



# SIG for Computing Teachers

## Newsletter

October, 2009 (V3 #2)

**Welcome** to issue V3 #2 of our SIGCT Newsletter for 2009-2010. This is intended to notify you about SIGCT activities, ISTE 2010 info, upcoming events, notable news, resources, links and just about anything else that is useful for SIGCT members. If you have information you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please email Joe Knoch < [joe@jkmoch.com](mailto:joe@jkmoch.com) > Enjoy!

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**Items you can search for (not links, but copy into your search field or just scan)**

ISTE 2010 Session Proposals

Proposal Reviewers for both SIGCT Strands at ISTE 2010 Needed

ISTE 2010 SIGCT Day-long Robotics Activities

NCWIT Gotta Have IT webinar

Deadline Reminder for NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing

Journal for Computing Teachers (JCT)

FETC Fall Virtual Conference and Expo

IBM Master the Mainframe Contest

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Exploring CS - a brand new one-year course

Hello World! Computer Programming for Kids and Other Beginners.

GreenFoot News

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Some links

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**ISTE 2010 Session Proposals: Just a few more days** to submit a proposal for a session, panel or workshop at ISTE 2010 which supports our K-12 mission, teaching about computing. Proposals must be submitted online at <http://iste.org> (then click on the ISTE 2010 link and finally from the Program menu, choose Call for Participation). The deadline is Thursday, October 8, 2009. We ask that you consider placing your proposals in one of two strands: Computer Science or Computer Use & Skills/ICT/CTE. This will assure that our SIGCT review committee will see your proposal.

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**Proposal Reviewers for both SIGCT Strands at ISTE 2010 Needed:** We're looking for

several computing educators to assist with the review of SIGCT-themed proposals for the ISTE 2010 conference. Under the leadership of Philip East, reviewers will evaluate proposals focused on the following theme/strand: Digital-Age Teaching & Learning/Computer Science. Please contact Philip ([east@cs.uni.edu](mailto:east@cs.uni.edu)) if you'd like to contribute to this volunteer initiative. Scott Horan ([shoran@insightbb.com](mailto:shoran@insightbb.com)) will chair the review panel for Digital-Age Teaching & Learning/Computer Use & Skills/ICT and CTE. Within this theme/strand, Scott seeks educators with IT backgrounds (e.g. computer repair, web design, networking, GIS, etc). Be a part of ISTE 2010 NOW by volunteering to contribute to these important tasks!

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**ISTE 2010 SIGCT Day-long Robotics Activities:** Plans are coming together to have a number of SIGCT-sponsored activities focused around Robotics at ISTE 2010. The SIGCT Breakfast Forum will include a talk about Robotics and its relation to IT and STEM along with students talking about and demonstrating their work in robotics. Following the Forum we plan to have a SIGCT Lounge where you'll be able to interact with the speakers about the Forum content and view demonstrations of several teams of K-12 students and their robots. Early in the afternoon we'll have a section of the Poster Session focused on computer science, information technology and robotics. Finally after the poster session we'll have a lounge area for SIGCT members to network. If you have questions or comments, please contact our President, Steve Rainwater <[Steve\\_Rainwater@uttyler.edu](mailto:Steve_Rainwater@uttyler.edu)>

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**NCWIT Gotta Have IT webinar:** SIGCT in conjunction with NCWIT will be hosting a one-hour webinar on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 beginning at 1:00 pm Pacific, 4:00 pm Eastern. The focus will be best practices for use of the materials in the Gotta Have IT resource kit that a number of our SIGCT members helped hand out at NECC 2009. Registration will open soon and be announced via our SIGCT mailing list. More details are on page 4 of our September, 2009 SIGCT Newsletter. For any questions contact Joe Kmoch <[joe@jkmoch.com](mailto:joe@jkmoch.com)>.

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**Deadline Reminder for NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing:** The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing recognizes young women at the high-school level for their computing-related achievements and interests. All US HS girls are eligible and they all apply at <http://www.ncwit.org/award>. The submission deadline is November 15, 2009. Further information appeared in the SIGCT September 2009 newsletter.

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**Journal for Computing Teachers (JCT).** The latest issue (Spring, 2009) of the only journal for K-12 computing teachers that includes peer-reviewed articles is available at <http://iste.org/jct>. Click the link to the current issue. This is our largest issue in about a decade, due to the diligent and excellent work of our editor, John Thompson <[thompsjt@buffalostate.edu](mailto:thompsjt@buffalostate.edu)>. Submissions from the K-12 CS/IT Computing Teacher community are always welcome, as are submissions from higher education faculty. If you have questions or suggestions, see the JCT page at <http://iste.org/jct> or contact John directly. The fall 2009 issue will be out around Thanksgiving.

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**FETC Fall Virtual Conference and Expo.** This online version of the Florida Educational

Technology Conference is coming to you on Thursday, October 22, 2009, from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm ET. This FREE 100% online educational event gives you the opportunity to participate in highly informative virtual sessions from the convenience of your office, visit the Virtual Expo Hall and chat with real live exhibitors, and preview and evaluate the latest hardware and software available today. More information and registration is at < <http://virtual.fetc.org> >. Their regular in-person conference will again be held in Orlando, FL from January 12 -15, 2010. Info on that conference is at < <http://fetc.org> >.

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**IBM Master the Mainframe Contest.** IBM is currently rolling out its fifth annual *Master the Mainframe Contest* this fall semester, with over \$27,000 in prizes up for grabs. The major focus of the contest is to introduce high school and university students to an area of the computer field that they may not have had much experience with, and which is currently in a long-term hiring phase as the current generation of mainframe systems programmers begins to retire. If you think any of your students who might be interested in checking it out (IBM designed the contest to be NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY), registration is now open from the contest homepage: < <http://ibm.com/university/contest> >. The contest itself runs from October 5 through December 29, 2009. Two years ago, the last time that high students were encouraged to compete, the overall contest winner was Sushen Patel, a high school student who beat over 1750 participants from universities and high schools across the US and Canada.

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**CCSC:MW 2009 Conference.** This conference, held at St. Xavier University in Chicago II on October 9-10, is pleased to host the second annual CS-K-12-MW Conference for K-12 teachers on Saturday, October 10. The registration for this special Saturday-only strand is very inexpensive (\$25) and can be paid on site. Past strands at this conference have been well-received. For further information, see < <http://www.ccsc.org/midwest/Conference/> >

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**Exploring CS - a brand new one-year course.** Joanna Goode is co-author of the book "Stuck in the Shallow End" (link is to Amazon.com) a great, short read. As a followup to this study, Joanna has developed with a team of teachers from inner-city Los Angeles schools a very successful year-long curriculum. The basis of this curriculum are many of the Level 2 and Level 3 topics in the ACM K-12 CS Model Curriculum which SIGCT endorsed when it was published. The topics include many of the concepts included in the four pathways identified in the IT Career Cluster Pathways document (software engineering/programming, interactive media/web design, info systems/database, support/networking). The entire course is available both on the CSTA website and from their web repository of materials, The Source. Take a look at < <http://csta.acm.org>>.

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**Hello World! Computer Programming for Kids and Other Beginners.**

We thought that some of you might be interested in a programming book aimed at kids as young as age 8. From the promotional material, here's a book, written by a father and young son, that's an illustrated and kid-friendly way to teach kids computer programming with easy-to-follow, hands-on examples. Along the way, young readers meet Carter—a kid, like them, learning to program—and a colorful cast of characters. Examples are in the open-source Python programming language, so schools won't need to buy anything to get started.

This is not free, and we make no claims for its quality, but some of you might be interested nonetheless. Find out more at < <http://manning.com/sande/>>

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**GreenFoot News.** A number of Computer Science teachers use the GreenFoot environment in a Java course, others use it for the entire course. Michael Kolling has opened up a new teachers-only forum for GreenFoot. You can find it at < <http://www.greenfoot.org/greenroom/>>. In addition, Professor Kolling has published his Java textbook which uses the GreenFoot environment. Information on the book and other helpful information for teachers is at: < <http://greenfoot.org> >.

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**SIGCSE Spring 2010 Conference.** The ACM SIG for Computer Science Educators will hold their annual spring conference March 10-13, 2010 in Milwaukee, WI. While a large number of sessions are oriented toward computer science education at the collegiate level, Friday, March 12, will again feature a strand of sessions including AP Computer Science aimed at high school teachers.

The SIGCSE Technical Symposium addresses problems common among educators working to develop, implement and/or evaluate computing programs, curricula, and courses. The symposium provides a forum for sharing new ideas for syllabi, laboratories, and other elements of teaching and pedagogy, at all levels of instruction. Further information is at < <http://www.sigcse.org/sigcse2010/> >

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**Update to SIGCT Board Officers.** Several changes have occurred. Congratulations to Karen North from Houston who is now the Elementary School Representative and Steve Crampton who takes Karen's position as Middle School Representative. Many thanks to Kevin Kneisley for his service to SIGCT as communications officer. Kevin has resigned and Joe Kmoch will serve in an interim role as editor of our newsletter.

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**Some links...** if you have favorite links you'd like to share, please email Joe Kmoch < [joe@jkmoch.com](mailto:joe@jkmoch.com) >

**Presentations from CS/IT 2009 Symposium in Washington DC.** Most speaker presentations along with videos of the opening and closing keynotes are now available. Stop by the CSTA site at < <http://csta.acm.org> >

**History of Hacking.** This timeline will likely bring back some memories of these famous (infamous) activities. The site is < <http://www.focus.com/fyi/it-security/history-hacking/> >

**Installing Windows from a USB/flash drive:** for your students in an IT Support Course. This apparently works for any version of Windows from XP to Win7. < <http://dottech.org/headline/9157/> >