



INSEIT quarterly newsletter

vol. 8, no. 1

From the Co-Directors -

Hello INSEIT,

Today is the perfect day to be working on the mid-winter newsletter—we are having one of the few cold, dreary winter days in Phoenix thanks to a huge winter storm coming in from the West Coast—I bet even Larry Hinman (at University of San Diego) is feeling a bit chilly. Our friend Luciano Floridi though is warm and snug this season as he responds to our member interview questions in this edition’s member spotlight.

We also hear from our newly elected president, Herman Tavani on a number of matters important to all of us. Elizabeth and I are looking forward to working with Herman and the board to make 2008 a terrific year for INSEIT.

Rounding things out nicely is a piece from Florence Appel on the special edition of Computers and Society featuring articles from the CEPE 2007 conference. As always, you will find information on relevant calls for papers and contact information for the board and us.

A belated Happy New Year to all of you. We wish you much success in all of your 2008 endeavors.

Cheers,

Kat and Elizabeth

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FROM THE ***PRESIDENT***

Dear Colleagues:

It was wonderful to see so many of you in San Diego last July at the CEPE 2007 Conference, and I look forward to seeing those of you who plan to attend Ethicomp 2008 in Italy this coming September.

This is my first opportunity to write to you since assuming my new role for INSEIT earlier this month. First, I would like to thank outgoing president Jim Moor for the very fine job he did during the past four years. Thanks to his leadership, INSEIT has continued to flourish. I would also like to thank outgoing Board members Jeroen van den Hoven and Simon Rogerson, each of whom served on the Board from INSEIT's inception in 2001 until December

2007. Congratulations to incoming Board members Luciano Floridi and Ken Himma. I have no doubt that Luciano and Ken will make excellent contributions to our association in their capacity as members of the new Board. Fortunately, Board members Fran Grodzinsky, Philip Brey, and Keith Miller will continue in their roles, and I am delighted that I will be able to work with them. INSEIT is also very fortunate to have two excellent co-directors: Elizabeth Buchanan and Kat Henderson (who assumed their positions in January 2007). Elizabeth and Kat have already made significant improvements to our Newsletter and our Web site, and they continue to impress the Board with the terrific job they do in overseeing and managing INSEIT's operations and finances. So, I am blessed with a very fine group of dedicated individuals with whom to work, as I assume my new responsibilities. Where appropriate, I will no doubt call on past presidents Jim Moor and Deborah Johnson to seek their advice on crucial matters affecting INSEIT.

During the next year, INSEIT will continue, and where possible expand on, our work with like-minded organizations such as ICIE and ACM-SIGCAS. (See SIGCAS Chair Flo Appel's article in this issue of the Newsletter for her suggestions about how INSEIT and SIGCAS can work together.) Additionally, we are currently considering proposals for two initiatives that we believe will benefit our existing membership and potentially attract new members: (1) an annual INSEIT publication; and (2) a Mentor/Scholarship

(continued)

Program for graduate students. You may recall that the idea for an annual publication (in addition to our quarterly electronic newsletter) was initially proposed a few years ago. We soon discovered that the cost of producing an annual hardcopy publication was fairly prohibitive; however, we are now exploring some alternative (and more affordable) schemes for producing and delivering such a publication. The new Board will soon formally consider some specific proposals for how we can best proceed with this objective. Also, the Board will soon deliberate on a proposal for an INSEIT-sponsored Mentor/Scholarship Program for members who are graduate students, post docs, or junior faculty. Because we strongly encourage graduate students and post docs to attend and present at INSEIT-sponsored conferences such as Ethicomp and CEPE, we are considering a proposal that would provide some financial support for eligible members who otherwise might not be able to afford the costs of attending these conferences. Even though all INSEIT members are eligible for discounts for conference fees at Ethicomp and CEPE, the current proposal would provide some additional financial support for selected students, post docs, and junior faculty.

While we have these two specific initiatives on the Board's agenda for 2008, we also welcome additional proposals from our membership. So, if you have any ideas that you would like the INSEIT Board to consider, please let us know. Also, Elizabeth and Kat encourage members to send them "member news" items including their accomplishments, publications, etc. for the Newsletter.

Our next INSEIT meeting is planned for September 2008 at the Ethicomp Conference. We look forward to seeing many of you in Italy in the fall.

Best wishes,

Herman Tavani



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT *Luciano Floridi*

What's life like for Luciano Floridi these days? How do you keep up with all you have happening?

Life is absolutely wonderful these days. It has not always been so sweet, and this is probably what makes me appreciate it more attentively. Kia and I enjoy an extraordinary marriage and a very fulfilling relationship. We live in the countryside (a small village in the Oxfordshire), we like a bit of gardening, making our own jam and baking our own pizza, while Kia's college (she is also an academic, professor of cognitive neuroscience at Oxford) provides an amazing cellar. Could I ask for more? I'm writing all this in front of our fireplace, and I know it all sounds too idyllic. But then I'm also aware that this is how I manage to cope with the relentless and mounting pressure from the professional life. The amount of work and its pace is staggering. I try my best to cut on commitments, but they seem to be like roses, the more you prune them the more they grow. These days, I have more air mileage than I can use, more invitations than I can possibly accept and I hardly take a weekend off (but see below for a memorable exception). Among other projects, I've signed four contracts for as many books, IACAP keeps me rather busy since I was elected President, and then there is the usual university business, teaching, the tons of bureaucracy, training with the squash team... so many new things to do and to learn. The new research chair in philosophy of information at the University of Hertfordshire is proving a fantastic opportunity. All this is very exciting and I confess equally wonderful, almost addictive. I know the meaning of workaholic.

Who has influenced you the most, personally and/or professionally?

Personally, the greatest influence in my life has been Kia's, apart from my parents', of course. She has made me a happy person. Professionally, I could mention many living people, but in order not to be unjust, let me restrain the scope of the question to the dead. Kant is certainly the philosopher who has exercised the deepest and widest influence on the way I think. So, the answer is two Ks, really.

If you could only read one book for the rest of your life, what would it be?

If I could cheat, then that book would undoubtedly be the second edition of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* published by OUP and edited by Stanley Wells, Gary Taylor, John Jowett, and William Montgomery. But if cheating is not allowed, then I have no doubts. They say humanity is divided between the Iliad-sort and the Odyssey-sort. I would read the second edition of the *Odyssey* in the Loeb Classical Library, translated by A. T. Murray and revised by G. E. Dimock. I much prefer Robert Fagles' translation, but I would like to have the Greek text as well.

Word has it you watch "House" quite regularly. What else is on your DVR?

Who has spilt the beans? I have some suspicions... oh well, you will also find, in alphabetic order, Bones, CSI, Numbers and lots of science fiction, B action films and B fantasy films. I confess that I use what I watch to rinse that spongy, gray material that lies behind the eyes.

What trends do you predict in information ethics scholarship?

This is a very hard question, and I'm sure I won't be able to answer it without some serious bias. I suspect we may witness three trends. One is already taking shape. It is the recognition of information/computer ethics (what Charles Ess nicely acronymises as ICE) as a respectable field of philosophical research. The fact that some textbooks in applied ethics have begun to include chapters on ICE, beside chapters on the now established areas of bioethics or environmental ethics, is already very significant. This trend, I'm afraid, will also bring some institutionalization, and the inevitable fixation of a canon of texts. A second trend, that I also find very interesting, is the exploration of less "classic" issues. We seem to be expanding the range of topics covered by our discipline, which now includes not only the usual issues raised by privacy, ownership, the digital divide and so forth, but also innovative questions posed by less explored phenomena, such as the ethical construction of the self through digital environments, the establishment of e-trust, the possibility of ethical design of software, the emergence of e-conflicts, or the growing importance of distributed morality through multiagent, hybrid systems. These are just a few examples, but when you start feeling like an interface between your GPS and your car, as I do these days, then you realise that ICE has a lot to say on how our moral lives will be shaped by information and communication technologies (ICTs) already in the near future. Finally, I would add a third trend, which is even more difficult to map than the previous two. Because ICTs are so pervasive and crucial in our society, I expect more ICE-related, exciting work will emerge in areas of overlapping ethical concerns, where ICE meets for example biometrics and genetics, environmental problems, business procedures or medical decisions. To summarise: consolidation, expansion and cross-pollination, as clarified above, are the three trends that I expect.



Armani or Prada?

Honestly? Davide Cenci (<http://www.davidecenci.com/4.swf>), if only I could afford it more often. But if Armani or Prada must be the choice, then Armani, by all means. I grew up envying Richard Gere's wardrobe in American Gigolo. And I like Armani's own style. My favourite colour is grey.

How do you want to be remembered?

Kia and I just spent a wonderful weekend in Stratford for my birthday, where we went to see Richard II. There was a line in the play that I can adapt to answer this hard question. I would be already delighted if my name were not be "blotted from the book of life" and "from heaven banish'd as from hence!".

Special Issue of Computers and Society

Flo Appel, SIGCAS Chair

ACM's Special Interest Group for Computers and Society (SIGCAS) has long benefited from INSEIT's fine work, and in fact, several of our members are affiliated with both organizations. This past July in San Diego, SIGCAS had a healthy presence at CEPE, and those of us in attendance appreciated the opportunity to engage in high quality discourse about computer ethics issues. In December, our special issue of Computers and Society (Vol. 37, No. 2) featured five articles that were derived from paper presentations made at CEPE 2007 and introduced by our guest editor, INSEIT President Herman Tavani. The issue also contained a review of the conference.

At CEPE, there was discussion about the possibility of more cooperation and collaboration between SIGCAS and INSEIT on future initiatives - one potential project involves a CEPE 2009 workshop that might bring together the computer scientists who are engaged in the teaching of computer ethics and the development of its pedagogy with the philosophers whose work provides many of the ideas and resources that enrich our classrooms. A cross-pollination of ideas from these two important populations could contribute much to the computer ethics education field.

I encourage all INSEIT members to visit our SIGCAS website (www.sigcas.org), consider contributing to our online Computers and Society publication, and joining the discussion about how our two organizations might continue to work together.

Flo Appel
SIGCAS Chair
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in Print

INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
ETHICS
Cultural Perspectives



Soraj Hongladarom and Charles Ess's *Information Technology Ethics: Cultural Perspectives* (Hershey, PA: IGI Global, 2007) achieved the rank of #12 bestseller of all IGI global titles in 2007.

The book is the first (to our knowledge) to approach some of the central problems of Information Ethics in deliberately cross-cultural ways. Contributions represent a wide range of cultural traditions, both Western and non-Western, such as African, multiple Asian traditions, and Turkey (as at the crossroads between the two). Issues addressed include the moral status of information and IT, privacy and surveillance, intellectual property, the digital divide, design, and the role of cultures in shaping our approaches to Information Ethics.

Several INSEIT members contributed chapters to the volume.

The editors were quite surprised, but very pleased to learn of the rather remarkable sales of the volume - first of all, as this strongly suggests that there is increasing recognition of the importance of cross-cultural perspectives on Information Ethics.

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Business and Technology in Turkey: An Emerging Country at the Crossroad of Civilations
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The Existential Significance of the Digital Divide for America's Historically Underserved Populations
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in Print

The *IJIRE* is the first peer-reviewed online journal, dedicated specifically to cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural research on Internet Research Ethics. All disciplinary perspectives, from those in the arts and humanities, to the social, behavioral, and biomedical sciences, are reflected in the journal.

The *IJIRE* publishes articles of both theoretical and practical nature to scholars from all disciplines who are pursuing—or reviewing—IRE work. Case studies of online research, theoretical analyses, and practitioner-oriented scholarship that promote understanding of IRE at ethics and institutional review boards, for instance, are encouraged. Methodological differences are embraced.

The *IJIRE* is published at the Center for Information Policy Research, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

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Introduction: Why *IJIRE*?
Elizabeth Buchanan and Charles Ess

Small Talk
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Ethical Approaches to Robotic Data Gathering in Academic Research
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Data as Representation: Beyond Anonymity in e-Research Ethics
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Researching the Researchers: Market Researchers, Child Subjects and the Problem of “Informed” Consent
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Emerging Legal Issues in the Collection and Dissemination of Internet-Sourced Research Data: Part I, Basic Tort Law Issues and Negligence
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Creating a Web of Attribution in the Feminist Blogosphere
Erin Hvizdak

Journal available online at: <http://www.ijire.uwm.edu>



in Print

Call for Papers

Research Ethics, Policies, Law: International Perspectives

A special issue of the *International Journal of Internet Research Ethics*

This issue welcomes papers dealing with any aspect of international policy and internet research ethics. Specifically, we are interested in papers from researchers and scholars exploring data protection laws; policies and regulations; and ethical models of research protections. We seek practical, applied discussions – i.e., as informed by and focusing on one or more case studies or real-world examples – as well as theoretical papers.

Suitable topics include: reviews of existing research protections laws and policies in specific countries or broader units of analysis such as Scandinavia, the European Union, Africa, South Asia, developing countries, and so forth; reviews of existing laws and policies vis-à-vis emerging technologies; cross-cultural analyses of research ethics and online research; specific analyses of related issues such as privacy, attribution, copyright, ownership, consent models; or discussions of online research in action, such as ethnographies, participant observations, research with/on minors, and discourse/content analyses.

Papers may be in the length of 1500-5000 words. Please use the style sheet available at: www.ijire.uwm.edu

Completed papers are due by April 15, 2008, submitted to eliz1679@uwm.edu. Authors are encouraged to contact the editors to discuss possible submissions in advance of the deadline.

The IJIRE is a peer-reviewed, open access online journal: www.ijire.uwm.edu, edited by Elizabeth A. Buchanan, Charles Ess, and Annette N. Markham.

Calls and Announcements

Call for Contributions

The Future of Identity in the Information Society – Challenges for Privacy and Security

Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Rep.

September 1-7, 2008

Submission address and workshop proposals will be accessible via:

www.buslab.org/SummerSchool2008

Submission Deadline: April 28, 2008

Notification of Acceptance: June 10, 2008

Short paper (up to 6 pages) for the Pre-Proceedings: August 11, 2008

More information at the Summer School Website: www.buslab.org/SummerSchool2008

Call for Papers

The Good Life in a Technological Age

Multidisciplinary Workshop at the University of Twente, The Netherlands

June 12-14, 2008

Extended abstract submission deadline : March 10

Notification of acceptance : March 21

Workshop : June 12-14

Submission of full paper (optional) : November 1

More information at : <http://ceptes.nl/glita>

Call for Submissions

The Philosophy of Computer Games

University of Potsdam, Germany

May 8-10, 2008

The Philosophy of Computer Games is an international conference discussing computer games from a philosophical perspective.

Deadline for submissions : February 15, 2008

More information at : <http://www.gamephilosophy.org/>

Call for Submissions

ETHICOMP 2008 - Working and Learning beyond Technology

University of Pavia, Mantua, Italy

September 24-26, 2008

Deadline for submissions February 22, 2008.

More information at : <http://www.ccsr.cse.dmu.ac.uk/conferences/ethicomp/ethicomp2008/>

Call for Submissions

Mobile Communication and the Ethics of Social Networking

Budapest, Hungary

September 25–27, 2008

Deadline for submission is March 25, 2008

More information at : <http://www.socialscience.t-mobile.hu/2008/>

Call for Submissions

The 2008 North American Conference on Computing and Philosophy

Indiana University-Bloomington

July 10-12, 2008

Deadline for submission is March 1, 2008

More information at : <http://ia-cap.org/na-cap08/>

Conference Announcement

German ICIE Symposium

The German ICIE Symposium is taking place in just a few weeks. Michael Nagenborg who is chairing the conference asked us to share some details with INSEIT.

The Symposium takes place at the University of Karlsruhe on the 3rd and 4th of April. We are expecting about 20 participants. The working language will be German. The question before us is how the Internet has changed and how this changes might or might not be reflected in information ethics. This is a challenging proposition to the ICIE, because in earlier publications there was a pragmatic focus on the Internet.

There will be three sections, on three changes/transformations of the Internet:

1. Web 1.0 to Web 2.0
2. From computers as western elite media To transglobal networks
3. The Internet without Personal Computers

ICIE is interested in having an ICIE track at CEPE. Their experiences at the symposium will help them to determine if a similar theme would be a good choice for CEPE. Your thoughts on this and other future opportunities are always welcome. Contact information for the INSEIT board and the executive directors is included in every issue.

General Announcement

EGE Opinion on Ethical Issues of Animal Cloning for Food Production

See INSEIT member Rafael Capurro's work on the European Group on Ethics News Release on on ethical aspects of animal cloning for food supply at: http://http://ec.europa.eu/european_group_ethics/index_en.htm

Conference Announcement

Machine Ethics at NA-CAP 2008

Indiana University-Bloomington

July 10-12, 2008

The International Association for Computing and Philosophy is pleased to announce a special session on machine ethics as part of its 2008 North American Conference. The theme for this year's conference concerns "the limits of computation," construed broadly beyond the exercises on mathematical computation that the phrase initially suggests.

The conference will feature a special, two-hour panel session asking, "Is Ethics Computable?", organized by Michael Anderson (University of Hartford). The panel will be populated by people who are well-versed in the issues, some of whom are largely responsible for introducing philosophy (at least) to the moral problems and perils, not only of autonomous robots, but also of computers more generally. In addition to Michael Anderson, the panel members include Colin Allen (Indiana University), Susan Anderson (University of Connecticut), Ronald Arkin (Georgia Tech), Marcello Guarini (University of Windsor, Canada), Jim Moor (Dartmouth College), Tom Powers (University of Delaware) and John Sullins (Sonoma State University).

NA-CAP conferences always draw several papers and proposals on computer ethics. Last year's conference included two special sessions on ethics, one surrounding the Free Software and Open Access movements, and the other detailing the "Ethical and Legal Implications of Software Design." The conference also hosted two regular sessions on ethics. The conference organizers are hopeful for similar interest this year. Papers and proposals on machine ethics, computer ethics more generally, and other topics relating to the conference theme are being accepted up until March 1st, 2008. For details, please visit the conference website at <http://ia-cap.org/na-cap08/>

General Announcement

Center for Ethics, Business and Economics

Catholic University of Lisbon

The Catholic University of Lisbon, School of Business and Economics is very happy to announce the establishment of the Center for Ethics, Business and Economics (CEBE). The mission of the center is to develop research, educational and editorial initiatives related to business and information ethics.

The director of the center is João Seabra. João César das Neves and Antonino Vaccaro are respectively the director of the Research and the executive director. The Research Committee is directed by Peter Madsen, Distinguished Professor at Carnegie Mellon University, and it is composed by João Carlos Espada (Catholic University of Lisbon, Institute of Political Studies), Luciano Floridi (Oxford University), Lucas Introna (Lancaster University), José Manuel Moreira (Aveiro University) and Martin Sandbu (Wharton School of Business).

Detailed information concerning CEBE's activities can be found at the: www.fcee.lisboa.ucp.pt/cebe

MEMBER NEWS

Dr. Philip Brey was appointed full professor in philosophy of technology and head of the department of philosophy of the University of Twente as of October 2007. In addition, as of July 2008, he will be regional director of E-CAP, the European branch of the International Association for Computing and Philosophy.

This coming fall, **Dr. Elizabeth Buchanan**, Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Information Studies, will spend the month of October in residency at the University of Oxford, UK, as part of a National Centre for e-Social Science fellowship, awarded in December, 2007. Dr. Buchanan will spend the majority of her time at the Oxford e-Social Science Node (OeSS), which focuses specifically on the ethical, legal, and institutional dynamics of grid-enabled e-sciences (http://www.ncess.ac.uk/research/social_shaping/oess).

During her fellowship, Dr. Buchanan will engage with members of NCeSS through joint research, publications, seminars, training and capacity building activities. She will contribute to the NCeSS working papers series during the tenure of her Fellowship.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Philosophy of the University of Twente in the Netherlands is looking for a Ph.D. Student (M/F, fulltime) for the project “Cultural, Political and Religious Ideologies and the Appraisal of New Media”

The PhD position is part of a prestigious and exciting international research project in philosophy named “Evaluating the Cultural Quality of New Media”. This five-year project, which includes six researchers and involves collaboration with leading international scholars and research centres, has as its aim to develop a framework for better normative analyses of new media and new media culture, especially in relation to their contribution to the quality of life (“the good life”) and the quality of society. Project leader is Prof. Dr. Philip Brey. The project is part of a new international Centre of Excellence in Ethics and Technology (<http://www.ethicsandtechnology.eu>) of the departments of philosophy of Twente University, Delft University of Technology and Eindhoven University of Technology. (Continued on next page)

Objectives

The aim of the PhD project is to perform a study of interpretations and evaluations of new media and their consequences that are made by representatives of major ideologies or worldviews, with the aim of assessing how they relate to conceptions of the good life and the good society held by these ideologies. It will involve a study of liberal, communitarian, conservative, religious and post materialist evaluations of new media, and the assessment of what the benefits and harms of new media cultures are and how these can be evaluated within these ideologies. It will also provide normative critiques of current ideological stances regarding new media.

Profile

A Master's degree or equivalent degree in philosophy, preferably with a background in ethics and/or social or political philosophy.

Consideration will also be given to candidates with a multidisciplinary Master's degree on a topic relevant to the project and some background in philosophy, and to exceptional (international) candidates with only a bachelor's degree in philosophy.

Demonstrable interest in philosophical issues relating to information technology and new media (but previous work in this area not required). Good analytical skills. Good communication skills in English, in writing as well as orally. Good team spirit. Creativity, open-mindedness, and an ability to develop new ideas.

Offer

A four-year full-time Ph.D. position, preferably starting April 1, 2008. The gross salary is € 2.000,- in the first year going up to € 2.558,- in the fourth year (€ 27.456,- and € 35.699,- per annum, respectively, including vacation pay and end-of-year bonus). The position also comes with a personal budget of € 8.000,- for travel and conference attendance.

Information and application

A description of the PhD project, the overall project of which it is a part and a FAQ can be retrieved from <http://www.ceptes.nl/vici>. Applicants are advised to read these texts before applying. For questions not answered on the website please contact the project leader, Prof. Dr. Philip Brey (e-mail: p.a.e.brey@utwente.nl).

Your application should contain the following documents: a letter of application which explains your interest in the position and your qualifications for it, as well as some suggestions on how you would want to approach the project you apply for; a curriculum vitae which includes the name and e-mail address/telephone number of one of your professors, preferably the supervisor of your master's thesis; a copy of your thesis; copies of publications, if any; an academic transcript that contains a list of subjects taken and grades received (this may be an unofficial version or scanned copy; we can request the original later).

Your application can be sent before March 7, 2008 by e-mail (preferred) or by normal post to dr. ir. J.F.C. Verberne (e-mail: pz-gw@gw.utwente.nl), managing director of the Faculty of Behavioural Sciences, University of Twente, PO Box 217, 7500 AE Enschede, the Netherlands. Vacancy number: 08/035.

Job interviews will be held on March 13 and/or 14, 2008. Women are strongly encouraged to apply.

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Membership:

On-Line Payment Now Available

The Philosophy Documentation Center (PDC) website now has the capability for online renewal.

Please check it out by going to <http://www.pdcnet.org/member-inseit.html> and click on "current members". This will take you to a screen where you would enter the renewal order number from the renewal notice sent out recently by PDC. New members can also join INSEIT by using this new and convenient system.

Note that you may also complete and send in the hardcopy document. Please print and complete the following information before sending it to the PDC:

Name:

Mailing Address:

E-Mail:

Membership Options (check one):

Regular Membership in INSEIT, \$60 _____

Student membership, \$25 _____

All payments must be in US funds

Payable by check**

Or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, and Discover)

Name on credit card:

Credit Card Number:

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