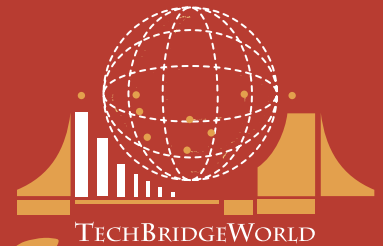


TECHBRIDGEWORLD NEWSLETTER

Fall '08



www.TechBridgeWorld.org



TechBridgeWorld Interactive



TechBridgeWorld's 2nd annual Interactive event was a great success! Students, staff, faculty, and other guests gathered in the Newell-Simon Hall Atrium on

December 4th. The Interactive featured TechBridgeWorld projects in Africa and around the world. Guests enjoyed international food, music, and TechBridgeWorld giveaways.

Highlighted exhibits included the Braille Tutor, Project Kané, Education e-Village, and iSTEP, our new internship program. Guests tested their knowledge of African geography, flags, and trivia and participated in demo activities for prizes. The Interactive is a unique opportunity to bring together those interested in our projects. We look forward to next year's event!



New TechBridgeWorld Video!

Our new promotional video features an overview of TechBridgeWorld and highlights some of our projects. Special thanks to Matt Richards for producing this video! You can watch our video online:

www.techbridgeworld.org/multimedia/videos.html

ICTD 2009 Update

The IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development will be hosted by Carnegie Mellon University in Doha, Qatar from April 17-19, 2009. Online registration will be available in the next few weeks. Please check back at www.ictd2009.org.

We are delighted to announce that Carlos A. Primo Braga has confirmed to be an additional keynote speaker. Braga is Director of Economic Policy and Debt in the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network (PREM) at The World Bank.

Recruiting Students - Summer 2009!



TechBridgeWorld's new paid internship program will give Carnegie Mellon undergraduate and graduate students exposure to development and field testing of technology projects relevant to and in partnership with developing communities. A multidisciplinary team of 6 students will collaborate with the University Computing Centre in Dar es Salaam. 4 students will travel to and work in Tanzania and 2 students will work on campus in Pittsburgh or Doha from late May through early August.

The team will work on three projects: (1) developing a cell phone application for social workers to track information on services provided to AIDS orphans and vulnerable children, (2) creating and evaluating educational technology and games for child literacy, and (3) enhancing the Braille Tutor.

Please visit www.techbridgeworld.org/istep to learn more about the program or to apply (Deadline: December 18, 2008).



Fall 2008 Events Recap

Carnegie Mellon-Qatar faculty Yonina Cooper and students Aysha Siddique and Shakir Hussain traveled to Cambodia in October with Reach Out to Asia (ROTA) staff member Cherie Clark-Moore.



The team investigated the strengths and challenges in education and income generation in the Vihear Suork Commune, as well as the technology infrastructure and potential for technological enhancements in the area.

TechBridgeWorld also participated in and hosted several events this semester including panel discussions during Carnegie Mellon's International Festival and Homecoming on our projects' impact in developing communities, and a Field Robotics Seminar on lessons learned from field work in Zambia. We want to thank everyone who volunteered their time and provided support for all of these events!

Spring Courses

www.techbridgeworld.org/courses/index.html

Technology and Global Development

Faculty M. Bernardine Dias and Yonina Cooper will be co-teaching this course at Carnegie Mellon's Doha campus this spring. Undergraduate students will be engaged in discussions about the ways in which computing technology can be used to support sustainable development.

Understanding and Challenging the Images of Computing

Director of Women@SCS Carol Frieze will teach undergraduate students to ponder the public's understanding of computer science. Students will participate in discussions on how computer science is perceived and how those perceptions affect its understanding and participation.

Human-Computer Interaction in the Developing World

Assistant Professor Matt Kam will engage graduate students in the applications of HCI methods in developing world contexts such as education, agriculture, healthcare and microfinance.

Technology with a Global Heart



New Advisory Board Members

TechBridgeWorld is excited to announce our two new advisory board members, Ariadna Font-Llitjós and Dan Jenkins. Ariadna is a Carnegie Mellon Language Technologies Institute (LTI) Ph.D. alumna and former V-Unit participant. Her 2006 research led her to develop a Quechua-to-Spanish translation



system. She is now a Computational Linguist for Vivísimo in Pittsburgh. Dan is an Associate Director of Corporate Relations at Carnegie Mellon, where he facilitates strategic partnerships in research and high-technology development. Ariadna and Dan, welcome to the team!

Alumni Corner

Vinithra Varadharajan graduated with a Masters in 2007 from the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. Along with fellow graduate student Ling Xu, she initiated DeSIGN, a V-Unit project to develop educational software for deaf students to reinforce their English vocabulary and American Sign Language skills through a fun and interactive game. She also took TechBridgeWorld's class on Technology for Developing Communities, which she told us was one of the most interesting classes of her educational career. "I owe it to TechBridgeWorld for introducing me to the field of technology for social development and I would like to make it part of my career soon," says Vinithra. She has started off on the right foot by running the 2008 Chicago Marathon, raising money for charities Asha for Education and the Association for India's Development.



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

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