

From the Guest Editors

Celebrating Gary Marsden

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This special issue of *ITID* is dedicated to Gary Marsden, who passed away soon after chairing the ICTD conference in Cape Town in December 2013. Gary was an inspiration to many, and this issue highlights his achievements and legacy, how much we miss him, and how his work continues to influence research on mobile interaction design in developing regions.

This issue includes two testimonials from prominent members of the mobile and human-computer interface spaces, Jonathan Donner and Susan Dray. Gary and Susan go back decades and both were key drivers of the HCI for development movement. Jonathan moved to Cape Town from Bangalore and spent four years working side by side with Gary and his students at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Their testimonials are complemented by an infographic of Gary's professional career and a companion description of Gary's work at UCT, mainly his establishment of its Centre in Information and Communication Technology for Development. The infographic was designed by one of Gary's PhD students, Anja Venter. The narrative is provided by a couple of Gary's close colleagues at UCT, Edwin Blake and Marion Walton, along with Melissa Densmore, who took a job at UCT to work with Gary only to arrive after his passing.

We also include a review of the book *There's Not an App for That*, written by one of the book's principal authors, Simon Robinson. Actually, this is not really a book review. Gary was one of the book's coauthors. In this essay, Simon highlights Gary's contributions to the book.

And then, of course, we have the research articles. The call for papers made it clear that we were looking for research inspired or influenced by Gary's own work. Both articles offer touchpoints with Gary's work and its themes: African possibilities and constraints, sharing among people, mobile interface design, communitization.

One of Gary's former students, Pierre Benz, teams up with Edwin Blake on "Sharing the Cloudlet: Impression Management and Designing for Colocated Mobile Sharing." This article presents ideas centered on impression management, of content and identity, and on informing the design of colocated mobile technology, in this case experiments with cloudlet-based interactions on mobile devices.

Next we have an article by Neha Kumar, now at Georgia Tech, and her colleagues at the University of Washington entitled "Understanding Sociotechnical Implications of Mobile Health Deployments in India, Kenya, and Zimbabwe." This work looks at three mobile health interventions with an eye toward longevity. The authors provide an example of how to sensitize technology-focused ICT4D folks who design for people and communities. This is a recurring theme that Gary (and many others) keep coming back to: How do we focus on people and not technology when doing this kind of work?

We offer this special issue as a celebration of Gary Marsden and his work. We can see from the content of this issue that Gary's work continues in very capable hands, and we must look forward while looking back.

CELEBRATING GARY MARSDEN

To: Gary Marsden <gaz@cs.uct.ac.za>
From: William Tucker <wdtucker@gmail.com>, Nicola J. Bidwell <nic.bidwell@gmail.com>, Michael Best <mikeb@unu.edu>
Subject: Checking in on you

Gary,

You were sorely missed at ICTD in Singapore and at CHI in Toronto and Korea. Good papers and interactions all around, though bad news as computers and telecommunications are still failing to stem the suffering in the world. OK, not that any of us really ever expected them to (except perhaps for Mike back when he was still a grad student—but that was decades ago now).

Let's see, what else? Google released some eyeglasses, and Apple released a wrist-watch. Or maybe it was the other way around. And so it goes—but your solar trolley is still charging phones in Mankosi!

We are trying to keep an eye on your students. They all miss you terribly. And of course we can't write the words for your family; anyway, we know they are in constant communication with you already.

As for the three of us, well . . . Bill got your associate editor gig at *ITID*, and ICTDEVerS in Cape Town is still going strong. Oh, and he's also been using those roof racks from your old car (Thanks, Gil!). Did you hear Mike has taken a leave of absence from Tech to do some crazy United Nations startup in Macau? And nic started her Prof job in Namibia, got that big book published, and is working with 20 African scholars (including several of your students) on the inaugural AfriCHI tech. programme team.

We'll wind this up here for now since you know that we often have conversations with you in our heads and can't see a carpet at a conference without thinking of you. You're always in our hearts.

Lots of love,
nic, Bill, Mike



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