

Events – Announcements

- **SIGCSE 2008 Computer Science Unplugged** is a series of free to use, technology-free computer science activities aimed at children and adults who are not computer scientists, and for computer scientists who want to experience an innovative kinesthetic approach to teaching computer science concepts. **March 14, 2008, 5:30-6:30PM** at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower, Rooms B113-115.
- **MESA Day at PSU** is coming **May 9** – and I believe they will soon be recruiting volunteers. I will keep you posted as more info comes in.
- PSU's **Engineering Discovery Showcase** for the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science – Mark your calendars for **Friday May 16th**.
An expansion of the traditional open house with more research activities, capstone projects, and hands on interactive demonstrations, designed for prospective freshman and transfer students. More info as it becomes available thanks to Kristen Nieman.
- **Education Soaring** is presenting a **Summer Program** of excellence for capable, motivated children from the ages of four to fifteen. The program will be held in SW and NE Portland during three consecutive weeks in July. Students can take up to four classes a day (teacher-to-student ratio does not exceed 1:10) in math, science, technology and the arts (e.g., Algebra, Chemistry, Stop Motion Animation). An expert faculty skilled in tailoring classes to the specific interests and academic levels of students using state-of-the-art equipment, will allow students to learn not just by listening and observing, but by engaging in hands-on exploration, development and creation. Please go to www.EducationSoaring.com for 2008 Summer Program dates, times and tuition rates. For questions, contact NOISE member Kristine Fosback, at kfosback@educationsoaring.com.
- **Find more classes, camps, programs, scholarships and internships** at the TechnoScienceSupersite - <http://www.technosciencesupersite.org/>.

Events – Wrap-Up

- The **PSU Design Competition**, held February 22, was a great success with 22 schools from as far away as Astoria and Springfield, nearly 500 kids and 60 chaperones. Students competed in small teams on problems involving edible cars, egg drops, straw towers and mousetraps with the results adjudicated by PSU students.
- Engineering Education Service Center (EESC)'s **Green Engineering Poster Contest** Winners: <http://www.engineeringedu.com/store/#posters>. EESC also has a great e-newsletter - <http://www.engineeringedu.com/>.

Weblinks

- **PLTW Advocacy** – still under construction, but there's now enough to be useful - http://opas.ous.edu//PLTW_Advocacy/index.html. Most of the materials from the January 22 Worksession are included at http://opas.ous.edu//PLTW_Advocacy/index.html#Worksession_Materials. Let me know if there is something in particular you'd like to know about PLTW.
- **In the OPASsphere** – I've actually started archiving issues as they are distributed - <http://opas.ous.edu//OPASsphere/index.html>.
- **GetReal** -- <http://getreal.ous.edu/> -- the Oregon University System website to help students explore the possibilities posed by **studying computer science** has been updated – better

A service of the Oregon Pre-Engineering & Applied Sciences Initiative (OPAS)

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graphics, audio, new content, improved organization. See college info, profiles of students and working computer scientists doing a great variety of stuff that makes a difference, and career and salary data.

- **And another, Why CSE?** At <http://www.cs.washington.edu/whycse>. Thanks to Steffen Moller.
- **And a regional gets a word in edgewise** -- <http://www.sou.edu/CS/> -- check out the powerpoint “Why Computer Science?”
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Articles

- It’s the **Teachers**, Bub – “U.S. educators seek lessons from Scandinavia High-scoring nations on an international exam say success stems from autonomy, project-based learning”, By Meris Stansbury, eSchool News:
http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/?i=52770;_hbguid=31475690-290f-4e70-8ce4-2742f7b52b83&d=top-news – Those high-PISA-scoring Scandinavian countries value their teachers and push local control as close to the teacher/student axis as possible. Caveat: the Finnish education system divides students into vocational and academic tracks at age 15, not mentioned in this article, so I am not sure of the impact. In-class technology is a tool, not a transformational breakthrough.
- “Employment and the Undergraduate Degree”, Inside Higher Ed --
<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/03/05/jobs> includes several years of CS and other STEM field data. Thanks to Di Saunders.