

CPSR annual meeting to be held at UCSD Oct. 8-9 will address social aspects of computing, need for "democratic technology"

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Media Contact: Phil Agre, (619) 534-6328/pagre@ucsd.edu Dolores Davies, (619) 534-5994/ddavies@ucsd.edu

CPSR ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT UCSD OCT. 8-9 WILL ADDRESS SOCIAL ASPECTS OF COMPUTING, NEED FOR "DEMOCRATIC TECHNOLOGY"

As the much ballyhooed information superhighway goes zipping by, will some be left behind at the curb? Or, will everyone have equal access regardless of income level and other factors?

The need for democratic technology, or equal access to computer technology, is one of the many issues that will be addressed at this year's annual meeting of the Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility being held Oct. 8-9 at the University of California, San Diego.

"CPSR is convening this meeting for all people interested in the place of computer technology in society, with the goal of bringing together a wide range of voices to discuss the ways in which the National Information Infrastructure (NII) might serve the needs of society," said Phil Agre, an assistant professor of communication at UC San Diego and the program chair of the CPSR meeting.

According to Agre, the meeting this year will place particular emphasis on providing would-be computer activists with the skills and connections they need to put the vision of democratic technology into practice.

"While big business and the federal government are still mulling over how this information superhighway should be structured, many other private citizens and community and grass roots organizations are not waiting around," said Agre.

Since the initial proposal for NII two years ago, a broad social movement has surfaced to put that vision into action in communities across the country. This movement includes a wide range of people -- educators, librarians, community activists, computer people, local government, advocates for people with disabilities, and others -- who have been using computer networks to deliver services and communicate with others.

The two-day conference, "Organizing for Access: A National Forum on Computer Networking, Community Action, and Democracy," will be held at UC San Diego's Price Center, and will include a series of panel discussions and workshops featuring experts from a variety of fields. The agenda for the meeting is attached.

The cost for attending the CPSR annual meeting is \$55 per person for CPSR members and \$75 for non-members. CPSR membership is available at a reduced rate, and there is a special rate of \$25 for low-income attendees. After September 20, rates will increase by \$10. To register for the Oct. 8-9 meeting and to receive more information about the program, please contact CPSR at (415) 322-3778 or cpsr-annmtg@cpsr.org.

Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility is a national, non-profit, public interest organization dedicated to understanding and directing the impact of computers on society. Founded in 1981, CPSR has 1800 members and 21 chapters in the U.S.

CPSR ANNUAL MEETING OCT.8-9 - AGENDA

Saturday, Oct. 8

9:15-10:15 a.m. - Keynote address by Francois Bar, assistant professor of communication, "Staking Claims to the Network."

10:45 -12:30 p.m. - "The Meanings of Access."

Panelists: Karen Coyle, UC Library Automation

Lee Felsenstein, Interval Research and Berkeley Community Memory

Deborah Kaplan, World Institute on Disability Larry Shaw, The Exploratorium

Armando Valdez, LatinoNet

Moderator: Steve Miller, State of Massachusetts

2:00-3:30 p.m. - "Privacy and Intellectual Freedom."

Panelists: Beth Givens, Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, USD Judith Krug, Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association

Gary Richwald, Dept. of Health Services, County of Los Angeles

Moderator: Kathleen Kells, CPSR

4:00-5:45 p.m. - "Community Networking in San Diego."

Panelists: Nell Allen, Dept. of Social Services, County of San Diego

Marcia Boruta, San Diego Economic Conversion Council

Sandra Hall, Community Activist

Al Rogers, Global SchoolNet Foundation Mike Stark, San Diego Computer Society Moderator: Rik Belew, associate professor of computer science and engineering, UCSD

7:30-10:30 p.m. - CPSR Banquet. "Safeguarding the Right to Know." Speaker: Patricia Glass Schuman, Neal-Schuman Publishers

Sunday, Oct. 9

9:00-10:00 a.m. - "The Public Interest Aspects of the Information Superhighway." Speaker:

Sonia Jarvis, executive director, National Coalition on Black Voter Participation.

10:15-12:15 p.m. - The following workshops will be held for participants by national experts on technology activism:

- "Building Community Networks: Promise and Pitfalls," Aki Namioka and Doug Schuler, Seattle Community Network

- "Legal Issues for BBS Operators," Mike Godwin, Electronic Frontier Foundation

- "Network-based Organizing," Dave Banisar, Electronic Privacy Information Center and Steve Miller, State of Massachusetts

- "Helping People and Organizations Get Started With Networking," Eric Thiese, Liberty Hill Cyberwerks, and Art McGee, Institute for Global Communications

- "Investigative Reporting on the Internet," Marsha Woodbury, University of Illinois and Paul Lester, CSU, Fullerton

- "Privacy Activism," Christine Harbs, Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, USD and Dave Redell, CPSR Privacy and Civil Liberties Working Group

- "Public Interest Activism and the NII Policy Process," Bill Drake, assistant professor of communication, UCSD.

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