The Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium (MICS) is a regional conference dedicated to providing an educational experience to students and instructors at higher education institutions. The conference focuses on the teaching of computing and its use in learning processes of all disciplines, and the incorporation of the study of this technology in the curriculum.

Activities include the presentation of technical papers and posters, software demonstrations, programming and robotics competitions, a career fair, and a banquet, followed by a keynote address. Participants are primarily drawn from across the five-state region of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Others are welcome to join us in La Crosse.

This is the 50th anniversary of the Symposium. Established in 1967, it is one of the nation's oldest conferences on computer-related issues and associated opportunities and implementation at smaller institutions of higher education.

For more information on the history and goals of the MICS organization, please see our site:

http://www.micsymposium.org

For information about MICS 2017, including more detail about the conference—including contest specifics and links to the online submission and registration systems—please visit:

http://faculty.cs.uwlax.edu/~mics2017

Papers

Paper abstracts must provide sufficient details to judge the submission. Student papers are strongly encouraged. (A student paper is one where a full-time student is the primary author and presents the paper; faculty may be secondary authors.) A full version of the paper must be submitted by the final paper deadline. A 30-minute presentation slot (which should include time for questions) will be scheduled. Awards for up to 6 meritorious student papers will be presented at the Saturday lunch.

Poster/Software Demonstrations

Posters/software demonstrations can be stand-alone or follow up on previous presentations. To present a poster or demonstration, submit an abstract before the initial abstract deadline; a final version should be submitted by the final paper deadline. Presentations will occur during a designated poster/demo session.

Panel Discussions

Panel discussions provide different points of view and facilitate discussion on contemporary topics. To host a panel, submit an abstract describing the topic and proposed panel members. Moderators for accepted panels should submit a short (2-3 pages) summary of panelist positions by the final deadline. Panel members are not necessarily expected to make formal presentations, but to facilitate discussion.

Nifty Assignments

Nifty assignments provide a forum for sharing ideas and materials for interesting classroom assignments. Abstracts should specify the target course and basic pedagogical concepts. A paper should be submitted by the final deadline; a 20-minute presentation will be scheduled as part of a thematic session.

Call for Participation

The MICS Program Committee invites you to submit a paper, poster, demonstration, presentation, panel discussion topic, or nifty assignment. Faculty papers generally address aspects of computer science education, such as the use of computers in instruction, innovative pedagogy, or the integration of research with instruction. Student papers generally discuss their research activity. All submissions undergo thorough review. Student registrants may also participate in the programming and robot competitions. All submissions require an abstract of 300-500 words to be submitted no later than 06 February 2017. Full versions of abstracts, papers, summaries, and assignments must be received by the final deadline of 20 March 2017. Conference registration is required for acceptance, publication, and presentation of any materials.

Important Dates

- Abstract submission: 06 February 2017
- Acceptance notification: 20 February 2017
- Hotel registration deadline: 06 March 2017
- Early registration deadline: 10 March 2017
- Final paper due: 20 March 2017
- Student contest registration: 20 March 2017
- Conference date: 07-08 April 2017

Registration Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rates:</th>
<th>By 10 March 2017</th>
<th>After 10 March 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Programming Contest

Student teams will compete against each other to solve a set of programming problems. Conference and contest registration is required and the number of accepted teams may be limited, so be sure to register early. Cash awards will be presented to the top teams at the Saturday lunch.

Robot Contest

Student teams will build and program robots to compete against each other in a format to be determined. Conference and contest registration is required. Each team must be accompanied by a registered faculty coach who is willing to act as a contest coordinator or judge. Cash awards will be presented to the top teams at the Saturday lunch.

Career Fair

Student registrants will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from companies throughout the region. A list of industry participants and sponsors will be posted on the conference website.
Keynote Speaker

Dr. Maria Gini is College of Science and Engineering Distinguished Professor at the University of Minnesota. Her research in robotics and artificial intelligence has produced many innovations, including the use of market- and auction-based models for the allocation of tasks and resources in multi-agent problem solving. Her recent research involves distributed robotics, including multi-robot navigation and search-and-rescue applications, and AI techniques for autism detection, airline ticket purchasing decisions, and sophisticated game play.

Dr. Gini has further distinguished herself through service to the AI and computing community. She is Editor in Chief of *Robotics and Autonomous Systems*, and Associate Editor of *Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems*; has chaired numerous conferences and has organized many workshops and symposia dedicated to broadening participation in computer science, including MinneWIC, the Women in AI workshop at the International Joint Conference on AI (IJCAI), and the Summer Computing Academy; and is Member of the Board of the Computer Research Association Committee on the Status of Women in Computing Research (CRA-W).

She became an Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Distinguished Scientist in 2006, and an Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) Fellow in 2008. She has won numerous awards for leadership and teaching excellence, and in 2016 was presented with the AAAI Distinguished Service Award “for her outstanding contributions to the field of artificial intelligence through sustained service to leading AI societies, journals, and conferences; mentoring colleagues; and working to increase the participation of women in AI and computing.”

Conference Location

MICS 2017 will be held at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UWL) in scenic La Crosse, Wisconsin. All events will occur on the UWL Campus.

City of La Crosse

La Crosse is located beside the Mississippi River at the western edge of Wisconsin. The Mississippi, the La Crosse, and the Black Rivers all meet at La Crosse. The area is exceptionally scenic and provides abundant opportunities for canoeing, boating, hiking, and biking.

Accommodations

MICS 2017 has secured reduced cost rates at nearby hotels. The hotels are centrally located off-site, approximately 1.5 miles from the conference site. The room reservation deadline is 06 March 2017. The rates shown below do not include tax.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hampton Inn &amp; Suites Downtown (608) 791-4004</td>
<td>$82.00</td>
<td>$112.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radisson (604) 784-6680</td>
<td>$89.00</td>
<td>$119.00</td>
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Preliminary Schedule

Friday, 07 April

11:30 am - 2:00 pm Registration
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Career Fair
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Technical Sessions
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Poster/Demo Session
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm Technical Sessions
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Robotics Contest
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Banquet and Keynote
8:00 pm - 11:00 pm Programming Contest

Saturday, 08 April

08:30 am - 10:00 am Technical Sessions
10:30 am - 12:00 pm Technical Sessions
12:00 pm - 01:00 pm Lunch and Awards