

CSTA Fall Meeting Notes

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 – 5:30pm

Host: Ellicottville High School

Food provided by: TBD

Attendance: Carl Alphonse, Steve Andrianoff, Adrienne Decker, Gail Kaminski, Dave Levine, Dave Murray

Regrets: Deb Burhans, Jim Caprio, Deb Sorrentino

Agenda:

- Old Business
 - National/Chapter News and Updates
 - Reporting on Events Held Since Last Meeting
 - A Conversation about Computing
 - College Computing Fair
- New Business
 - Financials
 - General Ideas for Organization
 - Deciding on Upcoming Events
 - Scheduling of Future Meetings and Chapter Elections

National/Chapter News and Updates

We officially became a chapter on 9/24/08.

There is an email csta.wny@gmail.com that exists for the chapter. This mail currently forwards to Calr. We will be receiving a forwarding address from CSTA national soon.

Website and a closed wiki will be available shortly. The website is hosted by UB. The URL is <https://wiki.cse.buffalo.edu/csta/>. The wiki will be open for reading, but closed for writing except for members of our local chapter.

A Conversation About Computing: Final Report

Event Chair: Carl Alphonce

Committee: Deb Burhans, Adrienne Decker

Date: Friday, September 26, 2008 8:30 – 11:30

Place: University at Buffalo Center for Tomorrow

Sponsor: University at Buffalo Computer Science & Engineering Department paid for the entire event. We are grateful for and recognize their support for the initial event of our organization.

Purpose/Description: The event was designed to bring interested K-16 parties together to begin to break perceptions about computing. While mainly targeted at high school counselors and teachers, university faculty were welcome and many attended.

Attendees: <<<PLEASE FILL IN>>>

Positives/Successes:

- Lee Ann Sodul from CSTA national came to speak in two sessions, one for counselors, one for teachers.
- There were many positive comments about the event and many enthusiastic faculty from all levels who expressed interest in becoming involved. The conversation pointed to the fact that our organization is needed and could be a useful resource to the computing community.

Challenges/Difficulties:

- This event conflicted with two other school counselor events, the SUNY conference held at UB as well as an SAT conference held at Canisius. Many counselors expressed interest in our event, but attended the other events instead.
- Getting names of people to contact has been a challenge. Began by getting a list of all schools in New York from New York State. Followed up by going to school district websites, but they do not always give the information we need about faculty or counselors. Sent email to all we could find names for, followed up with phone calls to many. Need a better way of contacting teachers who would teach computing courses.
- Need to make sure that the definition of computing is clearly broad and that we include any related disciplines so that we appeal to the widest range of participants and students.

Action Items:

- Letters to school districts showing that faculty attended this event. (Carl, template to come from Steve/Dave L)
- For future events, get names and addresses from attendees as they walk in the door as to where they want letters sent.

- Gail to find list of Business Teachers and make available to group for future emailing.

College Computing Fair: Final Report

Event Chair: Adrienne Decker

Committee: Carl Alphonse, Deb Burhans

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2008 4:30 – 7:30

Place: University at Buffalo Center for Tomorrow

Sponsor: University at Buffalo Computer Science & Engineering Department paid for the room rental fee. Canisius College supplied funds for mailing of event fliers as well as refreshments for our college representatives. We are grateful for and recognize their support for this event.

Purpose/Description: The event was designed as a college fair focused on computing programs in the Western New York Area. Representative schools were each given a table and interested students could come and speak to representatives from the departments about their various programs.

Colleges Represented:

- Buffalo State College
- Canisius College
- Erie Community College
- Finger Lakes Community College
- Genesee Community College
- Houghton College
- Monroe Community College
- Niagara County Community College
- Rochester Institute of Technology (Software Engineering and IT departments)
- St. Bonaventure University
- St. John Fisher College
- Trocaire College
- University at Buffalo (CSE and MIS departments)

Attendance: 15-20

Positives/Successes:

- Overwhelmingly positive response from college representatives and interest in coming again if we had another college fair.
- Students enjoyed speaking to college representatives from the departments and many stayed to speak to many different schools.

Challenges/Difficulties:

- Advertising with zero advertising dollars. Not knowing how to get the information in the hands of parents. Sent information to guidance offices, which probably did not get to the students in time.

Action Items:

- Next time – make sure to advertise heavily that students will be interacting with faculty from the departments, not college representatives from admissions. Ask the universities involved to get the word out within their department, community, through their own press releases.
- Email InfoTech Niagara as a way to advertise next time.
- Contact the local Academies of Information Technology at the local high schools for students.
- Press releases (one before and one after) for next time.
- Should we send a formal certificate of thanks to schools who participated (to chairs perhaps)?

Report on Chapter Financials

Chapter Bank Account needs to be set up.

- **Update (Post meeting):** Dave Levine found out information about setting up an account at M & T for us. We can set up the account with one signatory right now and have a second signatory added when time permits. The concept was to make the signatories on the account, the treasurer and president of the organization. We cannot open a zero-balance account, so as soon as we have some money, this process can begin.

We will NOT charge local members any membership dues to join our organization. We did not discuss the possibility of charging for participation in certain events (workshops, etc.) which will need to be discussed on a per-event basis.

We need to start a fundraising campaign.

- Tap into local companies for donations (InfoTech Niagara as a place to start). Ask for donations for a purpose – pizza for meetings, room rental fee for event. If we can give amounts and purpose for the donation, we might meet with better success.
- We should approach the universities for support for this organization, fund the food at meetings, support an event, something so that the costs are shared by local institutions.

General Ideas and Misc.

Get our college students to go back to HS/MS to talk to the students.

Have members offer tours of colleges, sneak peek at college classes.

Upcoming Events: St. Bonaventure Programming Contest

February 27, 2009

While not an official CSTA event, CSTA will advertise to the contacts it has about this event. We would like information about other events like this to advertise as general resources for computing regionally.

Upcoming Events: Cyber-security workshops

Dave Murray and MIS at UB have offered cyber-security workshops to local schools for some time. They will be continuing with this program and would allow CSTA to advertise it.

Upcoming CSTA Events

When discussing upcoming events, it was decided to make two chairs for each event, similar to structure of SIGCSE, a general chair to handle accommodations and logistics and a content chair to handle content. These are not hard and fast roles, but they are a way to help organize these events. Also, for some events, more committee members may be needed/recruited by the chairs.

In fact, for all events proposed in the following, more organizational help and ideas are needed. Also, if anyone wants to volunteer to be a mouthpiece as a campaigner for fundraising for all our events, please let us know.

Many different kinds of events were discussed, but we decided to focus on three main events for the upcoming calendar year 2009 that will be CSTA-run. As mentioned before, CSTA would like to recognize other events that are going on regionally that would be of interest to members or students who have potential interest in computing.

Spring College Computing Fair and Student Research Showcase

General Chair: Adrienne Decker

Content Chair: Dave Murray

Concepts/Ideas:

- Re-do of the college computing fair, but in the spring, which is probably a better time anyway to catch incoming college students.
- Combine this event with a student research/project showcase for local college students. Encourage students and faculty to bring their research and projects in posters and presentation sessions.
- Single-day event (probably a Saturday) where there would be presentations and posters and designated time for meeting with the college representatives.

Date: The earliest this event would be held is April 20th.

Summer Workshop

General Chair: Dave Levine

Content Chair: Steve Andrianoff

Concept/Ideas:

- 3 hour workshop for MS or HS teachers on Alice during the summer. Take the ideas learned back to the classroom with the idea that they will bring their students back in the fall to present what they have done with Alice during the first half of the new school year. (??? When should they come back???)
- Get Alice books as a give-away for all the teachers.
- Teachers can bring students to summer workshop as well.

Date: Summer for workshop, follow up TBD

Fall Conference

General Chair: Gail Kaminski

Content Chair: Carl Alphonse

Concepts/Ideas:

- 20 presenters on how to integrate computers in your classroom – things that they can see on Thursday and do in the classroom on Friday.
- Agenda: Parallel tracks
 - 3 presentation tracks before lunch
 - Lunch
 - Keynote speaker
- Need to begin gathering potential presenters ASAP. Need to have them in place by early summer.

Date: October 20 +/- 10 days.

Scheduling of Future Meetings and Chapter Elections

Link meetings with future events when possible. Therefore, people already attending event won't have to make a separate trip and if we have a meeting, perhaps it will spur interest in attending event.

Chapter Elections for officers will be held in spring at a CSTA meeting that will be co-located with the spring event (College Computing Fair/Student Research Showcase).

CSTA national has organized a campaign to have a Leadership Cohort, a group of educators campaigning at the state level for computing in K-12. Need a K-12 teacher for this position because he/she would understand the K-12 system better. Need to push to make computing a state mandate. No child should leave K-12 without taking a course in computing.

Next meetings:

- January 14 at a location near Buffalo (Canisius, ECC? - Need a volunteer location)
- February 27 at St. Bonaventure after the Programming Contest (3pm)

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne Decker
Secretary