

TECHBRIDGEWORLD NEWSLETTER



www.TechBridgeWorld.org

Spring '08



Technology Consulting in the Global Community (TCinGC) 2008

TechBridgeWorld wrapped up spring by sending 8 students to Ghana, India, and Palau for the TCinGC summer program. TCinGC has been connecting Carnegie Mellon students to governmental and non-governmental organizations around the world since 2005. Students work as technology consultants, collaborating with community partners to devise technology solutions that are applicable and sustainable to the given community's situation. Past program locations include Chile, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Sri Lanka. Ghana is a new location for TCinGC this summer.

Two students are working with **Ashesi University** in Accra, Ghana; 4 students (2 from Pittsburgh and 2 from Doha) with **Microsoft Research** and the **Mathru School for the Blind** in Bangalore, India; and 2 students with the **Ministry of Health** in Koror, Palau. For more information on the program, please visit www.techbridgeworld.org/tcingc.

TechBridgeWorld hopes all the TCinGC students work hard and enjoy meaningful experiences this summer!

ICTD 2009 Update

The 3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD) will be held at Carnegie Mellon University in Doha, Qatar on April 17-19, 2009. Hosted by Carnegie Mellon in Qatar and TechBridgeWorld, the goal of the conference will be to provide a forum for academic researchers investigating ICT and development, and both the social and technical sciences will be represented at this multi-disciplinary event. William (Bill) H. Gates III, Chairman of Microsoft Corporation and Co-Chairman of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will be a keynote speaker at the event.

Paper submissions for the conference are due on September 22, 2008, and authors will be notified of final decisions by January 15, 2009. Be sure to check out more details on submission and registration at www.ictd2009.org. TechBridgeWorld hopes to see many of you there!

Technology Consulting in the Community in Pittsburgh, Doha

TechBridgeWorld's Technology Consulting in the Community (TCinC) courses, taught in Pittsburgh and for the first time in Doha this semester, were met with great success.

The Pittsburgh course, taught by Scott McElfresh, had students from five of the seven colleges at Carnegie Mellon. They worked with local nonprofits to implement technology in the community, including Volunteers of America: Working Order, Shady Lane, Steel City Sports World, Storehouse for Teachers, Nego Gato Inc., Myasthenia Gravis Treatment & Advocacy Center, Mattress Factory, Gerri Holden Ministries, and Angels' Place.



The Doha course, taught by TechBridgeWorld Founder and Director M. Bernardine Dias and Associate Director Joe Mertz, featured partnerships with Reach Out to Asia (ROTA), Qatar Charity, The American

School of Doha, The Sri Lankan School - Stafford International, Qatar Natural History Group, The Al-Noor Institute for the Blind, and NeoMotion.

Undergraduate Courses

TechBridgeWorld offered two courses in Spring 2008 in addition to TCinC. Read on to learn more about them and their impacts on students.

Ethics & Policy Issues in Computing

For this course, which was revamped this spring by Rahul Tongia, students discussed computing privacy, intellectual property, the environment, spyware, and other issues associated with digital content redistribution. This involved a dynamic study of both the history of the Internet as well as future issues with the social impacts of computing technology. Read more at www.techbridgeworld.org/courses/epic.

Understanding & Challenging the Images of Computing

Launched this semester by Carol Frieze, director of the Women@SCS program, this course was even more successful than anticipated. Frieze challenged students to ponder the public's understanding of computer science. She asked questions such as, How is computer science perceived? How does this affect understanding and participation? Read more at www.techbridgeworld.org/courses/ioc.



Conference Participation

American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting

Boston, MA | February 14-18

Symposium on Information, Computing, and Communications: Keys to Sustainable Global Development

Panel Presentation, "Information and Communications Technology for Sustainable Development," Rahul Tongia

Panel Presentation, "TechBridgeWorld: Innovative Education Platform for Technology and Global Development," G. Ayorkor Mills-Tettey

Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania Nonprofit Summit

Pittsburgh, PA | May 9

Panel Discussion and Presentation, "Social Capital and Technology," Sarah Belousov

Student Research

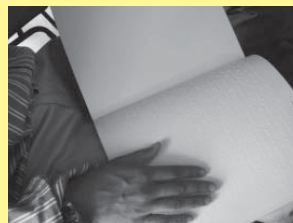
Spring 2008 was a busy semester for students involved with TechBridgeWorld in Doha, particularly through the Braille Tutor and the Qatar National Research Fund's (QNRF's) Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP).

Qatar Student Wins SCS Alumni Award

Computer Science student Noura El-Moughny, of the Carnegie Mellon University-Qatar campus, won the 2008 SCS Alumni Award for Undergraduate Excellence for her senior honors thesis. TechBridgeWorld Founder and Director M. Bernardine Dias advised Noura on her thesis, titled "Assistive Technology for Learning to Write Braille." This work was funded in part by a grant from the QNRF UREP.



Independent Study on Braille Tutor program



Kaleem Rahman worked this semester to implement the capability for basic mathematical symbols into the Braille Tutor's software program. His work seeks to increase the relevance of the program globally to further the

tutor's capabilities, such as in India, where Kaleem is working this summer as part of the TCinGC program.

Cambodia UREP Launched

Carnegie Mellon students Aysha Siddique and Shakir Hussain, along with Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) staff member Cherie Clark-Moore, and faculty advisors M. Bernardine Dias and Yonina Cooper, recently prepared and presented a report on Cambodia with a focus on education and income generation. This research was a part of the QNRF's UREP. Aysha lead this team effort to provide ROTA members with background information on Cambodia to enhance their preparations for a project in the Vihear Suork Commune. Aysha is in India this summer as part of the TCinGC program.



**Thank you for your continued interest
in TechBridgeWorld projects!**

www.TechBridgeWorld.org

If you would like to learn more about any of our activities please contact us.

+1 412.268.7147 | info@techbridgeworld.org