

Say Hello to GRACE

Grace is an autonomous robot designed to meet one of the biggest challenges facing any mobile robot – interacting with people. She can respond to typed questions in her own voice. She knows how to stand in line with people and can find her way inside buildings. With her digitally animated face, displayed on her computer monitor head, she can let people know how she’s feeling.

Grace gained international attention in 2002 when she attended the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Edmonton, Alberta. She registered for the conference, found her way to an assigned lecture hall and presented a talk all on her own. Grace thus lived up to her name, which stands for Graduate Robot Attending ConferencE. Since then, Grace has made numerous appearances at public events and conferences.

Grace was developed under the guidance of Reid Simmons by a team of researchers from Carnegie Mellon, the Naval Research Laboratory, Metrica Inc., Northwestern University and Swarthmore College

At Carnegie Mellon, Grace is part of the Social Robots Project in the School of Computer Science’s Robotics Institute. The project seeks to make interaction with robots more natural by equipping them with conversational and spatial social skills, by personalizing their interactions with people, and in conjunction with the school of drama, providing them with personality and character. The Robotics Institute, established in 1979, is one of the world’s leading robotics research centers.

