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SIGCSE News in Brief

We wish a successful and joyful 2017 to all of the SIGCSE community! In this issue, we examine the growth of SIGCSE internationally, focusing on the new SIGCSE chapter in China. We also get to share details of the recipients of this year’s SIGCSE Special Project Grants!

We also review last year’s ITiCSE and preview our next three main conferences (some of which might require some significant travel planning): SIGCSE Symposium, ITiCSE and ICER. Two of the conferences will be in Seattle/Tacoma this year (SIGCSE/ICER) and ITiCSE will be in Italy. We encourage you to submit to those with remaining deadlines and to begin your travel plans to attend.

For the member spotlight we interview the former SIGCSE Board Member and Associate Professor of Computing at Eastern Institute of Technology in Auckland, New Zealand, Alison Clear.

Lastly, we highlight the upcoming conferences on broadening participation and provide information on resources to broaden participation at your institution.

Newsletter Credits

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- Photo credits: Michael Goldweber, Susan Rodgers
New SIGCSE Chapter - China
By Susan Rodger

The SIGCSE Board is pleased to announce a fourth SIGCSE Chapter. The China ACM SIGCSE Chapter was approved in late 2016. Ming Zhang of Peking University is the current Chair of the chapter. On November 12, 2016, an Inauguration Ceremony was held along with an Academic Symposium of the China ACM SIGCSE Chapter at Linyi University. Over sixty members attended the ceremony. This group was already quite active before becoming a chapter. In March last year Ming organized a pre-workshop on March 9, the day before SIGCSE 2016 in Memphis, Tennessee, on Computing Principles and Computation in the First Course with Exemplars from China.

Steve Edwards, Susan Rodgers, Dan Garcia, and Ming Zhang at the summit. Photo by Susan Rodger.

Another event that I was fortunate to attend was the 2016 Beijing Summit on Computer Education Research, held on July 23, 2016 in Beijing at Peking University. The summit had six invited speakers. I spoke about SIGCSE with its passionate educators and the teaching and research of computer science education, Stephen Edwards from Virginia Tech spoke about automatic assessment of programs, Dan Garcia from University of California, Berkeley spoke about the beauty and joy of computing, Ren Youqun from East China spoke about thoughts on high school IT curriculum reform, Li Wexin from Peking University spoke about smart education platforms for computer programming and Chen Yue from Zhejiang University spoke about the current status and future directions of Chinese programmers. All six of us were also on a panel which talked about Computing Education Research in the Future.

There will be an ACM Turing 50th Celebration Conference in Shanghai, China on May 12-14, 2017. Keynote speakers include Vinton Cerf from Google, John Hopcroft from Cornell University, Andrew Yao from Tsinghua University, and Wen Gao from Peking University. At that conference there will be a special track for SIGCSE China. Their paper submission deadline is January 30, 2017.

To find out more about the China SIGCSE Chapter and some of these events I have just mentioned, you can check out their website here:

http://china.acm.org/SIGCSE/templates/

The other three SIGCSE Chapters are Australasian, Bilkent, and India. Consider starting a SIGCSE Chapter at your location!

SIGCSE Chapters
Map by www.zeemaps.com
SIGCSE Symposium 2017 Preview
By Stephen H. Edwards and Michael E. Caspersen, SIGCSE 2017 Symposium Co-Chairs

We invite everyone to join us in Seattle, Washington, for the 48th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education, March 8-11, 2017. The Symposium will address problems common among educators working to develop, implement and/or evaluate computing programs, curricula, and courses. It provides a forum for sharing new ideas for syllabi, laboratories, and other elements of teaching and pedagogy, at all levels of instruction.

The conference theme for SIGCSE 2017—Inspire, Innovate, Improve!—highlights the aim of SIGCSE to inspire all computing educators to innovate new teaching strategies, and to improve those strategies by engaging in the self-reflection and evaluation necessary to deliver the best possible learning outcomes for all. We strongly desire to keep our community connected with new educational efforts in upper level courses, open-source software, outreach, and education research. We are continuing to increase our commitment to providing a wide variety of submissions in the program, from experience reports to scientifically rigorous educational studies. We are excited for you to be a part of showing our community why we all need to keep computing.

Seattle is a vibrant, forward-thinking city that offers the perfect backdrop for SIGCSE. In addition to obvious choices like the Space Needle and Pike Place Market, Seattle offers many sights and activities to engage your mind and sense of adventure. Please come and enjoy this wonderful location as you join us for a great conference event.

Alongside the usual offering of papers, panels, special sessions, workshops, birds-of-a-feather (BOFs), posters, lightning talks and demos, there is an assortment of pre-symposium and affiliated events, including the student research competition and talks by our accomplished lineup of keynote and plenary speakers. Our exhibit hall will feature both familiar faces and newcomers, provides a great way to connect and build relationships, and presents valuable information and resources for computer science education.

This year’s keynote speakers will begin with Jeannette Wing, Corporate Vice President of Microsoft Research, who will give the opening keynote address on Thursday March 9. Next, Mats Daniels, recipient of the SIGCSE Award for Lifetime Service to the Computer Science Education Community, will speak at the First Timers’ lunch. Gail Chapman, recipient of the SIGCSE Award for Outstanding Contributions to Computer Science Education, will give the Friday keynote on March 10. Finally, we’re thrilled to have Mitch Resnick, the LEGO Papert Professor of Learning Research at the MIT Media Lab, speaking at the conference’s Saturday luncheon.

You can find out more about SIGCSE 2017 at the symposium website:

http://sigcse2017.sigcse.org/

The website is being updated often with new information as the symposium draws ever closer. Please register early! Early registration is open until February 8, 2017.

We hope to see you in Seattle!
ITiCSE 2016 Report  
By Alison Clear and Ernesto Cuadros-Vargas, 2016 ITiCSE co-Chairs

Many details from this year’s unique ITiCSE stand out including the Santa Catalina Monastery, the main colonial monument of the city built in the 16th century. It was the venue for the mid-winter outdoor conference dinner and the coach tour of the surrounding countryside, to name some of these details. The most important, though, was our research work: ITiCSE is truly an international conference, with submissions and presentations from a wide variety of countries: the first authors of the 54 papers were from over 22 different countries on six continents. ITiCSE also has a long tradition with its working groups and there were seven again this year.

We congratulate, once again, the recipients of the ITiCSE 2016 Best Paper award, “An Empirical Analysis of Video Viewing Behaviors in Flipped CS1 Courses” by Suzanne Dazo, Nicholas Stepanek, Robert Fulkerson, Brian Dorn and the best presentation award, “Learning to Program is Easy” by Andrew Luxton-Reilly from University of Auckland, New Zealand.

As always, thanks to keynote speakers, Mehran Sahami, Professor and Associate Chair for Education in the Computer Science department at Stanford University and Mats Daniels, Associate Professor and director of undergraduate studies at the Department of Information Technology, Uppsala University, Sweden.

Last, but not least, special thanks are due to the program committee, the attendees, and all who made the conference in Peru a truly enjoyable event. I look forward to all of us meeting at ITiCSE 2017 in Bologna, Italy next summer!

ITiCSE 2017 Preview  
By Renzo Davoli and Michael Goldweber, ITiCSE 2017 co-Chairs

The 22nd Annual Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education (ITiCSE 2017) is returning to Bologna, Italy. The program of the conference will consist of keynote lectures, paper sessions, panels, working groups, tips and techniques, courseware demonstrations, and posters.

The conference will take place July 3-5, 2017 at the University of Bologna, aka the Alma Mater Studiorum. Founded in 1088, the University of Bologna is the oldest university in the western world, and the oldest existing university in continuous operation. The latin-derived term “university” was coined by the University of Bologna.

Bologna, a historical capital of culture, was founded by the Etruscans in the VI century B.C. with the name of Felsina. Later renamed Bononia by the Romans, Bologna sits in the southern part of the historically and gastronomically famous Po River plain, a natural crossroads in northern Italy. Bologna’s location was important not only for the trading of goods, but also for the exchanging of ideas and the disseminating of culture.
Bologna is famous for its porticoes. Dating back to the 12th century, porticoes were used to enlarge houses to support the growing University community. Today, Bologna is home to 400,000, of which 85,000 are students. Bologna, Italy's "culinary capital," is arguably most famous for its food. Among the Bolognese contributions are tortellini, tagliatelle and mortadella. Furthermore, Bologna is surrounded by the famous food/wine regions of Parma, Modena, and Tuscany.

The city of Bologna is very accessible, being served by an international airport and one of the main hubs of the Italian railway system. Within easy access is Florence (half hour), Milan (1 hour), Venice (1.5 hours), Rome (2.25 hours) and the ubiquitous Italian countryside of Emilia-Romagna and Tuscany.

In keeping with ITiCSE tradition, Tuesday afternoon will be set aside for excursions. Opportunities will include a walking tour of this beautiful and historic city (think ancient sites of the city and the University), a gourmet walking tour of the city (forget the old stuff and focus on the food; e.g. solid chocolate was invented here), or a visit to the countryside (think a Parmigiano Reggiano cheese making factory, a winery, a Modena famous balsamic vinegar factory, or a famous Italian motor company such as Ferrari, Lamborghini, or Ducati.

There are many ways to participate in this conference: paper presentations, poster presentations, a tip-n-technique talk—which is kind of like a lightening talk—or be part of a panel. Additionally, working groups will be formed by participants with a common interest. These groups of 5-10 participants work electronically for a couple of months prior to the conference and begin their face-to-face collaborations two days prior to the start of the conference. Final working group reports, along with the conference proceedings, will be published in the ACM Digital Library.

The University of Bologna also hosted ITiCSE 2006. While the evaluations praised the conference for the quality of presentations and University's facilities, the greatest praise was reserved for the Italian barista who served amazing coffee and other beverages during the breaks. ITiCSE 2017 will hopefully prove to be just as satisfying—professionally, intellectually, culturally and, of course, gastronomically.

We look forward to seeing you this July!

For full details see the conference website: http://iticse.hosting.acm.org/
You are warmly invited to the thirteenth annual ACM International Computing Education Research (ICER) conference, which will be held in Tacoma, WA USA, August 18-20, 2017. ICER provides a forum for presenting and publishing high-quality research in computing education. At ICER 2017 we will continue the traditional ICER single-track format, which is designed to encourage authors and audience to engage in lively discussion about each work presented.

We offer a range of submission categories that allow for different types of participation, which supports work at different levels ranging from formative work to a completed research study.

Research papers provide the main focus of the conference. Research papers have an 8-page limit plus up to 2 additional pages for references. ICER also offers a track for lightning talks, 3-minute presentations that articulate an idea for a research study, provide an update on current research, or invite collaborators. The SIGCSE Doctoral Consortium will be held the day before the conference. Students accepted for the consortium will participate in an all-day workshop conducted by prominent leaders in the computing education research community. Participants will also present their work at the conference in a dedicated poster session. There is also a Works in Progress workshop held the afternoon and morning after the Conference, providing participants with an opportunity to gain critical and in-depth feedback on their research ideas or projects.

Tacoma is a port city in Western Washington, situated between the Cascade Mountains and the Puget Sound. With stunning views to the east of Mount Rainier, Tacoma enjoys copious amounts of sun (with only occasional rain) during the summer months. There are unlimited opportunities to explore the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest of the United States with three national parks (Olympic, Mount Rainier, and North Cascades) within a half-day’s drive of Tacoma. In this same radius one can also enjoy whale watching, boating, and other marine activities in the Puget Sound, straits of San Juan de Fuca, and Pacific Ocean. For those wanting urban adventures of larger cities, Seattle is only 30 miles north, Vancouver, British Columbia another 150 miles north of Seattle, and Portland, Oregon 150 miles south.

In addition to the scheduled activities we invite proposals for other activities, which could be held prior to or after ICER. If you have an idea for an activity that you would like to propose you are welcome to contact Donald Chinn (dchinn@uw.edu) to discuss.

We look forward to seeing you in Tacoma in August.
ICER 2017 Deadlines:
- April 7 & 14. Research paper abstracts (Apr 7) and complete paper (Apr 14)
- June 16. Lightning talk and Poster submissions
- June 16. Work in progress workshop application
 MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In this feature of the Bulletin, we highlight members of the SIGCSE community. In this issue, Bulletin co-editor Maureen Doyle interviewed Alison Clear, Associate Professor of Computing at Eastern Institute of Technology in Auckland, New Zealand. Alison recently completed her term on the SIGCSE Board.

MD: How did you begin getting involved with the CS education community?

AC: I attended ITiCSE 1998 in Dublin and found many like-minded educators and researchers.

MD: How has the CS education community changed over time?

AC: There have been changes over the time I have been teaching, but some things haven’t changed. We have always been very focused on preparing student for industry, going back over 30 years, and now it seems to be a new approach. We have always had a capstone project and now that seems to be a popular concept. That said, there are new areas, since our field change rapidly, I started teaching on mainframes and we didn’t have any networking, pre-internet days, now networking, cyber security are huge areas. I also got very involved in the 1990’s in multimedia and its integration into teaching and learning. I should say electronic multimedia, since we always taught with “multimedia”!

MD: You have a range of experience in education and policy. You served as Citrenz co-chair (The Computing and Information Technology Research and Education New Zealand) and NACCQ chair (National Advisory Committee on Computing Qualifications). Is this correct?

AC: I always did both policy and education. I was Department Chair (Head of Department is the term we use) from 1990 to 2014 and got involved nationally when we designed new qualifications. My participation was always as a volunteer in these groups, as was my participation on the SIGCSE Board. I became chair of the national organization for 10 years and stayed on the Board until the end of 2016. In addition to this, I am also a fellow of the IITP (Institute of IT Professionals New Zealand).

MD: How do you think these varied experiences have benefitted your career and your students?

AC: These efforts benefitted my students as we always had the latest curriculum, latest teaching methods and tried all different new ways of teaching and learning as well as being very industry focused and keeping our students aware of the latest and greatest while ensuring they understood the underlying theory. I enjoyed being a Head of Department most of all. You get to teach, mentor young faculty, see them grow and fly, introduce new curriculum and pedagogy and work with great teams. You also get to be involved in industry and find out what they need so you can tailor your curriculum to future needs.

MD: What prompted you to volunteer for a position on the SIGCSE Board?

AC: I was asked to stand for the Board and as I had been involved nationally in many
of the activities that the Board undertakes I thought it would be good to be able to take that knowledge and help at an international level. As important I could learn and bring back ideas and activities to help our own students. I loved being on the Board and putting in an international voice. If SIGCSE says it wants to be international as John White was pushing for, then having international people on the Board can only be advantageous. It helps to have a different perspective on things so all communities can grow.

**MD:** You are a strong advocate for SIGCSE to expand and include more of the world. How do you envision the SIGCSE community looking in 10 or 20 years?

**AC:** That’s a hard question, SIGCSE must expand and embrace the new technologies and curriculum and ensure it doesn’t stay in the CS silo. I would love to see it more international, with a few more activities outside the USA. ICER comes to the Australasian area every four years which is great, ITiCSE is now firmly back in Europe after a very successful South American conference, so those of us in Asia or the southern hemisphere must travel long distances to participate.

I would love to see SIGCSE be more involved in activities outside the US and Europe as we have a lot to offer! With technology making just huge progress, maybe in 20 years teleporting will be available or planes that travel faster than sound so we can all meet much more frequently to exchange ideas and keep looking forward for the benefit of our industry and our students. I don’t believe we are there yet with online education, we used to talk about the “sage on the stage” or “the guide on the side” but we need the “Sage on the side” so having a “teacher” is still the most important.

**MD:** I recall you saying you love to organize conferences! How many conferences have you organized? What do you think makes a great conference organizer?

**AC:** Yes, I do love organizing conferences as you get to meet lots of interesting people and researchers and get to read so many interesting papers. It’s great to see new researchers speak about their research and get mentoring support and help to take it to the next stage. I love bringing like-minded people together, the discussions are invaluable. I have helped organize approximately 25 national conferences (most involving international speakers and researchers) and over 15 international conferences having at least been on the organizing committees. I probably should have kept a list somewhere! I believe you have to be forward thinking, look to see what is the next greatest thing and build on that. You have to choose speakers to wow your delegates. Plenty of planning to get the right balance of speakers, papers, workshops, social activities to give delegates plenty of time to interact.

**MD:** What do you enjoy doing when you aren’t being an educator and policy maker?

**AC:** We have a small farm with alpaca, sheep and lambs, cows and calves, chickens and ducks so that keeps me busy. I like to spend time with my family, although the children and grandchildren are all over the world. I also love Christmas and decorate my house with many trees with decorations that I make. I also do the outside in lights and, yes, there have been some years when they have all been computer controlled playing to music. We love to travel and have visitors stay at our place.

Revised ACM Authorship Policy
In an attempt to address issues surrounding the enforcement of claims of plagiarism, the ACM revised its authorship policy in July 2016: http://www.acm.org/publications/policies/policy_on_authorship/

The new policy states that anyone listed as an author on an ACM paper must have met four criteria:

1. made a substantial intellectual contribution to some component of the work
2. participated in drafting and/or revising the paper
3. be aware that the paper has been submitted for publication
4. agree to be held accountable for issues related to the integrity of the work

It is clear that the new policy is designed to help conference and journal organizers enforce sanctions for violations of academic integrity. For most computing educators meeting these standards are a given, but those of us who work in large, collaborative research groups may need to take extra caution to ensure our adherence to these rules. I would urge all SIGCSE members to make sure that everyone in their research group has read and understood this policy, as well as the motivation behind the policy.

Also, I will be asking all SIGCSE conference organizers to include a reference to the policy on their calls for proposals and web sites. If you have concerns about what the policy means for you, please feel free to reach out to me.

Inclusive Apps: Supporting Mobile Accessibility Standards through Educational Exercises
Yasmine N. El-Glaly, ynevse@rit.edu
Daniel E. Krutz, dkvyse@rit.edu
Rochester Institute of Technology
Award: $3,800
Award date: December, 2016

Drs. El-Glaly and Krutz will create a publicly accessible oracle of mobile applications which will define problems relating to the accessibility of mobile applications for individuals with disabilities. The oracle will contain a library of well-defined accessibility problems, provide details about the accessibility issues, and demonstrate the difficulties experienced by users with different needs or who are differently abled. The oracle will outline steps to modify each application to make it accessible to users affected by the accessibility issue. The oracle will be
available for use at other educational institutions to support software development and accessibility related courses.

**What Exactly Are We Expecting Our Novice Programming Students to Achieve?**

Brett A. Becker  
University College Dublin  
brett.becker@ucd.ie  
Award: $4,700  
Award date: December, 2016

Dr. Brett Becker will collect, categorize and analyze the learning outcome statements of CS1 courses across a large, diverse set of institutions, providing an answer to the question: *What exactly are we expecting our novice programming students to achieve?* This will allow the CS education community to decide if, as recent evidence has suggested, we have unrealistic expectations of our CS1 students. The outputs of this research will provide a starting point for the CS education community to adjust its expectations of novice programmers, resulting in improvements in failure rates, retention, diversity and equity in CS education. Upon completion of the project an online repository of CS1 learning outcomes will be available to, and updatable by, the CS education community.

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**Broadening Participation Opportunities in 2017**  
by Tiffany Barnes

Since long before President Obama’s call for “Computer Science for All” (#CSforAll) in January 2016, momentum has been building to bring computing education to more people, and to be inclusive and equitable in these efforts. But now seems to be a key turning point, where many more people are searching for ways to bring computing to K-12 and to help students in all fields learn about computational thinking. And the community is growing to meet the demand. The IEEE Special Technical Community on Broadening Participation has over 300 members, and has held two annual RESPECT conferences publishing 27 papers along with posters and lightning talks since 2015. One in five accepted SIGCSE 2017 papers focuses on broadening participation.

There are many ways to get involved. CS professionals can find ideas and pledge to support CS Ed Week - it’s an event to promote computing usually held in early December, but CS Ed Week events can happen any time! CS educators can start adopting best practices curated by AccessComputing and NCWIT to promote engagement for women and people with disabilities, and using research-based, CS1 & CS2 materials vetted to appeal to diverse audiences at EngageCSEdu. You could keep up with the latest research at the SIGCSE-supported conferences, or join practitioners and high school teachers at the annual Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) conference. Academics can start a community of college students interested in broadening participation through STARS and its conference, the STARS Celebration. State teams can join the ECEP Alliance to reform access to computing education.

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Happy New Year and wishing you a wonderful 2017!  
Image by Maureen Doyle
New funding opportunities at the National Science Foundation are particularly exciting for those interested in expanding access to computing education, including CS for All, INCLUDES, and STEM+C. The goal of the new CS for All program, with proposals due February 28, is “to provide all U.S. students the opportunity to participate in computer science (CS) and computational thinking (CT) education in their schools at the preK-12 levels.” Successful CS for All proposals must specifically address longstanding issues of underrepresentation in computing, and must be research-practice partnerships.

Research-practice partnerships are collaborations between researchers and practitioners that focus on improving outcomes for a specific district or school setting. Broadening Participation (BP) and CS Ed researchers can learn much about these most effective partnerships from reading the NSF CS for All, INCLUDES, and STEM+C solicitations and their references, including those from implementation and improvement science. Improvement science, such as Networked Improvement Communities, is particularly important for the NSF INCLUDES program (preliminary proposals due February 17, full proposals due May 16). “The long-term goal of NSF INCLUDES is to support innovative models, networks, partnerships, technical capabilities and research that will enable the U.S. science and engineering workforce to thrive by ensuring that traditionally underrepresented and underserved groups are represented in percentages comparable to their representation in the U.S. population.” INCLUDES is unique in its focus on bringing together diverse stakeholders, from legislators to educators, administrators, parents, industry, and communities, to build common goals and strategies to make STEM and computing fields more inclusive. STEM+C (due March 29) has a specific focus on integrating computational thinking and computer science into preK-12 education and pedagogy, seeking “to advance a 21st century conceptualization of education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) that explicitly includes computing as a STEM discipline and as a discipline integral to the practice of all other STEM disciplines.”

It’s an exciting and rewarding time to work on broadening participation. We hope you will get involved, and publish what works and what doesn’t! We invite you to two BP-related conferences - the STARS Celebration, and RESPECT’17, the third international conference of the IEEE Computer Society’s Special Technical Community on Broadening Participation (STCBP), both coming this August 11-13 in Raleigh, NC.

The STARS Celebration showcases the achievements of, and prepares new students and faculty to join the STARS Computing Corps, a national alliance to broaden participation in computing. The STARS Celebration will host professional development opportunities for faculty and students to learn from and collaborate with alliances including AccessComputing, ECEP, the CRA-W, and NCWIT.

The RESPECT’17 conference showcases “Research on Equity and Sustained Participation in Engineering, Computing, and Technology”. RESPECT 2017 invites research papers, experience reports, panels (due April 28), posters and lightning talks (due June 10). We invite all interdisciplinary work that draws on CS, education, learning sciences, and the social sciences to help us build a strong community, theory, and foundation for broadening participation research.
### Deadline SIGCSE

Upcoming dates you won’t want to miss!

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<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>ITiCSE 2017 Submissions due for papers, panels and working groups due</td>
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<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>Last day for SIGCSE Symposium early registration rates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 8-11</td>
<td>SIGCSE Symposium 2017, Seattle, WA USA</td>
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<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>ITiCSE 2017 poster submission and tips, techniques and courseware proposals</td>
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<td>Mar 26</td>
<td>ITiCSE 2017 Working group membership applications close</td>
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<td>Apr 7</td>
<td>Draft ICER paper submission (Final paper due Apr 7)</td>
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<td>Apr 14</td>
<td>Final ICER paper submission (Drafts due Apr 7)</td>
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<td>Apr 28</td>
<td>RESPECT 2017 paper, reports and panel submissions due</td>
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<td>Jul 1-5</td>
<td>ITiCSE 2017, Bologna, Italy</td>
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<td>Aug 11-13</td>
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