like her father. At age thirteen Ada suffered from measles and was confined to bed for three years, but her mother insisted that her rigorous mathematical education continue. Her mother made sure that Ada met the major inventors and scientists of the day. At age 17 she and her mother met with Charles Babbage. Both Ada and her mother were enthralled by his plans for the Difference Engine, a mechanical calculating machine, dubbed a "Thinking Machine" by Annabella.. She began then a lifelong correspondence with Babbage. She at that time began her correspondence with Mary Somerville, an influential mathematician and astronomer of the time. With her she discussed her ideas about Babbage's work as well. Through her lifetime she corresponded with other luminaries such as Michael Faraday and Augustus de Morgan.

In 1835 she married William, Lord King who in 1838 became the Earl of Lovelace and she the Countess of Lovelace. In 1839 the young countess had given birth to three children, Byron, Annabella and Ralph. She like many women of the aristocracy, maintained three homes, supervised many servants and found it difficult to pursue her many intellectual interests.

Her mathematical studies progressed and she offered to aid

Babbage. In 1843 Babbage had given a series of lectures on his Analytical Engine in Turin, Italy. An Italian engineer wrote an article summarizing the technical aspects of the Analytical Engine. Ada translated the article and added notes of her own. Babbage was impressed with these notes in which she put the Analytical Engine into a broader context. She viewed the potential of the machine as a general purpose device that could move beyond the processing of numbers into the processing of any information that could be represented symbolically. It was Babbage who gave Ada the sobriquet "Enchantress of Numbers"

Ada Lovelace died in 1851 following a common medical treatment, bloodletting, which was performed in an attempt to cure the cancer from which she was suffering. One of her last non-family visitors was Charles Dickens! Ada referred to her quest for knowledge as "Poetical Science" and her life is a beacon for us all.

The programing language Ada was named for her, and its 1995 reference manual is titled 1815, the year of her birth.

There are lots of intriguing sources about her life, ideas and family available. In addition to Tolle's biography, you might enjoy Woolley's *The Bride of Science: Romance, Reason, and Byron's Daughter*. I strongly recommend the biographic film To Dream Tomorrow. I haven't seen Conceiving Ada but seems like an interesting fictional piece. I enjoyed, Haunted Summer, a film about the travels of Lord Byron with Percy and Mary Shelley after separating from Annabella and Ada. The lovely little book, *Scientists Anonymous* by Patricia Fara has a short biography of Ada Lovelace, suitable for younger readers. Fara also contributed to a biographical piece on Ada broadcast on BBC.

Now to action. Ada Lovelace Day

If you're a blogger and happy to write/video/podcast about one of your female technology heroes on 24th March 2009, please do join us in supporting the following fantastic initiative from Suw Charman-Anderson and sign-up to the Ada Lovelace Day Pledge:

I will **publish a blog post on Tuesday 24th March about a woman in technology whom I admire** but only if **1,000**other people will do the same. — Suw Charman-Anders

This entry is reposted from Barbara Boucher Owens' blog with her permission.

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

Anytime: Charter an ACM-W Student Chapter: women.acm.org/reqs.html

Mar 16: GHC submission deadline
www.gracehopper.org/2009/participate/call-for-participation/

Mar 19: GHC scholarship deadline "begins"
www.gracehopper.org/2009/participate/student-scholarships/

April 1: ACM-W Scholarships for Attendance at Research Conferences:
women.acm.org/scholarships.html

April 3 - 4: Michigan Celebration of Women in Computing (MICWIC)
www.cse.msu.edu/micwic

May 1: CREU proposals deadline
www.cra.org/Activities/craw/creu/index.php

June 1: ACM Advanced Member Grades - Senior Member
awards.acm.org/html/amg_call.cfm

July 1 ACM-IEEE CS Ken Kennedy Award

July 11-12: CRA Career Mentoring workshop. Register at www.ijcai.org
More info and request for travel support at
www.cra.org/Activities/craw/projects/mentoring/mentorWrkshp

July 31: ACM Advanced Member Grades - Distinguished Engineer/Scientist/Member awards.acm.org/html/amg_call.cfm

<EOM>

by Bettina Bair, Editor

In a nice little bit of synchronicity, this issue features both my interview with Gloria Townsend and a review of the third Ohio Celebration of Women in Computing (OCWIC). It's a neat link because I was the conference chair for the first two OCWICs (in 2005 and 2007), and Gloria is the person who first contacted me to encourage me to join ACMW, and do a regional celebration in Ohio.

Well that was back in 2003, and there has been a virtual explosion of these "mini-hoppers" since then -- all over the country, and even in Australia! There's a nice page on the ACMW website showing the geography and chronology here: wics.csc.depauw.edu/acmw/RegionalSites.html Check it out to see if there are any celebrations in your neighborhood.

Have a question or a story idea? Email me at acmw-cis-editor@acm.org