

# TECHBRIDGEWORLD NEWSLETTER



www.TechBridgeWorld.org *Summer '09*

## iSTEP 2009 is a Success!

The inaugural year of TechBridgeWorld's iSTEP internship program is complete! The interdisciplinary and globally distributed team found the internship to be a unique experience filled with important lessons. For TechBridgeWorld, this summer's



successes furthered our mission of bridging technology divides as well as provided valuable insight for future iSTEP internships.

With our partner, the University Computing Centre (UCC) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the team of interns worked closely with three communities to conduct needs assessment and developed the following technology solutions: (1) Information exchange protocol for para-social workers to report and receive information about AIDS orphans and vulnerable children



via SMS on mobile phones; (2) Culturally-relevant educational technology game for enhancing English literacy; (3) Swahili-functional Braille Writing Tutor for visually-impaired students.

Near the end of the internship, the team delivered a final presentation to the UCC, demonstrated the solutions to the communities, and discussed project sustainability. TechBridgeWorld is currently discussing further field-testing with the UCC.



The iSTEP 2009 and TechBridgeWorld teams are thankful to the many people who made the inaugural year of our iSTEP internship a success! To read the iSTEP 2009 final report, visit [www.ri.cmu.edu/publication\\_view.html?pub\\_id=6422](http://www.ri.cmu.edu/publication_view.html?pub_id=6422).



We are now recruiting for iSTEP 2010 in Bangladesh! We are delighted to announce that our partner will be the Asian University for Women. For more information, visit [www.TechBridgeWorld.org/istep](http://www.TechBridgeWorld.org/istep).

## Save The Date! Interactive 2009

Thursday, October 29 | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Newell-Simon Hall Atrium

The event's theme this year will highlight student experiences. We will focus on work done by TechBridgeWorld students over the past year, including the iSTEP internship. The Interactive will also be a celebration of TechBridgeWorld's 5th year anniversary!

Visit [www.TechBridgeWorld.org/Interactive2009](http://www.TechBridgeWorld.org/Interactive2009) for more information.

September

October

29

## Upcoming Student Work

Three Carnegie Mellon students — **Kaleem Rahman**, **Saurabh Sanghvi**, and **Aysha Siddique** — are working with TechBridgeWorld Founder and Director M. Bernardine Dias on their senior projects. Kaleem and Saurabh will work on TechBridgeWorld's Education e-Village project, while Aysha will expand our literacy tools for older students and adults.

## Carnegie Mellon & The G-20

THE PITTSBURGH  
SUMMIT 2009



Carnegie Mellon University has been involved in welcoming the G-20 to Pittsburgh. TechBridgeWorld is featured in Carnegie Mellon's G-20 website under Global

Technology and **M. Bernardine Dias** is listed as a Global Technology expert. An iTunes podcast highlighting iSTEP 2009 participants **Beatrice Dias** and **Anthony Velázquez's** experiences are also featured on the website. For more, visit: [www.cmu.edu/g20/](http://www.cmu.edu/g20/).

## Changes to the TBW Team

TechBridgeWorld is delighted to announce additions to our Executive Board and Advisory Board: **Beatrice Dias** joined the Executive Board as a Student Representative and **Rahul Tongia** joined our Advisory Board.



Beatrice participated in the inaugural iSTEP internship as the Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, and will be evaluating other TechBridgeWorld projects as part of her Ph.D. research. While at Carnegie Mellon, Rahul has been involved with TechBridgeWorld as Associate Director, taught TechBridgeWorld courses, and was the program committee co-chair of the ICTD2009 conference last April. We are excited to welcome Beatrice and Rahul to their new roles in our team!

## Conference Participation

TechBridgeWorld faculty and staff will present at two conferences and a workshop this fall.

- The Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing; Tucson, Arizona; Sept. 30 - Oct. 3.
- The Technology and Disability in the Developing World Research and Practice Workshop; Seattle, Washington; Oct. 2.
- The 2009 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems; St. Louis, Missouri; Oct. 11 - 15.

## V-Unit Update

This summer and past spring, three students completed their projects as part of the V-Unit program:

**Jaime Arguello** completed his project this summer, entitled "Helping non-English-Speaking Refugees Learn Job-related Vocabulary Using REAP."

Two V-Unit projects were launched this past spring: **Jeehyung Lee's** "Sketching 3D Faces" and **Jae Dong Kim's** "Message Distribution System for Karen Refugees."

Jaime and Jeehyung will present their work this fall. Jae presented his completed work this past spring.

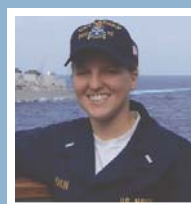
For more information on their projects and how to participate with the V-Unit, please visit [www.cs.cmu.edu/~vunit](http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~vunit).

## Upcoming Events

- Field Robotics Center Seminar: "ICTD Field Research Experience in Tanzania (iSTEP 2009)"; Sept. 17.
- iSTEP 2010 @ Office of International Education's Study Abroad Fair; Oct. 8.
- iSTEP 2010 @ Office of International Education's Seeking Employment Opportunities Abroad; Oct. 14.
- TechBridgeWorld Interactive; Oct. 29.
- Automated Tutor Workshop; Nov. 5.

For more information, visit [www.TechBridgeWorld.org/seminars](http://www.TechBridgeWorld.org/seminars).

## Alumni Corner



**Kristina Rohlin** graduated with a master's degree from the Robotics Institute in 2007. As a student in the Technology for Developing Communities course, she said, "I was inspired not only by the technologies, but by the way in which technology could be introduced into a

community, giving local leaders ownership of new methods and creating self-sustaining community solutions." As part of the course, she developed a ticket reservation system for illiterate passengers on Indian Railways.

Following this and other class projects she noted, "My eyes were opened to a completely new field for technology that I never before knew existed, and one that I hope to pursue in the future". Kristina believes that TechBridgeWorld laid the foundation for understanding how the introduction of even the simplest technologies could transform a developing community.

Recently, Kristina led a community project at an orphanage in Dili, Timor Leste to gain a sense of some of the everyday local struggles, providing a first step toward pursuing her personal interests in the field.

Today, Kristina is a career naval officer and is working as a Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer, preparing to operate a nuclear reactor aboard a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier.

### 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.

[www.TechBridgeWorld.org](http://www.TechBridgeWorld.org)

+1 412.268.1289 | [info@techbridgeworld.org](mailto:info@techbridgeworld.org)