

G.I.R.L. TECH NEWSLETTER #7

Hello interns and parents, and welcome to newsletter #7, the latest of our weekly updates to let you know what's going on in the G.I.R.L. Tech internship program. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, contact Laura Lantz at lantz@cmu.edu.

LAST WEEK IN RECAP



Last week was our final hands-on activity week. Our programmers coded a tic-tac-toe game, set it up so that our robotic arms could play it, and implemented a basic artificial intelligence algorithm so people could choose to play games against a computer opponent as well as against another person. Our mechanical engineers learned how to use Google Sketch-Up to model

their ideas, mounted the mechanical arms and tic-tac-toe board, and decorated the board to reflect the theme "girls versus boys." Everyone's work came together to create a great final product!



We also got to meet English actor Anthony Daniels, known for his role as the droid C-3PO in the *Star Wars* series of films. We talked with him about robotics and entertainment technology, and showed him our project work.

On Friday we had our Soft Opening, where we showed off our semester's work to the Entertainment Technology Center community. The robotic painter exhibit was very well received, and the tic-tac-toe game was a big hit! Samantha joined us and did a great job representing as an intern member of the team. Thank you Sam!

COMING UP THIS WEEK

It's our second-to-last week, with back-to-back robotics visits. On Monday, we'll meet up with Jason Bannister at the Entertainment Technology Center to talk about and show our project work. Then we'll travel to the workspace for his company, **Mechanimal** (www.mechanimal.net), which develops robots for museum exhibits, research, and commercial use.



On Wednesday, instead of our usual meeting place at the Entertainment Technology Center, we will meet up at the **National Robotics Engineering Center** (www.rec.ri.cmu.edu) for a tour of the NERC and multimedia presentation about a variety of their past and current projects.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks for bringing in playtesters to try out our robotic painter exhibit for the Children's Museum. We keep making changes and improvements, and so we can still use your playtesting help! If you have a younger brother or sister or know of any kids between the ages of three and seven who can come to the Entertainment Technology Center to try our robotic painter exhibit, please encourage their parents to schedule a time for their child to visit. Play-testing will take about 10 minutes per child, and they will also receive a gift for helping us out. Please contact Laura Lantz by email at lantz@cmu.edu or phone at (757)303-6339 to schedule a time or to ask any questions you may have. Prospective visitors can check out the G.I.R.L. Tech website at <http://www.etc.cmu.edu/projects/girl-tech/> to find out more about our project.

We're nearing the end of our eight-week program—keep an eye out for updates about our upcoming completion party and soft opening at the Children's Museum. We look forward to celebrating with you!