

# Accessibility and Computing

A regular publication of the ACM Special Interest Group on Accessible Computing

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## A Note from the Editor

Dear SIGACCESS member:

Welcome to the first issue of the SIGACCESS Newsletter in 2010. This issue mainly reports the research work of the doctoral students who participated in the ASSETS 2009 Doctoral Consortium (Pittsburgh, PA). As always, the students are very enthusiastic about their experience at the DC. Some of their comments are included in p. 3 of this Newsletter. Finally, this issue includes two announcements: one for the ASSETS2010 Conference; the other for the second ACM SIGACCESS Award for Outstanding Contributions to Computing and Accessibility.

*Sri Kurniawan*

*Jinjuan Heidi Feng*

Newsletter editors



## SIGACCESS Officers and Information

### *Chairperson*

Andrew Sears  
Information Systems Dept.  
UMBC  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, MD 21250, USA.  
+1-410-455-3883  
chair\_SIGACCESS@acm.org

### *Vice-chairperson*

Enrico Pontelli  
Computer Science Dept.  
New Mexico State University  
Las Cruces, NM 88003, USA.  
vc\_SIGACCESS@acm.org

### *Secretary/Treasurer*

Shari Trewin  
IBM T. J. Watson Research Center  
19 Skyline Drive  
Hawthorne, NY 10532, USA.  
treasurer\_SIGACCESS@acm.org

### *Newsletter Editor*

Sri Kurniawan  
Dept. of Computer Engineering  
University of California Santa Cruz  
SOE-3, 1156 High Street  
Santa Cruz CA 95064, USA.  
+1 831-459-1037  
editors\_SIGACCESS@acm.org

Jinjuan Heidi Feng  
Computer and Information Sciences Dept.  
Towson University  
7800 York Road, Room 477  
Towson, MD 21252, USA.  
+1 410-704-3463

### *Who we are*

SIGACCESS is a special interest group of ACM. The SIGACCESS Newsletter is a regular online publication of SIGACCESS. We encourage a wide variety of contributions, such as: letters to the editor, technical papers, short reports, reviews of papers of products, abstracts, book reviews, conference reports and/or announcements, interesting web page URLs, local activity reports, etc. Actually, we solicit almost anything of interest to our readers.

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We encourage submissions as word-processor files, text files, or e-mail. Postscript or PDF files may be used if layout is important. Ask the editor if in doubt.

Finally, you may publish your work here before submitting it elsewhere. We are a very informal forum for sharing ideas with others who have common interests.

Anyone interested in editing a special issue on an appropriate topic should contact the editor.

## ASSETS 2009 Doctoral Consortium

On Sunday, October 25, 2009 eleven Ph.D. students gave presentations of their research projects to each other and to a panel of distinguished researchers including Chieko Asakawa (IBM Tokyo Research Lab), Krzysztof Gajos (Harvard University), Henry Kautz (University of Rochester), and Richard Simpson (University of Pittsburgh), and Richard Ladner (University of Rochester). The panelists gave feedback to the students on their projects. The students also attended the ASSETS conference for the next three day and presented posters on their projects at a poster session.

Some comments from participants included:

"It gave me a lot of confidence on my work. I had some very good feedback on certain implementation issues I had overlooked. The poster session during the main conference was also extremely helpful as there were some very good questions and feedback there as well."

"The feedback that I received from the Doctoral Consortium was positive and the criticism was constructive. Panelists' comments were encouraging in that they confirmed that I am on the right track. I also received a number of valuable suggestions on how to evaluate my work so it amounts to a good research contribution. I am very grateful for the opportunity!"

"I really appreciate the feedback, comments and critique from the faculty and other students at the Doctoral Consortium. They gave me a more clear vision of my research and helped me to refine a focus for my dissertation. Also, attending the conference gave me an invaluable opportunity to know more about assistive technology for people with disabilities and to make connections with other researchers working in the field."

"It was very helpful to receive the feedback that the panelists provided. Their concerns put things in perspective and reminded me of the important components of the research. Also, being exposed to my colleagues' similar research was very inspiring and I was happy to meet them and talk about their approach to research in an informal setting too."

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