

“Experiences Teaching CS1 with Personal Robots”



Dr. Jay Summet
Georgia Institute of Technology

Date: Friday, November 14th
Time: 1:00pm
Place: KWII 110

Over the last two years, the Institute for Personal Robots in Education has developed and deployed a CS1 class (Introduction to Computing with Robots) based upon the idea that each student in the class has their own personal robot. The students learn to program so that they can instruct their robot to escape from mazes, put on performances, and collect data at dangerous remote locations. The low cost robots are controlled via a Bluetooth radio and include a camera, obstacle sensors, speaker, and motors. This talk will focus on how traditional CS concepts are taught using the context of personal robots, development of the hardware/software platform and curriculum materials, adoption problems and solutions, and initial results.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Jay Summet is a Research Scientist working at the Institute for Personal Robots in Education (IPRE) at the Georgia Institute of Technology. His responsibilities include curriculum development and evaluation. Jay has taught "Introduction to Computing with Robots" to over four hundred university students using the curriculum he helped develop for IPRE. Jay has also taught faculty enhancement workshops where high school, college, and university professors from over forty institutions learned the IPRE method for teaching computer science with robots. Jay received his Ph.D. from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2007 and his M.S. from Oregon State University in End User Programming in 2001.

About IPRE:

The Institute for Personal Robots in Education (IPRE) applies and evaluates robots as a context for computer science education. IPRE is a joint effort between Georgia Tech and Bryn Mawr College sponsored by Microsoft Research.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.roboteducation.org>

