



"Always Interesting" AI in the news

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Tech-minded Kids Pass Up Canoes for Computers. Seth Sutel. *The Associated Press*. June 3, 2005 (available from various news sites such as thejournalnews.com). "With the summer camp season fast approaching, kids across the country will be stocking up on hiking shoes, bug spray and other necessities for adventures in the great outdoors. Thousands of others, however, will be enjoying adventures of the indoor variety: creating video games, building robots and designing Web pages. Computer camp, as it was known to an earlier generation, just isn't what it used to be. With the booming growth of video games, the Internet and digital media, technology-minded kids have an enormous variety of things to learn at technology camps, which are often taught on the campuses of major universities. ... Camp administrators say enrollment is up from last year... And while the kids are on the computers for five to six hours a day, the instructors also take them outside for activities to break up the day."

Girls Build Robots at RoboCamp. Crystal Barbour. *The NT Daily*. August 4, 2005 (www.ntdaily.com). "Girls from all over Denton and Collin Counties [Texas] signed up for the camp. The campers spend their days attending seminars on engineering-related careers and the inner workings of computer science. They also get hands-on robotic experience by learning how to build and program their own miniature robots. ... David Keathly, computer science and engineering undergraduate adviser, and Robert Akl of the computer science and engineering faculty created RoboCamp after serving as judges for a regional high school robotics competition. Keathly and Akl received a two-year grant from Higher Education Coordinating Board to host a girl's robotics camp at the NT Denton and Dallas campuses. ... 'I want them to see that computer science isn't just a bunch of geeks in front of a computer,' [Keathly] said."

Robots Challenge Teens on Break. Larry Slonaker. *The Mercury News*. July 18, 2005 (www.mercurynews.com). "Laura Williams, 16, has an educational background from early childhood that prepared her well for a summertime class in robotics she's taking at Homestead High School. ... Summer robotics was the inspiration of parent Kumar Thiagarajan, whose son is involved in robotics at Lynbrook High. ... [H]e enlisted the help of folks at NASA, which agreed to provide guest lecturers and 12 robotics kits for the class. ... In addition to the 35 area students who signed up for the class, 170

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—Jon Glick, Webmaster, AI TOPICS

more—in other parts of the United States, as well as Australia, India and other countries—are taking it online. The only cost of the class is about \$300 for a kit, which NASA covered for the teams of students at Homestead. The space agency also provided free kits for another 30 online students, based on need. ... [Steve] Headley wants the course to supplement the students' mastery of math and science, but Joseph Hering of NASA has a more specific goal: 'seeding.' Seeding, as in growing students who will go on to get doctorates in robotics. 'We're not shy about it,' Hering said."

Girls Learn about Careers in Technology. Justin Wolfgang. *American News*. June 18, 2005 (www.aberdeennews.com). "Summer break may have started more than three weeks ago in Aberdeen, but don't tell that to a group of girls who spent this week working with computers at the Workforce Development Center. Eight girls, ages 12 to 13, spent Monday through Friday taking tours of local businesses, building computers and programming robots in a program called Girls Discover Information Technology."

St. Paul's School—A Place to "Learn for the Sake of Learning." Summer Study Session Draws Students Statewide. Chris Baxter. *Concord Monitor Online*. June 26, 2005 (www.concordmonitor.com). "The five-week intense summer session [of the St. Paul's School Advanced Studies Program], which began Friday, gives students a preview of life away from home and more challenging schoolwork. ... [Jeff] Mekler, who hopes to study engineering in the future, enrolled in the artificial intelligence class. 'I'm excited to discuss the possibilities—and build a robot,' Mekler said."

Exploring New Frontiers. John Michael. *Drayton Valley Western Review*. June 28, 2005 (www.draytonvalleywesternreview.com). "This summer, three local students will explore new frontiers as they spend time at the University of Alberta's research labs in Edmonton as part of the U of A's 21st annual Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology (WISEST) summer research program. ... [Emma] Rapati, who attends Warburg school, will spend the summer in the U of A's computer science lab, developing software for interactive games. ... [Amanda] Brewer, who attends Frank Maddock high school, will study artificial intelligence this summer. She is not sure at this point in time if she would pursue robotics as a career choice, although she may decide otherwise by the end of the WISEST program."

Gtech Gives Girls Blueprint for Success. Cynthia Lescalleet. *Examiner News.com*. May 27, 2004 (www.westtexasexaminer.com). "The best way to increase girls' interest in engineering professions is to expose them early to what the field is all about, which is problem solving. Fortunately, schools at many levels are doing just that through their curriculums, clubs and camps, plus a huge commitment by teachers tuned into technical mentoring. ... Attracting and retaining girls in technical fields is historically a complex issue, says Michael Sirois, program manager at Rice's Center for Excellence and Equity in Education. Rice's CEEE, sponsors a computer science camp for girls and their teachers from nine area schools, including Bellaire High School. The two-summer program is funded by the National Science Foundation. In it, 50 students spend two weeks embroiled in computer concepts and applications, such as programming, but also robotics and artificial intelligence."

The Ultimate Ace. Cynthia Martens. *Hillsboro Free Press*. February 10, 2004 (www.zwire.com). "John Larson, a senior at Canton-Galva High School, earned the title of genius when he scored a perfect 36 on his American College Testing assessment test in late October. ... Interested in the computer-science field of study, Larson is considering a career in artificial intelligence. 'Artificial Intelligence is like trying to make computers smarter,' Larson said. Introduced to the concept of AI while attending a summer-workshop study program at Duke University, the desire to make it a career was firmly planted."