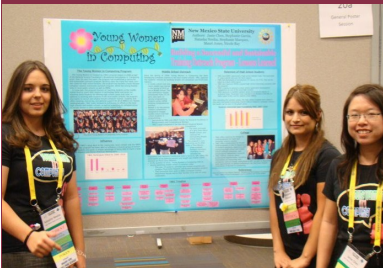


Live, Learn and Thrive.

(575) 646-4451
 cs.nmsu.edu/YWiC
 Science Hall, 294

In this Issue



Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing



Speaker Series
 Next: Dec. 3, 4:30pm,
 Science Hall 107



Camp and Road Show Information

Excellence through Partnership

The Era of Excellence through Partnership is an exciting time for NMSU, the Department of Computer Science, and the Young Women in Computing program (YWiC). As department head, I am excited about the many activities and programs being sponsored throughout the unit, including: the fantastic speaker series that has brought extended family from Intel and Latinas in Computing and the Advanced Computer Architecture performance and Simulation Laboratory; the wonderful colloquiums presented by campus and community members; outstanding research accomplishments by our talented colleagues, students, and friends; and much more.



Members of our CS family have also traveled to and participated in regional, national, and international conferences with great successes, including: the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, held in Atlanta, Georgia; the 25th International Conference on Logic Programming held in Edinburgh, Scotland; the New Mexico Celebration of Women in Computing, held in Albuquerque, NM; and others.

YWiC is coordinating Road Shows with middle and high schools, being held on the NMSU campus and local school campuses, conducting club and group meetings on middle and high school campuses, and sponsoring the first APP Competition within the LCHS community. Please continue to walk with us as we move forward into 2011, with many new and exciting programs!

GO AGGIES!

Enrico Pontelli
 Department Head, Computer Science
 Director, Young Women in Computing



The National Science Foundation is a key partner in our incredible successes, and we are always looking to expand NMSU Computer Science partnerships. If you are interested in joining us as a financial partner, to support the broadening of computing across the NMSU and Las Cruces communities, don't hesitate to contact Enrico Pontelli at epontell@cs.nmsu.edu or 575.646.6239.

Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing

YWiC students participated in the annual Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme for the conference this year was, “Collaborating Across Boundaries,” designed to bring the research and career interests of women in computing to the forefront. Leading researchers presented their current work, while special sessions focused on the role of women in today’s technology fields, including computer science, information technology, research, and engineering. This year’s celebration garnered the honor of being highlighted as the largest gathering of women in computing in the world.

Once again, the conference was an invaluable experience for the YWiC students. They were able to engage with mentors, create an extended professional network, collect information on internships and potential employers, and meet many other young women interested in computer science fields.



YWiC students collaborated to create and present an informational poster regarding the development, growth, and expansion of the program. The team of presenters included Janie Chen, Stephanie Marquez, and Tasha Nesiba. Authors in absentia included Stephanie Garcia, Nicole Ray, and Mauri Jones. This outstanding group of young women were very excited to learn that the NMSU YWiC Program is a national leader in workshops, camps, and programming offered for middle and high school students.

Tasha Nesiba

Tasha Nesiba is an undergraduate Research Assistant for the YWiC Program. In her first year at NMSU, she is majoring in Computer Science and Math. For the summer of 2010, she was selected to participate in the Google Computer Science Summer Institute (CSSI) at the Mountain View, CA, location. While in CSSI, Tasha had the opportunity to attend technical sessions by Googlers, explore the many opportunities that Google offers, work in an interactive and collaborative setting, as well as enjoy the fun atmosphere of the Googleplex.

Tasha’s enthusiasm and intelligence has not only earned her the opportunity to participate in CSSI, but has also merited her prestigious awards. She is the recipient of the NMSU President’s Associates Scholarship, which covers all educational expenses for her undergraduate degree. She has also been awarded scholarships from Google, including the 2010 Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship for First Years. This incredible honor is only bestowed upon seven graduating, high school seniors across the entire United States.

In support of the advancement of women in the computer science field, Tasha is endowing two scholarship funds to the NMSU Computer Science Department that will benefit female undergraduate and high school students for years to come.



New Mexico Women in Computing

The New Mexico Celebration of Women in Computing (NMCWiC) met on October 14-15, 2010, at the University of New Mexico Centennial Engineering Center in Albuquerque, NM, and is the first of its kind in the Southwest. Tasha Nesiba presented the YWiC poster with shared authors, Janie Chen, Stephanie Garcia, Stephanie Marquez, Nicole Ray, and Mauri Jones. The poster was awarded first place for all Student Presenters, which includes an all-expenses paid trip to the 2011 Grace Hopper Celebration.

Conference speakers included female computing leaders from the National Center for Women in Information Technology, Sandia National Laboratories, The Anita Borg Institute, Google, Microsoft, and more. Members of panel discussions included distinguished women from GUTS y Girls (Growing Up Thinking Scientifically), Expanding Horizons for New Mexico, YWCA – Tech Girls, and our very own YWiC Co-Program Coordinator, Rachel Jensen. For more information, visit www.nmcwic.org.

Road Shows



YWiC Road Shows are available for outreach opportunities throughout the year. The program is mobile, and can be adapted for up to 30 students for one to two-hour sessions, and include workshops featuring PicoCricket robotics. Within this activity, students learn to utilize the programming software called PicoBlocks, build robots with LEGOs and art supplies, and then program their robots to perform.

YWiC Road Shows have held sessions for many programs, including students from the Gadsden School District, Lynn Middle School of the LCPS, CC Snell from the Cobre School District, GUTS y Girls at the Santa Fe Institute, and others.

If you are interested in bringing a YWiC Road Show to your school or plan to visit the NMSU campus and would like to participate in a program on-site, contact ywic@cs.nmsu.edu.

The YWiC monthly Speaker Series spotlights women working or doing interesting research in computer science. Speakers share their high school and college experiences, share what motivated them to choose a career in computing, and offer insight into creating balance in order to achieve success both in and out of the classroom. The format is offered in a relaxed, one-hour session on Friday afternoons, geared towards promoting questions, discussion, feedback, and social networking, in a fun and friendly environment.



Dr. Patty Lopez is one of the amazing women in computing who shared her story with the YWiC group this fall. Dr. Lopez is currently a Component Design Engineer at Intel, where she is responsible for the definition of logic validation technologies for Itanium microprocessors.

The Dr. Lopez is the founder of “Latinas in Computing,” and promotes the representation and success of Latina women in computer science. Earning her BS, MS, and PhD in Computer Science from NMSU, Dr. Lopez is part of the NMSU’s Distinguished Alumni program.



Dr. Jeanine Cook also honored the YWiC group this term. Dr. Cook is the Director of the Advanced Computer Architecture Performance & Simulation Lab, and an Associate Professor with the Klipsch School of Electrical Engineering at NMSU.

Dr. Cook has research interests in microarchitecture simulation techniques, performance modeling and analysis, workload characterization, and microarchitectural power optimizations. She is involved in many national research projects, has numerous publications, and NMSU is fortunate to be able to call her one of our own.



SUMMER CAMP 2011 INFORMATION

The YWiC Program will be offering three different camps during the summer of 2011. Two camps for young women in high school, and one camp for girls in middle school.

Look for information and admission applications on the home page, www.cs.nmsu.edu/YWiC, as early as mid-January, 2011!



Social, December 3

YWiC is hosting a social on Friday, December 3rd, 4:30pm, in Science Hall 107. We will have a distinguished speaker, and combine attendees from the Computer Science department, the YWiC middle and high school summer camps, and all Research Assistants within the YWiC Program. It will be a fun time to network and get to know more people interested in many of the same things as you!

Join us on Facebook

If you are on Facebook, we want to be your friend! Look for us through "Young Women in Computing" and "NMSU CS".



Tutoring Assistance

YWiC offers tutoring help for each course required in the Computer Science major. Sometimes it can be helpful to work with someone who has been in your shoes.

One of YWiC's most notable tutors is Mai Abo Shakra. Mai attained her Bachelor's in Math, with a minor in Computer Science at Jordan University of Science and Technology. Upon graduation, Mai worked in a middle school as a substitute teacher, and then as a high school math teacher. Mai moved to the United States in 2005 with her husband, Amjad. In 2006, Mai began to pursue her Master's degree in Computer Science.

As a tutor for YWiC, Mai not only helps students succeed in their math and CS courses, but also supports their success by talking with them about all of their courses. She believes this gives them an "incentive to work harder," for continued support. Mai is passionate about the advancement of the students she works with, and expounds this through her open availability and persistence to affirm the student's understanding of the subject at hand.

YWiC is pleased to have Mai as a member of the CS family.

Looking Forward: Competitions & Road Shows



YWiC is expanding high school outreach beyond its annual summer camps! The program is sponsoring an application writing competition at Las Cruces High School. Students will work in co-ed or all-girl teams of 2-3 people. Each team will design an Android App that is educational or has social benefit. Weekly after-school meetings will be offered by YWiC student staff for students in need of instruction with programming applications using virtual software. The competition will include essay and presentation elements, and students will present their final application designs to judges from the NMSU Computer Science faculty and staff. Winning team members will each be awarded an Android Tablet and certificate of achievement.

YWiC plans to continue raising awareness about careers in Computer Science by conducting classroom visits with local middle and high schools. If you are interested in having a YWiC group come to your school for career presentations, robotics demonstrations, etc., please email the program at ywic@cs.nmsu.edu.

- ◇ A student organization is in the process of being established! Look for the first meeting to be held in late January, 2011!
- ◇ If you are a past camper, we want to know what you're up to! Visit www.cs.nmsu.edu/YWiC, and click on **PAST CAMPERS**. The survey will be available through the end of January, 2011!

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