

# TECHBRIDGEWORLD NEWSLETTER



## Winter '10

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

## Students Prepare for iSTEP 2010



We are excited to announce the six Carnegie Mellon students who have been selected to participate in the second year of our iSTEP (innovative Student Technology ExPerience) summer internship program. Thanks to all of the students who applied for iSTEP 2010!



**Jennifer Horwitz**  
Master's Student, Public Policy and Management,  
Carnegie Mellon - Pittsburgh  
Needs Assessment Lead based in Chittagong



**Brian Manalastas**  
Junior, Business Administration,  
Carnegie Mellon - Doha  
Documentation Lead based in Chittagong



**Jonathan Muller**  
Master's Student, Information Systems Management,  
Carnegie Mellon - Pittsburgh  
Technical Floater based in Pittsburgh



**Kaleem Rahman**  
Senior, Computer Science,  
Carnegie Mellon - Doha  
Technical Lead for Braille Tutor project based in Chittagong



**Aysha Siddique**  
Senior, Computer Science and Information Systems,  
Carnegie Mellon - Doha  
Technical Lead for Literacy Tools project based in Chittagong



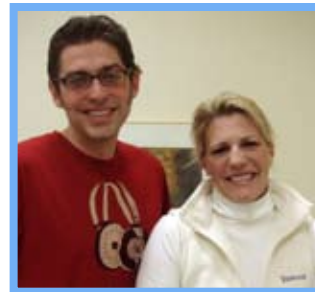
**Anthony Velázquez**  
Senior, Computer Science,  
Carnegie Mellon - Pittsburgh  
Technical Floater based in Chittagong

The iSTEP 2010 interns, along with other Carnegie Mellon students from the Pittsburgh and Doha campuses, recently completed the iSTEP mini course. The students learned about iSTEP 2010 projects and partners (Asian University for Women and Young Power in Social Action), the community of Chittagong in Bangladesh, and technology field research in developing communities. The outcomes of the mini course will be utilized in Bangladesh this summer through the iSTEP internship. The interns will continue their preparation for this summer's work through independent studies with TechBridgeWorld Founder and Director, **M. Bernardine Dias**, and through additional preparation sessions with staff.

For more information on iSTEP and for updates during the spring preparations and summer internship, please check [www.techbridgeworld.org/istep](http://www.techbridgeworld.org/istep).

## Yahoo! Sponsors iSTEP 2010

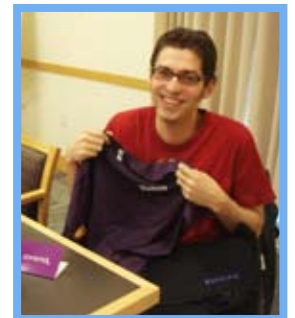
# YAHOO!



TechBridgeWorld is delighted to announce **Yahoo!** as a corporate sponsor for the iSTEP 2010 internship. Their sponsorship this year includes a fellowship opportunity, which funds the full program costs associated with one iSTEP 2010 participant. Yahoo! colleagues

selected **Jonathan Muller** as the Yahoo! iSTEP 2010 Fellow. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, Yahoo! representative **Beth Crow** (pictured with Jonathan) presented the award to Jonathan. The Yahoo! iSTEP Fellowship seeks to motivate students to think creatively about how they can use their technical skills, business knowledge and global awareness to solve social issues around the world. Jonathan is the team's Technical Floater based in Pittsburgh and was selected for his excellent and broad range of technology and business experience and education.

"We are very excited about the Yahoo! iSTEP 2010 Fellowship Award and we have no doubt that Jonathan will have a huge impact on the field of information and communication technologies for development (ICTD) and the world as a whole," says Jamie Lockwood, an Academic Relations Manager at Yahoo! Labs.



"The world is facing some very serious challenges right now. It is inspiring to see this incredibly capable group of students and faculty focusing their energy on working with developing countries to understand the real problems and finding potential solutions using information and communication technology. Yahoo! has international offices that are starting to focus more on understanding how to develop new technology, services, tools and content to support the needs of these developing regions. We are thrilled to partner with TechBridgeWorld and iSTEP on these efforts."

## Education e-Village Update

Education e-Village (E-Village) is a TechBridgeWorld project, which aims to create an online technology and development education community for instructors around the world. Students **Kaleem Rahman** and **Saurabh Sanghvi** have made considerable progress on E-Village as part of their senior projects. They are currently conducting a pre-pilot study which involves obtaining feedback from university-level instructors around the world on potential features for the final E-Village website.

If you would like to participate in E-Village studies or would like to recommend someone, please e-mail [info@techbridgeworld.org](mailto:info@techbridgeworld.org). For more information on E-Village, please visit [www.techbridgeworld.org/evillage](http://www.techbridgeworld.org/evillage).

## Welcome, Hend



We welcome **Hend Gedawy**, who joined our Assistive Technology project team in February. Her responsibilities include working on the Braille Writing Tutor and DeSIGN. Hend graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar's Computer Science program in 2009. She will be pursuing her master's degree in Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in 2010.

## Thank You and Farewell, Daniel

We express our sincere appreciation to **Daniel Freeman** who worked as TechBridgeWorld's Web Intern since his freshman year in 2007. Daniel was primarily involved with maintaining and updating the TechBridgeWorld website, the ICTD 2009 conference website, and the iSTEP program website. We wish Daniel the best of luck in his future endeavors!



TechBridgeWorld is looking to hire a new Web Intern. Please e-mail [info@techbridgeworld.org](mailto:info@techbridgeworld.org) for more details.

## V-Unit Update

**Ben Towne**, a Ph.D. student in Computation, Organizations, and Society, presented his work on "The Open Source Policy Project" in January. His project was advised by MIT faculty member **Mark Klein**. 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](http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~vunit).

## ICTD Conference Updates

The ICTD 2009 website ([www.ictd2009.org](http://www.ictd2009.org)) has been updated with conference proceedings, videos of the keynote speeches, and a selection of photos from the conference. ICTD 2010 will be hosted by **Royal Holloway College at the University of London** from December 13 - 16. The calls for Papers and Workshop Sessions are now open and the deadline for submissions is April 2nd. Please check the ICTD 2010 website ([www.ictd2010.org](http://www.ictd2010.org)) for more details.

## Alumni Corner



**Noura El-Moughny** graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar's Computer Science program in 2008. As an undergraduate, Noura sought to apply her computer science and problem solving skills to issues related to basic human needs, education, and illiteracy. Noura achieved this by participating in TechBridgeWorld's Braille Writing Tutor project. Her senior thesis, titled "Assistive Technology for Learning to Write Braille," won the School of Computer Science

Alumni Award for Undergraduate Excellence. For her thesis, Noura focused on the device's Arabic braille tutoring capability as well as the design of educational computer games for visually impaired children. "I found real passion and great interest while working on this project," reflects Noura. "The experience was rewarding to me in many ways."

Today, Noura works at ConocoPhillips as an Information Delivery Lead. As a female computer scientist living in Qatar, Noura believes that Qatari women have been encouraged by society to play a greater role in the workplace. "Today, we start to see women as doctors, engineers, computer scientists and corporate leaders. I believe that women will continue to play an important role in the future success of Qatar's economy." The opportunities and experiences Noura was given while an undergraduate at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar have prepared her to be involved in making Qatar a prosperous, developed and sustainable society. Noura is very proud to be playing a small role in Qatar's growth, both culturally and economically, and hopes to lead by example for other women in Qatar.

## 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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