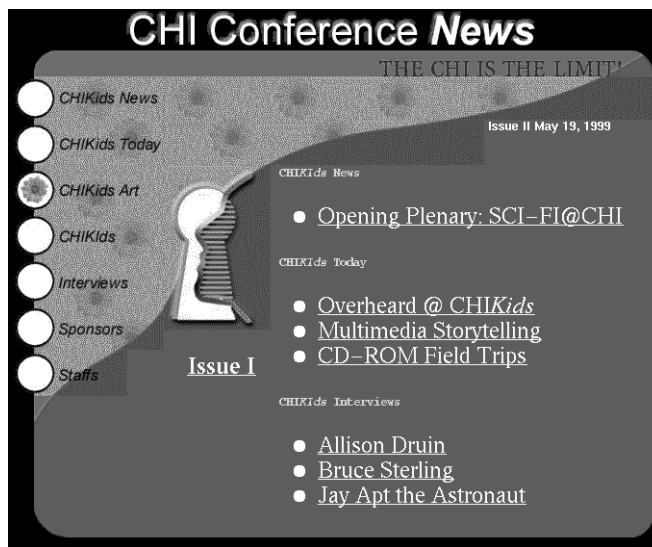


### Four Years of CHIKids from a CHIKid!

Each year, we look to summarize the CHI conference experience with articles and columns in the SIGCHI Bulletin. This year is no exception. As I have done in past columns, I look for new ways to see the contribution of children at the CHI conference. As many of you know by now, this has happened for the last four years through the CHIKids program. Through this conference program, children of conference attendees can be introduced to HCI, technology, and get some idea of what their parents actually do each day. At CHIKids, children are conference reporters, technology testers, and multimedia storytellers and users. The CHIKids program also is a way for the conference to produce a newsletter, website, and video documenting the CHI conference experience. And of course for CHI parents, it is a unique childcare experience for children ages 3-14.

Each year, we try to summarize the CHIKids happenings in different ways. This year, I decided it was time for someone else to talk a little about what their experiences have been. When I thought about who that someone should be, I thought of Brian Jaffee. Brian is one of our few CHIKids who has been a part of the program since its start, and hasn't missed a year since. Brian was 10 when he began, and now four years later he is a lot taller and quite an experienced CHIKids reporter. Each year Brian comes back to join our newsroom staff in covering the CHI conference. This year he was promoted to Jr. Editor-in-Chief of the newsroom, a position that had him editing, designing, and contributing more than ever (see <http://www.acm.org/sigchi/chi99/chikids/> for this year's web site).

I thought it might be a nice idea to turn the tables on Brian and interview him (seeing that he has interviewed an awful lot of CHI dignitaries through the years!) So below is my interview with Brian, four years a CHIKid and many years wise.



#### Chikids website for CHI99

*A.D.: Brian, tell us a little about yourself... How old are you? What part of the world do you live in? Who is your CHI parent?*

*B.J.:* I am 14 years old, and live in Ohio. My mom, Laura Leventhal is my CHI parent. I swim and have been to CHIKids 4 times.

*A.D.:* *If you were going to describe CHIKids to someone that has never been there, how would you describe it?*

*B.J.:* CHIKids is a chance for kids to learn about and use computers with other kids.

*A.D.:* *What made you decide to go to CHIKids that first year in '96?*

*B.J.:* My mom wanted me to go because she thought it would be a good program.

*A.D.:* *How has CHIKids changed over the years?*

*B.J.:* My first year we were in a small hotel room with about 15 computers. In '97 we had 3 hotel rooms and about 30 computers. In LA we had 2 large conference rooms with about 30 or 40 computers, and this year we had a whole hall-

way with 4 or 5 rooms, and about 40 computers.

*A.D.:* *What part of CHIKids have you been involved with each year?*

*And how has that changed over the years?*

*B.J.:* The newsroom... The first year we only had 4 or 5 people in the newsroom, and one digital camera. In Atlanta and L.A. we had about 10 kids in the newsroom. And this year we only had about 6. My first year we interviewed maybe one or two people a day. And didn't go to any tutorials or workshops. In Atlanta, we had 4 people coming in a day to be interviewed and we also went to tutorials and workshops. This was the only year we had a word limit for our stories. In LA we had about three people come in a day and also went out to a lot of workshops and tutorials. This year we had only one or two people come in a day

to be interviewed and most of our stories were about workshops.

*A.D.: What are the reasons you keep coming back to CHIkids each year?*

B.J.: It is fun to interview people at CHI and to see old friends and to meet new ones.

*A.D.: Are there any particular memories that stand out for you of your time in CHIkids?*

B.J.: In Atlanta going to CNN, in LA playing four square with Perry, in LA going out to lunch with you and my friends, in LA the first day seeing all my friends from Atlanta, in LA making the 4 divas and a dude web page, and also that all five of us look forward to seeing each other next year. At CHI99, making the video for the closing plenary, Also at CHI99, Sabrina and I working on Flash, listening to Sabrina playing the piano, and going to the science museum.

*A.D.: If you could change anything(s) about CHIkids what would it be?*

B.J.: Make it longer than five days.

*A.D.: If you could look into the future, what do you think CHIkids would look like 5 years from now? And what would you be doing at CHI?*

B.J.: There will be more and better computers, there will be more things to choose from instead of the news-room, Multimedia Storytelling, Technology Workouts etc... More leaders, bigger rooms, and more kids. In five years at CHI, I will be 19 and maybe I will be a student volunteer or be a CHIkids leader.

*A.D.: Any closing thoughts?*

B.J.: I am disappointed that some people are thinking about not having CHIkids next year because there are kids in Europe that could have the opportunity to attend. Also if there would be no CHIkids next year I couldn't see my friends from previous CHIkids, and I hope that we have it next year because it is a lot of fun.

*A.D.: Thanks Brian for the interview.*

Note-A committee has been formed by the CHI2000 Co-Chairs to look into the possibility of having a CHIkids program at CHI2000. Due to resource constraints and site complexities, at the time of CHI99 it was not known if a CHIkids program would be possible.

Allison Druin

CHI-BULLETTIN-  
KIDS@ACM.ORG

<http://www.umiacs.umd.edu/~allison/>