Announcements

New PhD Program

In the Spring, 2010 newsletter, we were proud to announce a new PhD in Education with a concentration in Learning Technologies Design Research. The PhD concentration supports the in depth study of design-based research methods that address cross disciplinary design, development, and research in such areas as innovation and creativity in the design of learning technologies, design and assessment of K-12 technology solutions and technology teacher education, technology solutions to support those with disabilities, and emerging technologies and practices. The Learning Technologies Design Research concentration is the first of its kind with an innovative approach that engages doctoral students in real world, integrated design and research. Doctoral candidates complete a sequence of core courses as well as choosing courses from one of three specialization areas: instructional systems design, integration of technology in schools, or assistive technology.

This Fall semester we have offered the first two courses in the Learning Technologies Design Research concentration sequence. In addition, we are proud to welcome five new PhD candidates who were admitted during the Fall 2010 cycle and who join those who have already been admitted.

For information about the new doctoral program, potential students are encouraged to visit the IT Program website at http://it.gse.gmu.edu/degrees/phd/ or to contact Dr. Priscilla Norton, Program Coordinator at 703-992-2015 or pnorton@gmu.edu.

New Faculty Members

This Fall (2010) the Instructional Technology Programs welcomed two new members: Dr. Anya Evmenova and Kristine Neuber.

Dr. Evmenova is an assistant professor of Special Education. She earned her Ph.D. in Education from George Mason University in 2008. She also holds a MEd in Learning Disabilities and Graduate Certificate in Assistive Technology from East Carolina University, NC (2003). Prior to earning her Ph.D., Dr. Evmenova taught students with learning disabilities in elementary and middle schools in North Carolina. She regularly presents at national and international conferences and has numerous publications in the area of assistive technology. Her current research interests focus on assistive and instructional technology tools for providing academic content-based instruction to students with various abilities and needs.

Kristine Neuber serves as the Assistive Technology/Parent Information Technology Coordinator for the Graduate School of Education. She has returned to Mason to add to her more than 14 years of service at Mason. In her new role, she is acting as technical support on the Parent Portal Project with the Immersion Team in addition to teaching courses in the Assistive Technology Program and managing the Assistive Technology Computer Lab. She completed her Bachelors of Science in Special Education at Southern Connecticut State University in 1992, a Masters Degree in Assistive/Special Education Technology from George Mason University in 1997, and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Special Educa-

tion with an emphasis on Disability Policy. Kristine has also worked as a special education teacher for students with visual impairments and managed the Computer Electronic Accommodations Program Technology Evaluation Center (CAPTEC) for the Department of Defense.

Projects & Partnerships

LATIST wins SLOAN-C Effective Practice Award

LATIST which stands for Learning Asset Technology Integration Support Tool was developed for the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) by the 2009-2010 Instructional Technology Immersion Program team. The overall project goal was to examine DAU learning assets and technology integration processes and recommend innovative and research-driven approaches for integrating advanced learning technologies into learning designs. **Dr. Nada Dabbagh** and **Dr. Kevin Clark** led a team of nine students through the instructional design process across two semesters which resulted in the development of a functional prototype called LATIST. This prototype is now patent pending and award winning. Click on http://latist.gmu.edu to view the prototype; http://immersion09.onmason.com/ to view the project details; and http://sloanconsortium.org/effective_practices/latist-learning-asset-technology-integration-support-tool/ to view award details. Kudos to the 2009-2010 Instructional Technology Immersion Team!

2010-2011 Immersion Project – T/TAC Online for Parent

The Instructional Design and Development (Track 1) Immersion Program is pleased to again partner with the Virginia Department of Education to expand the T/TAC Online web site to target the needs of parents of children with special needs. The current T/TAC Online site is designed for educators working with special needs children and provides information, resources and training in a timely manner. Part of a grant awarded to **Dr. Michael Behrmann**, this project will enhance the value of the current T/TAC Online web site by re-purposing the site's content and identifying additional content needed to meet the needs of parents of children with disabilities. **Dr. Shahron Williams van Rooij** is the faculty lead for this project and will be guiding the Immersion students throughout this real-world instructional design project. The overall goal of this project is to create a T/TAC Online for Parents portal that seamlessly integrates current T/TAC Online content and new and/or modified parent-specific content for a positive user experience for parents. For more information, visit the T/TAC Online project site at http://immersion.gmu.edu/ttac/fall2010/.

Center for Digital Media Innovation and Diversity - Update!

The Center for Digital Media Innovation and Diversity (http://cdmid.gmu.edu) has established a video game room as part of a research project with the Children's Technology Review (http://childrenstech.com) that focuses on the content diversity of randomly selected Wii video games. The Center is also partnering with Reach For College to design and develop an online game, College and Career Champ, that provides students with skills needed for college preparation and career exploration. Most recently, the October 2010 edition of the National Science Teachers' Association Reports newspaper (http://www.nsta.org/publications/news/story.aspx?id=57938) featured research of the Center.

EDSE 610: Developing Adaptive Environments Final Project- Sunrise Senior Living

George Mason University's Designing Adaptive Environments (EDSE 610) course provides graduate students with an overview of environmental adaptations for persons with disabilities to increase their access to community, workplace and school activities. In this course, taught by Ms. Cindy George, instructional and assistive technology faculty, the final project is a community based application of the principles learned. Students work in teams to conduct an assessment and make recommendations for a particular environment or setting, keeping in mind the needs of the people who function within the specific environment. The members of this fall's class are teachers, educators, assistive technology team members and occupational therapists. They bring a wide variety of experiences to the project.

This year, the class is partnering with Sunrise Senior Living to explore and make recommendations regarding computer access and use among residents of the assisted living communities and assistive technology supports for the Reminiscence "neighborhoods" within the sites. These "neighborhoods" are specially designed for residents with dementia and other memory difficulties. Rita Altman, the national director of memory care services, spoke with the students in September, described what is currently available in Sunrise Senior Living centers, and what her vision is for the future. At this time, the availability of computers and other assistive technology is not consistent across Sunrise Centers. Ms. Altman would like to take the recommendations of this class and apply them to Sunrise Senior Living centers both in the United States and abroad.

The students have visited more than five Sunrise communities in Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and New Jersey to observe what is currently available regarding computer technology and assistive technology, and how the residents are using these technologies. Students will use their observations to guide their research into what types of technologies are both appropriate and available based on the needs of the residents. They will make recommendations to Sunrise Senior Living in a written report and group presentation in December 2010.

This is an interesting project as there are beginning to be residents of Sunrise who have used technology as part of their daily life prior to assisted living. Also, there are many innovations available that can support the needs of older people in assisted living facilities, particularly those with dementia and other memory disorders. The project supports the growing need in Sunrise Senior living communities and in the broader community of elderly who require assisted living services.

EDIT732 -   Analysis and Design of Technology Based Learning Environments - Message from Instructor

This semester, graduate students in **Dr. Brenda Bannan'**s class are designing conceptual prototypes for the use of augmented reality (layering or accessing digital information on the real world through mobile phone technology) in education in EDIT732. Student groups are tackling education and learning problems such as learning geometry using augmented reality, reinforcing the learning of chemistry lessons for homeschoolers, promoting history learning through augmented reality, and enhancing informal museum learning experiences through augmented reality at Mount Vernon.

GMU's IT Programs continually strive for innovation in the Instructional Technology program, taking on external and internal clients to tackle formal and informal learning problems with systematic instructional design processes to promote innovative learning technology design solutions.

IT Listserv

Join the IT Listserv to learn about new job opportunities, upcoming and new courses being offered, and Instructional Technology Program events. To join go to http://it.gse.gmu.edu/listserv/

Calling All Alumni!

Because we would like to keep up with you after graduation, we are encouraging alumni to become part of the George Mason Alumni Directory. Everyone who graduates from George Mason is a member of the University and College Alumni Associations. If you go to the Alumni Association website, you can get information on the association, events, and benefits. The link is http://www.gmu.edu/alumni/

Give to IT

In an effort to help the Instructional Technology Program grow and continue to deliver innovative programs, we are asking students and alumni to donate specifically to the program. Donations will be used to support program activities, scholarships, and outreach efforts. To give any amount (check with employers for matching opportunities), please visit http://www.gmu.edu/development/annual/index.html and specify the Instructional Technology program.

IT Program Contact

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Instructional Technology Program, please contact Ms. Kelley Shillingburg, Program Manager, at kshillin@gmu.edu or 703-993-3798.