News from the SIGs

by Ellen Walker
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For this special issue celebrating the 50th anniversary of SIGCSE, we bring you greetings from Amber Settle, who also previews the conferences that SIGCSE will present as it begins its second half-century.

*From our SIGCSE reporter and
SIGCSE chair, Amber Settle.*

The past year was a significant milestone for us as SIGCSE celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2018. Thanks to the efforts of guest editor Jane Chu Prey and the many SIGCSE leaders who authored the articles in this issue, you will learn a lot about what SIGCSE has done since 1968 and what the future may bring for our SIG. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Briana Morrison for her hard work in creating and sharing her weekly posts to the SIGCSE mailing list celebrating the anniversary.

As SIGCSE moves into its second half-century the organization continues to evolve, and some of the most exciting things to come in the next year concern the SIGCSE conferences.

The 2019 SIGCSE Symposium will be the fiftieth, and the organizers are planning a variety of special events during the conference to celebrate. The conference is taking place February 27th to March 2nd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, and the organizers plan to honor our history while sharing their vision of the next 50 years. The SIGCSE Board

is providing \$50,000 to support events at the conference, and part of the support will be for 50 Travel Grants to be provided for attendees to the conference. The conference will offer the usual papers, panels, special sessions, workshops, birds-of-a-feather sessions, demos, lightning talks, posters, nifty assignments, and pre-symposium events that make the conference a whirlwind of activity, but the social events and other activities will have special meaning thanks to the anniversary. It is a conference you simply do not want to miss.

The next SIGCSE conference of the year is a new one. For the first time ever SIGCSE will sponsor SIGCSE Global, which will be held in Chengdu, Sichuan, China from May 17th to May 19th. Initially the conference will be held every other year, and it is designed to be hosted in countries that are not already served by an existing SIGCSE conference. The details of what types of submissions will be accepted will be announced to the SIGCSE mailing list as the conference and program committees are finalized and the call for proposals written. You will want to watch for announcements about the conference, since it provides a unique opportunity to visit one of the nicest

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cities in China. Chengdu is the capital of the Sichuan province and well known for its conservation centers for giant pandas. The SIGCSE Global conference will be offered alongside the ACM Turing Celebration Conference, which will provide opportunities to hear keynotes from Turing Award winners as well as other prominent computing researchers.

Next up is the 2019 ITiCSE conference held in Aberdeen, Scotland from July 15th to July 17th. While the activities at the conference remain the same as in previous years and include working groups, keynotes, papers, panels, posters, and tools,

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tips, and courseware sessions, the conference is benefitting from collaboration with two European computing organizations. Beginning in July 2018 the ITiCSE steering committee was expanded to include representatives from Informatics Europe and ACM-Europe, and the collaboration should improve the experience for all attendees by ensuring that ITiCSE is the premiere computing education conference held in Europe. One immediate benefit of the collaboration in 2018 was a cash prize for the best paper which was sponsored by the ACM-Europe Council. Hopefully the collaboration will result in other positive changes, and I encourage you to attend and see for yourself.

The last 2019 SIGCSE conference is ICER located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada from August 12th to 14th. This is the first time that the conference will be located in Canada during its North American rotation. As usual ICER will offer papers, lightning talks, and posters as well as the Doctoral Consortium and workshops and the focus will remain on computing education research. The computing

education research community has seen explosive growth in submissions during the past several years, and we expect that Toronto will continue the trend. Since the currently single-track conference is already a daunting three days in length, further expansion of the conference may involve a change in how sessions are offered. The ICER organizers are hard at work on a proposal for a change in format, and Toronto is likely the first place that any change would debut. These changes are promising for us as a SIG since the growth of the conference is a sign of the increasing maturity of the computing education research community. I hope that you will come to Toronto to celebrate the Canadian debut of ICER and see what exciting changes are in store for the conference.

The end of 2018 and the start of 2019 mark a push for SIGCSE into its next 50 years, and the many changes coming to the SIGCSE conferences show that our SIG is moving forward with as much energy as went into its first half-century. I hope that you will attend at least one SIGCSE conference in 2019 so that you can experience the excitement first hand. ❖

For more information on these SIGs, see the following websites

SIGCSE: www.sigcse.org

SIGITE: www.sigite.org

SIGMIS: www.sigmis.org

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