



Special Interest Group for Information Technology Education

ACM SIGITE Newsletter, Vol. 5 No. 2

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Editor's Note, Rob Friedman

Summer is here, a time when we all hope to slow down the pace just a little, maybe kick back a bit, and recharge. Given that, no lengthy missives or harangues from me – just a preface to the article in this issue, some words from the Chair, Co-chair (doubling this year as your host in Cincinnati), and the Technical Paper Chair about the October conference, and, OK, a slight harangue about the status of this newsletter.

In the last issue, Han Reichgelt explained why he, I and many of you thought it would be beneficial to turn this newsletter into an ACM journal, with the provisional title, Journal of Information Technology Integration: Research and Education. Han, Mark Stockman and I drafted a proposal and submitted it to the ACM Publications Board ... and waited for a response. As time went by, we hoped that the adage ‘no news is good news’ would turn out to be true, but eventually their decision not to approve came down, warranted by their belief that there were several other ACM journals addressing the same or similar topics. We continue to believe that the idea has merit, and we’re continuing our conversations with the Publications Board. In the meanwhile SIGITE, as an organization, is obligated by its charter to publish a newsletter twice a year to be archived in the ACM Digital Library. The editorial board decided early on that we would publish articles describing successful classroom activities, research relevant to SIGITE members, in addition to news and updates of concern to SIGITE members. One of the Newsletter’s greatest hurdles has been the acquisition of articles for peer review, and after five years in (virtual) print, this issue is the first to have received no external submissions. Harangue: over the past seven months, not one of our 400+ members, or any of their colleagues or graduate students has considered the SIGITE Newsletter a venue for publication, even though its potential authors can legitimately state that their submissions receive full peer review and if published, become accessible to any reader searching keywords in the ACM DL. So, what’s an editor to do?

Solicit. And in this case, solicit and help write. What we have here, ironically, is an article that explains in part the reason why submissions are so rare: when most of us seek a venue for an article, we often do so on the basis of the journal’s reputation, which is tied to its editorial rigor, which helps define its stature, which helps authors (and their P&T committees) define their own place in the discipline. The funny thing about rigor, as those who read in IS journals know full well, is that there is an oppositional tension between rigor and relevance, one that Brian Whitworth and I suggest derives from a number of factors, not least of which is that the priority we place on “rigor” curtails innovation, and innovation usually happens because we seek relevant ways to address real problems. We think that by looking to social networking behaviors and porting them over as operational guides to the business of academic publishing, we can find the release valve for that tension. We hope to present the nuts and bolts of how to do this in Cincinnati, if the reviewers are good to us, but we also hope here to make a case that resonates with our IT colleagues and spurs some discussion.

Note from the SIGITE Chair, Han Reichgelt

In addition to the papers and workshops, department chairs have an additional event to look forward to at this year's SIGITE. Over the last few years, a group of IT department chairs have been meeting informally at the annual department chairs' conference in Orlando. The group decided that there was value in organizing a similar meeting in connection with SIGITE, and we will therefore have a departmental chairs' forum the day prior to SIGITE proper. The event will run from 1:00 until 5:00 on Wednesday October 17, and will feature presentations by Lonnie Benthley, Art Gowan, Jim Leone, all three experienced department chairs. In addition, it will provide plenty of opportunity to network, share experiences and ask others how they resolved issues that your department is facing. More details are available from Jim Leone at jim.leone@it.rit.edu.

Note from the SIGITE 2008 General Conference Chair, Mark Stockman

The SIGITE 2008 conference will be held at the [Millennium Hotel](#) in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio, October 16-18th. While it does not look as if the Reds will be playing any ball come October, the Cincinnati Bengals will be playing the Steelers the weekend of SIGITE, and the surprising [University of Cincinnati](#) football team (ending 17th in the country last year) will also have a home game during the weekend. Bring the family and visit the [Cincinnati Zoo](#), [Kings Island Amusement Park](#) (with a Halloween theme in October), the [Cincinnati Museum Center](#), and the [National Underground Railroad Freedom Center](#); or ride a riverboat down the Ohio River to see the sites. Check the SIGITE website and upcoming news bulletins for registration dates and more details.

Note from the SIGITE 2008 Technical Paper Conference Chair, J. Eckstrom

We received 60 abstracts and 4 full papers thus far, 50 of the abstracts were accepted for full paper review. The deadline for full paper submission is July 7. Remember that abstract submission is optional so you are still allowed to submit full papers.

Use <http://db.grinnell.edu/sigite/sigite2008/Submissions/submissionRegular.asp> to submit papers.

We still need reviewers!

<http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~sigite/sigite2008/reviewerRegistrationRegular.shtml> to sign up.

Calls For Papers

SIGITE Newsletter: *It's not too early* to consider contributing an article to the next edition of the SIGITE Newsletter, to be published in January 2009 (unless the new journal gets a green light). We welcome research articles, case studies, industry and academic observations and literature reviews related to information technology education. Prospective authors should send articles to the editor (friedman@njit.edu) no later than November 30, 2008. Position announcements, notice of professional advancement and other news items relevant to SIGITE members' interests are welcome.