



Anita Borg Institute
for Women and Technology

Newsletter

August 2009

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Everyone at ABI is counting the days to the upcoming 2009 Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computer (GHC). In this month's newsletter Jo Miller writes about Influencing without Authority, a preview to her Wednesday workshop at GHC. Speaking of Wednesday, we've got a whole article about all the activities that will be taking place on Wednesday September 30th at GHC, it's a day not to be missed.

GHC's theme is Creating Technology for Social Good. In this month's newsletter we are featuring several organizations and individuals who are working for Social Good. The past month's Fast Company blogs have highlighted a number of non profits that are focusing on improving the Social Good in Computing such as [Latinas in Computing](#), [Leadership America](#), [The Empowering Leadership Alliance](#) and [The Richard Tapia Conference](#). Read Caroline Simard's blog on [Technology for Social Impact](#). Be sure to check them out.

We are also featuring two stories from past GHC winners who talk about how the event has changed their lives. We encourage all of you to [register today for GHC](#) and take advantage of our early bird pricing which ends August 31st. Our GHC Hotel, the JW Marriott Starr Pass Hotel is fully booked so we've opened a second hotel and added it to our free shuttle route. Be sure to make your [hotel reservations](#) done today.

Sincerely,

The ABI Staff

Ask Jo: How can I influence things at work without authority?

GHC EARLY BIRD PRICING DEADLINE August 11th

The deadline for GHC Early Bird Pricing is August 31st. [Register today!](#)

Women's Initiative for Self



Every month on our site, Jo Miller, CEO of Women's Leadership Coaching Inc., answers your career and leadership questions.

Question: I am in the difficult situation of being unofficial project lead, responsible for team performance to schedule and budget. How can I influence and motivate the team to get the job done, when I do not have a job title that commands their respect?

[See Jo's Answer](#)

Jo Miller is CEO of Women's Leadership Coaching Inc. which offers women's leadership seminars and coaching programs.

To read more of her career advice, visit the [Ask Jo archives](#).

Jo Miller will be featured at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing on Wednesday September 30th in Tucson, AZ. Be sure to arrive early to learn how you can become a person of influence.

Collocating Your Family with Conferences

By Fusun Yaman, BBN Technologies

When I was a graduate student I enjoyed attending conferences. I would even accompany my husband whenever he attended a conference. Things changed after our daughter was born. In 2007, I published papers in IJCAI, AAAI and UAI, three major conferences in artificial intelligence. However, as a nursing mother it was not possible for me to attend any of those conferences so my co-authors ended up presenting the work. I kind of accepted this situation as my new life until I attended the Grace Hopper Conference (GHC) in 2008 with the encouragement of Professor Marie desJardins. Needless to say it was one of the most inspiring experiences I had.

Surrounded with a thousand smart and energetic women in computing, I noticed that I was not alone after all. There were many mothers who came with their kids and were using the free on-site childcare service offered by GHC. I was so impressed by this service; I mentioned it to every colleague upon my return. Generally the response I

Employment Women-Owned Business of the Year

In order to promote women's entrepreneurship and make people aware of the incredible contributions women business leaders are making to their communities, Women's Initiative for Self Employment has announced the first annual Women-Owned Business Awards.

The organization is accepting nominations through August 28 for women-owned business that:

Have been successful despite the barriers that exist for women business owners.

- Exemplify how business ownership and leadership is beneficial for women.
- Have a positive impact on the local community or the community at large.
- Advance their field through innovation.

Winners will be announced at the San Francisco Business Times Women-Owned Business Event on September 10. For more information and to nominate a business, go to www.WomensInitiative.org.

Women's Initiative for Self Employment is a Bay Area nonprofit which empowers low-income women to start their own businesses and become financially self-sufficient.

Weizmann Institute's Women in Science Speaker Series to honor high tech entrepreneur Judy Estrin

The Bay Area region of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science (ACWIS) will be honoring networking technology pioneer and Silicon Valley leader Judy Estrin on September 3, 2009. This event is the third luncheon in the Weizmann Women in Science Speaker Series. The Weizmann Women in Science Speaker Series is aimed at highlighting the Bay Area's top women in research, biotechnology, high technology and healthcare. The luncheon honoring Ms. Estrin, as the top women in high tech, is being held at the Rosewood Sand Hill Hotel in Menlo Park. [View the invitation and register today.](#)

[Continued...](#)

Telle Whitney Wins Marie R. Pistilli Women in Electronic Design Automation Achievement Award

got was similar to "In a conference targeted for women, it makes sense to offer child-care services". Even though this was my first reaction too, I have come to realize that it is not exactly true. Women may be minority in computing but surely fathers are not. Dads in our generation are as involved with their kids as moms. For instance, a very good friend of mine, who is deeply devoted to his work, told me after his first separation from his six month-old baby, "Now I know why you want to cut short your attendance to out-of-town meetings." Childcare is not just an issue for women anymore, it is an issue for families. Sadly, the need for childcare has been neglected almost by all of the major technical conferences.

This year I left my three-year-old behind and attended IJCAI 09 which was held at Pasadena, CA. Days before I left for my week-long trip, I have decided to use this opportunity to bring the childcare issue to the conference organizers' attention. With the help of my colleague Karen Haigh, who was the chair of IAAI 09, we met the organizers Carol Hamilton and Keri Harvey who not only welcomed the idea but also, to my surprise, told us that AAAI offered childcare for attendees about ten years ago but eventually stopped due to low demand. They agreed to let me distribute a short questionnaire to the attendees so that we could collect some data on the demand for childcare service. Despite the low participation (which might be considered normal for a last minute attempt), the responses were encouraging. Out of 45 people who responded 41 of them said they might be interested in using on-site childcare services if offered and one third of them said in the past they were not able to attend at least one conference because of childcare issues. The next step is to reach higher number of people (possibly via online survey) to confirm these results and finally present the data to organizers to convince them that offering on-site childcare may increase the attendance to the conferences.

There are also challenges to be addressed on providing on-site-childcare. The most important one is the quality of the service. I would not leave my daughter to any daycare just because it is conveniently close. Secondly, the service should be affordable. As it happens, most of the participants of the questionnaire noted they might be interested in using on-site-childcare depending on the quality and the cost of the service. Finally how do we maintain the security and safety of children during a conference open to hundreds of people?

For the past three years GHC's free on-site childcare has shown that the challenges can in fact be overcome and it is not so hard to have your family close when you need to travel. I am grateful for their leadership and inspiration on this issue.

Free Childcare is offered at GHC this year

ABI would like to congratulate its CEO Dr. Telle Whitney for receiving the Marie R. Pistilli Women in Electronic Design Automation (EDA) Achievement Award this past month. The award was given to Telle in celebration for her achievement as a role model for technical women and her work in the advancement of women in technology. Over 20 years of experience in the telecommunication and semiconductor industry and her never ending determination to promote women in the field serve made her the perfect recipient for this award.

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LOCKHEED MARTIN

and is sponsored by NetApp. The deadline to [register for Childcare](#) is September 2nd.

All New Wednesday at GHC

To truly get the most out of the Grace Hopper Celebration it's important you come to all four days. Just in case you had any doubts about attending on Wednesday, September 30th, here are five reasons you might want to think again.

1. Don't forget to begin your day by choosing to attend PhD Forums 1&2 or New Investigators 1&2. Here are just a few of the topics featured - Augmenting Autobiographical Memory, Tugging at the Seams: Understanding the Fabric of Social Sites, and Enterprise Social Networking: History, Current Practices, and Research Challenges.

2. Are you an undergraduate, graduate student, or an early career researcher? Is so you will not want to miss session one of the [CRA-W Career Mentoring Workshops](#). Each session is geared to a specific topic that students or researchers struggle with. For example, session one for grad students will discuss Graduate School Survival Skills. You're sure to walk away having interacted with role models who will answer all your questions and calm all your worries.

3. As a reader of our newsletter you're familiar with Jo Miller and her Ask Jo Column! Wednesday is when we're having Jo's workshop "[How to be a Person of Influence](#)". It will include a panel discussion featuring Real Women of Influence who will share how they became influential. Panelists include:

Nina Bhatti, Principal Scientist, HP Labs
Debra Danielson, Sr. Vice President, CA
Ann Gates, Associate Vice President of Research, University of Texas at El Paso
Wei Lin, Sr. Director of Engineering, Symantec
Rebecca Norlander, Partner Engineering Manager, Microsoft

How to be a Person of Influence Workshop is sponsored by Cisco.

4. The Resume Clinic is Wednesday afternoon from 2-5 p.m. Take up this opportunity to have your resume reviewed by industry professionals. Sign up for a slot when you register for the conference. And don't forget to submit your resume before the conference to our Resume Database. Sponsors have already started reviewing resumes and setting up interviews so [submit your resume](#) today. The Resume Clinic is sponsored by Thomson Reuters.

5. If this is your first time at GHC or if you are a scholarship recipient, you do not want to miss Wednesday evening. There will be a meeting for First-Time GHC Attendees & Scholarship

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Your privacy is important to the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology. If you have any questions or concerns please review ABI's

[Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

Sincerely,

Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology

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Recipients. After that the Opening Reception & SRC Poster Competition and General Poster Session will begin. This year we have a record number of posters sessions, close to 100. You are sure to find a poster topic that relates to your field of study or research. The Poster Session is sponsored by Symantec

For more detailed information regarding Wednesday's schedule, please refer to the [Program](#).

Remember to [Register for GHC](#) today. Early Bird Pricing ends August 31st.

Why I'm Glad I Attended GHC

By Ivy Deliz, Columbia University

We've been asking past GHC attendees to send us their stories for our newsletter. If you'd like to share your story please [email it to us today!](#)

It was my first Grace Hopper Conference and in one of the sessions I attended was:

BEYOND CLASSES AND TEXTBOOKS: A GUIDE FOR STARTING GRAD SCHOOL RESEARCH & CHOOSING YOUR BUILDING BRICKS: HOW TO FIND YOUR RESEARCH DIRECTION

Presenters: Kristin Yvonne Rozier (NASA Langley Research Center), Kristen R. Walcott (University of Virginia), Katie Panciera (University of Minnesota)

I attended the conference because there was a representative from NASA and my dream has always been to work there and also the topic was of great importance to me being an MS student at Columbia University. During this session I met Kristin Yvonne Rozier and she talked to me about her career path about her doing her Ph.D. at the same time as working at NASA and it made me realize I wanted to do that!! She inspired me to apply for different internships and we've been talking ever since. I start next monday my first internship at NASA Ames where Kristin Yvonne Rozier currently works. Thanks to GHC I realized and formalized my dreams and hopefully this will be the start of my dream career at NASA.

THANK YOU GRACE HOPPER CONFERENCE :)

Can't wait for Tucson!!!!

Ivonne Deliz
MS Columbia University 2010
Computer Science, Machine Learning

Let's Do Lunch

When you register for the Grace Hopper Celebration, make sure to sign up for our lunches. These lunches are the perfect place to network with your peers in a friendly setting. Here is a list of the lunches taking place this year at GHC. Make sure to RSVP at the time you register for the conference and sign up for one on each day!

Thursday, October 1st 12:15-1:30

- ResearchHers Lunch
- Women of Color Lunch - Hosted by Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing and sponsored by Amazon.
- LGBT Lunch
- Technical Executive Forum Lunch - Sponsored by Symantec

Friday, October 2nd 12:30-1:30

- Latinas in Computing Lunch - Sponsored by Lockheed MartinFaculty Lunch
- GHC Scholarship Reunion Lunch - Sponsored by Lockheed Martin
- Fran Allen Career Mentoring Award Lunch
- ACM Lunch
- Systers Lunch

Doing It Right

Silicon Valley: Nov 2-7, 2009

Doing it right is an unparalleled resource for success - a transformative program designed by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs who want to become dominant players in their sectors. The format? A comprehensive six-day workshop, two-month program of personalized coaching from premier experts and the opportunity to start benefiting from the global ecosystem of angels, VCs, corporations, and entrepreneurs that is Astia. Who should apply? Exceptional women-led high growth startups who know that success is not just about raising money but about growing a business and thriving even in today's market.

Past presenting companies have achieved unprecedented results. Want the proof? Just look at the numbers:

- Over a half billion dollars raised
- Funding success rate exceeding 60%
- 2 exits to date, 2 IPOs

Key Dates:

- Application Deadline: September 10, 2009
- In-Person Screening: October 1, 2009
- Doing it Right Silicon Valley: November 2-

7

- San Francisco Investor Forum: January 14, 2009

Apply today if you have a high growth investment opportunity, an exceptional team and business strategy, a significant market opportunity, a defensible competitive advantage and at least one woman in a leadership role (at C-level) or in significant position of equity and influence.

[Visit Astia and complete your application before September 10th.](#)