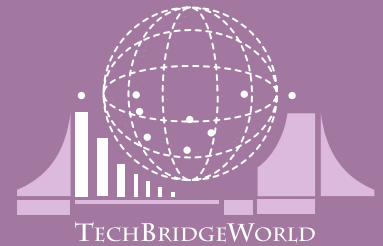


# TECHBRIDGEWORLD NEWSLETTER

Winter '09



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

## Yahoo! Sponsors E-Village

TechBridgeWorld is excited to announce our first corporate sponsorship from Yahoo! Research. This "Technology for Good" funding will be used to support the development of our Education e-Village online community. E-Village provides a variety of resources including course materials and discussion forums for technology educators teaching at the tertiary level in developing communities.



**Saurabh Sanghvi**, a junior in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and **Beatrice Dias**, a doctoral candidate in Engineering and Public Policy, are

currently leading efforts on this work. They have both been involved in past TechBridgeWorld efforts and we are excited to have them on the E-Village team!

Thank you Yahoo! Research for your generous support!



## New Marketing Intern

TechBridgeWorld has just hired **Lavanya Shaji**, a graduate student at Heinz College, as our new marketing intern. Lavanya will assist us in marketing and fundraising efforts and help us to enhance our overall marketing strategy. She will be advised by TechBridgeWorld Advisory Board Member Ed Barr. Welcome, Lavanya!

## ICTD 2009 Conference Update

Registration is now open for the IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development. TechBridgeWorld's paper on Project Kané was accepted for oral presentation and our proposal to demonstrate the Braille Tutor was also accepted. Please visit [www.ictd2009.org](http://www.ictd2009.org) for more information about the conference and to register.

## iSTEP Students Selected

Eight students have been selected to participate in our new iSTEP internship program. iSTEP is made possible through a collaboration between TechBridgeWorld, the Student Affairs team at Carnegie Mellon-Qatar, and the Department of Engineering and Public Policy. This summer, the multi-disciplinary iSTEP team will work on three projects with the University Computing Centre (UCC) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The UCC focuses on ICT services that benefit the University of Dar es Salaam, the Tanzanian community, and the world as a whole. Thank you to all 49 students who applied to the iSTEP program in its inaugural year!



### **Rotimi Abimbola**

Political Science & International Relations, Junior, Carnegie Mellon-Pittsburgh

### **Hatem Alismail**

Computer Science, Senior, Carnegie Mellon-Qatar

### **Emily Clise**

Political Science & International Relations, Senior, Carnegie Mellon-Pittsburgh

### **Beatrice Dias**

Engineering and Public Policy, Ph.D. Student, Carnegie Mellon-Pittsburgh

### **Bradley Hall**

Mechanical Engineering, Senior, Carnegie Mellon-Pittsburgh

### **Shakir Hussain**

Computer Science, Junior, Carnegie Mellon-Qatar

### **Daniel Nuffer**

Computer Science, Senior, Carnegie Mellon-Pittsburgh

### **Anthony Velázquez**

Computer Science, Junior, Carnegie Mellon-Pittsburgh

## IFYRE Update

Three students are working with TechBridgeWorld as part of the Intel First Year Research Experience (IFYRE) grant program. **Peng Li** has completed his research project to enhance our automated Braille Writing Tutor to provide tutoring and exercises for writing Chinese Braille, and an educational game that can be played on the tutor. Chinese braille is more complicated than many other languages because it requires three braille cells to write a single character. **Amal El-Ghazaly** is continuing to convert Braille Tutor exercises and games to both French and Arabic Braille. **Wennie Tabib** is continuing to work on technology tools to support the education of deaf children .

*The experiences I gained by participating in IFYRE with TechBridgeWorld cannot be obtained in normal classrooms. Professor Dias is a great mentor in introducing me to rigorous research environment. With her help, I was able to solve some abstract problems and learned to communicate effectively to gain valuable information. Most importantly, I met new people who are very passionate about using technology to make the world better for those who are less fortunate. This is an experience I will forever remember.*

-Peng Li

## Welcome, New Qatar Staff!

**Imran Fanaswala**, **Ameer Abdulsalam**, and **Wael Ghazzawi** are newly hired research staff working with TechBridgeWorld director M. Bernardine Dias at Carnegie Mellon in Doha, Qatar. Together, they are working on several projects including the Assistive Technology project funded by the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) National Priorities Research Program (NPRP).

## The Blog Has Launched!

How does Technology have a Global Heart? Find out by reading the stories in our new blog, written by people who have experienced firsthand how technology can positively impact developing communities around the globe.

[www.techbridgeworld.wordpress.com](http://www.techbridgeworld.wordpress.com)

## New Promotion

Congratulations to **Sarah Belousov** for her promotion to TechBridgeWorld Project Manager! We would like to thank Sarah for a job well done as our Project Assistant, and we are confident that she will excel in her new responsibilities and take TechBridgeWorld to new heights.



## Alumni Corner



**Shashank Nigam** took the Technology and Global Development course at Carnegie Mellon University in the fall of 2006. As an exchange student from Singapore, he intended to try something “different”, and this course exceeded all

expectations. Originally from India, Shashank was always keen in entrepreneurship, but this course awakened him to social enterprise. He has since met Dr. Mohammad Yunus four times, interned in Mumbai, India at PlanetRead, a rural literacy organization he learned of during the course, and started his own social enterprise called A Developed World.

A Developed World is an action-oriented social publication that uncovers the stories behind the work of social entrepreneurs and visionary leaders who are changing lives around the world. Readers learn how innovative solutions are employed to effectively tackle the challenging social issues faced by developing communities today and find out how they too can take action to change our world. The organization is comprised of five core team members based in Boston, Singapore, Toronto, and Mexico City. Shashank now concentrates on this project full time.

Shashank believes that “the [Technology and Global Development] course was the tipping point in making [him] explore social entrepreneurship seriously, which eventually led to the creation of A Developed World.” You can check out the publication at [www.adevelopedworld.com](http://www.adevelopedworld.com).

## 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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