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EDITORS' MESSAGE

Welcome to the June edition of *Inroads*. The environment in which we live and work is now very different from when we wrote our last editorial. We hope you and your loved ones are safe and well during this uncertain time, and that we will all be able to return soon to our normal lives, presumably with a different attitude toward many things we take for granted.

We are seeing a steady stream of submissions for *Inroads*, and are delighted, so please keep them coming. In this issue we again have several interesting articles for you to read.

Cybersecurity is an area of growing need worldwide. Cara Tang reports on the work being done by the ACM Committee for Computing Education in Community Colleges to develop appropriate curriculum guidelines for associate degrees (which are typically two years of post-secondary study). Cybersecurity is also the topic of an article by a collective of 36 authors (is that a record? ☺) led by Enis Golaszewski, who describe their experiences with the development of project-based learning for this topic, including some new insights into the all-important human factors in this area.

Continuing with the pedagogical theme, Scott Portnoff provides an in-depth and potentially controversial analysis of CS education in secondary schools in the US, and suggests an alternative based on the how natural languages are taught. In the spirit of sharing good practice, Briana Morrison, Michelle Craig and Beth Quinn discuss how to identify “red flags” (i.e., warning signs that indicate not all is well) when designing assessments. Randy Connolly addresses the issue of providing the right information about careers in computing to those who advise secondary students about career choices, culminating in the development of a handbook which describes discipline specializations and career pathways.

Algorithmic bias is increasingly important, and Henry Walker discusses the impact of this, highlighting four key areas of analysis. Tony Clear, in a welcome return to his regular column, addresses the issue of software ecosystems, in that software is generally used as part of a larger human process, and identifies seven key areas of such systems. John Barr has provided an interesting variation on “color by numbers” for the Back Page.

An unusual feature of this edition is the call for submissions celebrating the 25th anniversary of the annual conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education (ITICSE), which is due to be held in Trondheim in Norway on June 15-19. Naturally the face-to-face component of this has been cancelled, with some events moved online (see <https://iticse.acm.org/> for details). In order to help celebrate this anniversary, we will be publishing articles reviewing various aspects of this rich history, based on the theme of “looking at the past to construct the future” in the September and December editions in 2021. See the information in this issue by Lillian (Boots) Cassel, Judith Gal-Ezer, and Francesco Maiorana for more details, and get writing! Submissions are being sought by December of this year.

On a more somber note, we were saddened to hear that John Impagliazzo, the founder of *Inroads* and long-time solo Editor-in-Chief, has been in ill health recently. We send him our best wishes for a speedy and full recovery. ❖

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