

TECHBRIDGEWORLD NEWSLETTER

Fall '09



www.TechBridgeWorld.org

Celebrating 5 Years of TBW!

"Our fifth year anniversary is a significant milestone for the TechBridgeWorld team. We are incredibly proud of how much we have learned and accomplished since we began this ambitious endeavor. Our journey over the past five years has certainly been informative, has often been challenging, and has always been exciting. We remain firmly committed to our guiding principles of respect and empowerment, always working with local partners and staunchly dedicated to empowering both consumers and creators of technology in underserved communities. We have many ideas for expanding our projects and the impact we make in the world in future years."

-- Dr. M. Bernardine Dias, Founder and Director, TechBridgeWorld



Please help TechBridgeWorld continue and grow by making a donation today to support our exciting work! As you review your year-end charitable donations and your taxes, consider donating to TechBridgeWorld at Carnegie Mellon University. Your donation is tax-deductible and it puts your money to work by helping people use technology

to improve their lives. Not only will 100% of your donation go directly to benefit TechBridgeWorld, it will also count towards Inspire Innovation! The Campaign for Carnegie Mellon University. Details for how to contribute to TechBridgeWorld are available at www.techbridgeworld.org/donate or contact Project Manager Sarah Belousov at sarahtbw@ri.cmu.edu with any specific questions.

Meeting with President Cohon

In September, TechBridgeWorld faculty, staff, and iSTEP 2009 participants Rotimi Abimbola, Hatem Alismail, Beatrice Dias, Bradley Hall, and Anthony Velázquez presented their summer's work to Carnegie Mellon President Jared Cohon. In addition to their presentation and discussion with Dr. Cohon, the team demonstrated the technology they developed for the Braille Writing Tutor and Literacy Tools projects.



Interactive Highlights Students



TechBridgeWorld Interactive marked the beginning of the year-long celebration of our fifth year anniversary as a research group. We have dedicated our fifth year anniversary celebration to the many partners, sponsors, students, alumni, advisors, faculty, staff, volunteers, supporters, and Carnegie Mellon colleagues who have committed their time and energy to making the work of TechBridgeWorld possible.

On October 29th, around 300 students, staff, faculty, and other guests gathered in the Newell-Simon Hall Atrium to learn about our students' experiences.



The exhibits around the Atrium featured work done by TechBridgeWorld students over the past year. Highlighted projects included Education e-Village, Assistive Technology, and the iSTEP program with information on both last year's internship in Tanzania and next year's planned internship trip to Bangladesh.

TechBridgeWorld would like to thank everyone who made our third annual Interactive event a success, especially our 35 student and staff volunteers! We would also like to thank our event sponsors: Google, Yahoo!, Carnegie Mellon Robotics Institute, Intel Corp., Carnegie Mellon School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon Division of Student Affairs, Vivisimo, Development Solutions Organization and Quiznos.



Did you attend Interactive? Visit www.techbridgeworld.org/Interactive2009 to leave a comment about your experience. Missed the event? View pictures from Interactive 2009 on the event website or on the TechBridgeWorld Facebook page at www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=27593261035&ref=ts.

iSTEP 2010: Bangladesh



TechBridgeWorld's iSTEP (innovative Student Technology ExPerience) summer internship program is partnering with the Asian University for Women (AUW) in Chittagong, Bangladesh to conduct the following technology research projects: (1) Creating and evaluating culturally-relevant educational technology and games for enhancing English literacy; and (2) Enhancing and evaluating a low-cost Braille Writing Tutor for visually-impaired students.

This summer, six Carnegie Mellon students will make their mark in Bangladesh! TechBridgeWorld would like to thank all of the students who applied to iSTEP this year. For more information on iSTEP 2010 and AUW, please visit www.techbridgeworld.org/istep.

The iSTEP 2010 mini course (15-302) is being offered in the Spring 2010 semester and is open to Carnegie Mellon students interested in learning more about ICTD field research. E-mail info@techbridgeworld.org for more information.

Gates-Hillman Center Opening



In September, TechBridgeWorld participated in the Gates-Hillman Center (GHC) grand opening. During the day of celebrations, TechBridgeWorld faculty, staff, and students met with Carnegie Mellon Computer Science Alum **Dr. Anoop Gupta** (Microsoft Corporation) and **Dr. Yumi Iwasaki** in the classroom they sponsored in the GHC. TechBridgeWorld also demonstrated the Braille Writing Tutor and Literacy Cell Phone Game to many distinguished visitors who toured the new center.

V-Unit Updates

Computer Science Ph.D. student **Jeehyung Lee** completed his V-Unit project this fall and presented his work on "Sketching 3D Faces." His project was advised by faculty member **Adrien Treuille**. Student **Ben Towne** will present his V-Unit project work next semester.

The V-Unit program is open to proposals for new student projects. Please e-mail V-Unit faculty coordinators **Manuela Veloso** and **M. Bernardine Dias** if you are a Carnegie Mellon student interested in proposing a V-Unit project. Details on past V-Unit projects are available at www.cs.cmu.edu/~vunit.

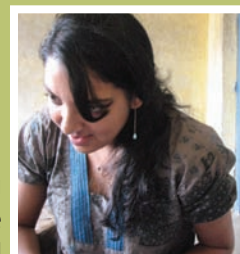
New Addition to Executive Board



TechBridgeWorld is delighted to announce that **Dr. Yonina Cooper** joined the TechBridgeWorld team in October as our Associate Director. Dr. Cooper is an Associate Teaching Professor in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar and has been involved with TechBridgeWorld as a co-teacher for the Technology and Global Development course taught in Qatar. We look forward to collaborating more with Dr. Cooper!

Alumni Corner

Shabnam Aggarwal graduated from Carnegie Mellon's Electrical and Computer Engineering program in 2007. While an undergraduate, Shabnam sought to apply her skills to develop unique and impacting technologies for the base of the world economic pyramid. Her initial experience with the developing world began with TechBridgeWorld's Technology and Global Development (TGD) course her senior year. There, Shabnam learned about microfinance, which triggered her passion for the field and her interest in making it sustainable using technology.



After TGD, Shabnam completed a one month internship with Microsoft Research India's (MSRI) Technology for Emerging Markets (TEM) team in Bangalore. She designed, proposed, and tested a comprehensive solution to the "paper trail" challenge that Ujjivan, a microfinance institution, faced in its daily loaning process. The solution involved loan officers entering data directly to a SmartPhone and sending it to the master database for immediate approval of loan applicants. The solution was well received by Ujjivan and MSRI.

Shabnam is currently living in Hyderabad, India working with MILLEE (Mobile & Immersive Learning for Literacy in Emerging Economies) – the brainchild of Carnegie Mellon Human Computer Interaction faculty **Matthew Kam**. She is helping to conduct a long term pilot in India and build MILLEE into a sustainable social enterprise in India and eventually to other countries.

Thank you for your continued interest in TechBridgeWorld projects!

If you would like to learn more about any of our activities or be added to one of our e-mail lists, please contact us.

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