

Newsletter
Fall 2011

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Announcements

Ch-ch-ch-changes!! New Organizational Structure for CEHD

The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) has transitioned to a new organizational structure this fall under the leadership of CEHD's dean, Dr. Mark Ginsburg. We now have eight divisions in the college and the Instructional Technology Program's new home is the Division of Learning Technologies. To find out more about this new division visit http://gse.gmu.edu/div_lt/ The Instructional Technology program website still has the same address (<http://it.gse.gmu.edu>) but it has undergone a significant redesign to match the new college structure.

New Division Staff

The transition to the division also comes with new administrative staff. In April we bid farewell to Kelley Shillingburg who moved to a new position at Mason and welcomed Jari Fofana and Sonya Thomasson. Jari is the Division of Learning Technologies' full time administrative support coordinator and Sonya will provide part time administrative support. Please stop by and say hello to Jari and Sonya on your next visit to Mason.

We are finally moving to Thompson Hall

As some may have heard, we are moving to Thompson Hall on the main campus. The lease for the Commerce buildings is ending soon and we have been preparing for this move for a few years now so it is finally happening. The second week of November is moving week for the Division of Learning Technologies faculty and staff. Thompson Hall has been renovated and we will have new offices, new furniture, and new classrooms. We will lose our special parking lot and will need to budget additional time to get to the main campus but we are ready! For those taking Fall 2011 classes in the Commerce building, no worries. Classes will not be held in Thompson Hall until Spring 2012.



Instructional Technology (IT) Program Adjunct Faculty Update

The IT program is very sorry to report that teaching contracts for Wanda Mally, Trista Schoonmaker, and Rick Reo will not be renewed this year due to SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) new stringent requirements and policies for hiring adjunct faculty. We fought this decision long and hard but were not successful. Wanda, Trista, and Rick have done a remarkable job teaching fundamental IT program courses and supporting our students. Their commitment to higher education and the field of instructional design and technology is outstanding and the imprint they have left on student learning is long lasting. The IT program greatly values their service and will continue to work towards identifying potential areas for collaboration.

Two New Adjunct Faculty For Fall 2011



Dr. Karen Gardner, Executive Director of Training and Organizational Development for ManTech University, is an accomplished professional in developing e-Learning solutions in higher education, government and corporate educational settings. She is a hands-on learning professional with working knowledge of end-to-end learning processes. She spent a career as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with her last assignment teaching the FBI's future generation of Agents and Analysts. Facing this new assignment, she went back to the classroom and pursued a Master's and Doctorate from the University of Virginia. After retiring from the FBI in 2006, she worked as a goal-oriented instructional design professional in the intelligence community, with significant and progressive curriculum development expertise interacting with people and teams in instructional settings. She came to ManTech in 2010, and was key in designing and executing a learning strategy that was recognized in 2011 with the "Learning Elite" award from Chief Learning Officer Magazine. Dr. Gardner will teach EDIT 704-Instructional Technology Foundations and Theories of Learning.



Dr. Jane Bozarth is an internationally known trainer, speaker, and author. A training practitioner since 1989, Jane holds an M.Ed. in Training and Development/Technology in Training and a doctorate in Training and Development. She is the author of several books: Pfeiffer's E-Learning Solutions on A Shoestring; Better than Bullet Points; From Analysis to Evaluation; and, with Jim Kouzes & Barry Posner, The Challenge Continues workshop package. Dr. Bozarth's new book, "Social Media for Trainers," offers concrete ideas for using social media tools to enhance and extend workplace training efforts. Following a 10-year stint as a member of Training Magazine's "In Print" book review team, She began writing Learning Solutions Magazine's popular "Nuts and Bolts" column. In addition to her work as Elearning Coordinator for the state of North Carolina, USA, Dr. Bozarth has a longstanding collaborative relationship with InSync Training, LLC and serves as their Social Media Strategist. Jane Bozarth is the recipient of a Live and Online Award, a Training Magazine Editor's Pick Award, and a North Carolina State University Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Practice. Dr. Bozarth and her husband live in Durham, NC, USA. She can be contacted via her website <http://www.bozarthzone.com>, via Facebook at Jane Bozarth Bozarthzone, and via Twitter at @janebozarth. Dr. Bozarth will teach EDIT 772-Intro to Web 2.0/Social Software.

The Kellar Assistive Technology (AT) Lab Gets a Technology Face Lift



The Kellar AT Lab is a specialized computer lab with computer stations to meet the needs of individuals of all ages who live with disAbilities. It is located in Aquia Building room 219. The lab is used to support the degree programs in Instructional Technology, specifically Assistive/Special Education Technology as well as grant projects within the Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities. AT stations include hands-free access which showcases the ability to control the computer with just eye movements through speech recognition or head movements for people with significant physical disabilities. Other stations provide access for people who are blind and visually

impaired, have learning disabilities or need to use alternative or augmented communication systems to speak. This semester the lab is implementing iPads and iPod Touch technology at each of the AT stations loaded with Apps specifically designed to accommodate people with disabilities. For a full list of technology stations please visit: <http://kihd.gmu.edu/atlab/>

The Lab has also updated its 22 laptop stations that are used for instruction. Laptops are managed using SmartSync software which helps instructors manage student computers efficiently. For example, SmartSync allows for increased collaborative learning through the ability to create student groups for electronic file sharing and communication. Instructors can also increase efficiency with the ability to simultaneously launch programs on all student computers and monitor individual and group work from the instructor's station.

Learning Technologies Design Research (LTDR) PhD Concentration

We are happy to report that our new LTDR PhD Concentration is off to a great start! It started officially in fall 2010 and we already have 17 active doctoral students! The LTDR PhD concentration is the first of its kind with an innovative approach that engages doctoral students in real world, workplace-based integrated design and research. LTDR addresses cross disciplinary progressive cycles of design, development, and research focused on emerging technologies such as mobile learning, virtual worlds, and augmented reality. As a doctoral student in LTDR, you will build your credibility as an expert in the field of learning technologies as well as consider an R&D approach investigating new directions in the field that can integrate with your current work responsibilities or advance your career in a different direction. To learn more about our LTDR PhD Concentration visit <http://it.gse.gmu.edu/ltldr/>

EDSE 610: Developing Adaptive Environments Final Project—ADAPT Clubhouse

George Mason University's Designing Adaptive Environments (EDSE 610) course is designed to provide graduate students with a guided, community-based experience of adapting environments for persons with disabilities. In this course, taught by Ms. Cindy George, instructional and assistive technology faculty, students work as a team to conduct an assessment, make recommendations, prepare a report and present findings for a particular environment or setting, using learned principles of universal design and best practice.

This year's community partner is ADAPT Clubhouse located in Alexandria, VA. Funded by The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) and Virginia's State Chapter, ADAPT Clubhouse is a "place of possibilities." An introductory presentation by ADAPT Director, Keith Robinson, provided pertinent information on brain injury. Essential background information on 'members' who frequent the Clubhouse was also offered. Members work together to gain vocational skills, increase their levels of independence and social skills- things commonly affected after a brain injury. Working with others who have similar needs and concerns provides ADAPT members a unique level of support and encouragement that only those with a common experience can understand. This is a "working facility" stated Mr. Robinson. "The clubhouse is operated by its members... they love to be there."

The Clubhouse offers a range of vocational skill building opportunities. Four program divisions within the facility provide vocational and personal skill building activities; Kitchen/Maintenance Unit, Communications/Business Unit, Garden Unit, and Community Outreach & Snack Bar Units. Mr. Robinson closed his presentation by requesting assistance from students in EDSE 610 for adaptations and modifications to the "Business Unit." This charge includes customizing recently acquired iPads and adapting existing computers, printers and workstations within the Unit to better serve the needs of the members who will be using them. Members use these technologies to write and design Clubhouse newsletters, websites and twitter accounts; prepare flyers and advertisements for event planning and Clubhouse activities; and use technologies for personal support in daily scheduling, task reminders, and vocational training. In addition to modification recommendations to equipment, EDSE students have been asked to review the physical environment of the Unit, and the Clubhouse as a whole, to identify and reduce barriers that can cause potential hazards to ADAPT members such as poor lighting, varied flooring, and furniture layout.

The AT student team is now off and running this Fall semester; detailed plans have been made, observations and interviews are scheduled, and timelines for completing the project have been determined. It is the hope of the team that recommendations given will serve the entire population of the Clubhouse, not just those who choose to participate in activities of the "Business Unit." All ends in a final presentation on December 7th. Look for a summation in the Spring Newsletter.

For more information on ADAPT Clubhouse please visit their Website or Facebook page:

<http://www.adaptclubhouse.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=1530348749&sk=info>



Written by Diana Jurist, AT Masters student

For more information on the AT program, visit: <http://it.gse.gmu.edu/at/>

Symposium 2011



The 7th Annual Innovations in e-Learning Symposium was a great success! You can visit this link <http://elearningsymposium.gmu.edu/2011/> to view podcasts and vodcasts of keynotes and access several presentation files. Here is what two of our student volunteers had to say about their symposium experience.

Collen Halverson, Instructional Technology Program, 2011 Graduate

As a recent graduate of the Instructional Technology program at George Mason, the symposium was most valuable to me in terms of networking. There were opportunities to connect with industry leaders as well as with former students in my program. I also used a MingleStick for the first time! A MingleStick is a small, inexpensive keychain device that allows people to exchange identity information with a simple click of a button. This allowed me to easily access the contact information for people I had connected with during the symposium. The symposium was well organized and informative. There were many engaging workshops. I attended at least five workshops throughout the symposium, e.g., How to Build iPhone Apps, Mobile Learning, and Cloud Computing in Education. I found the presenters to be interesting and the topics current. Industry professionals were also on hand to discuss presentations as well as best practices in their field. It was engaging to start each day with a keynote speaker and worth noting that you are able to access many of the presentations from the Symposium using this link <http://innovationsinelearning.gmu.edu/presentationfiles.asp> I hope to attend again in the future.

Boshra Zawawi, Instructional Technology Program, 2011 Graduate

The 7th Annual Innovations in E-learning Symposium sponsored by the Defense Acquisition University and George Mason University's Instructional Technology program was a great experience for me. Despite the fact that it was my first conference, I enjoyed my time and learned a lot. The symposium was well developed and organized. All the presenters, especially the keynotes, had rich backgrounds and presented with such high confidence, which made me eager to attend as many sessions as I could fit in. I was honored to attend Dr. Chris Dede's keynote "How Immersion in Virtual Worlds Helps Learners in the Real World". His presentation was an active start for the symposium. I also attended Koreen Olbrish's presentation "Leveraging Alternate Reality Games for Learning". She shared 5 case study examples of alternate reality games for training purposes. I believe offering case studies and/or examples enrich the presentation and help explain the main concepts. Indeed, the more active and engaged the presenter was, the more the attendees benefitted. Almost all the sessions were engaging, especially "Why 3D Games and Simulations Matter for Learning and Collaboration?" by Dr. Karl Kapp, and "Why I Remain Passionate about Instructional Design" by Dr. Allison Rossett. They were so passionate about their presentations which encouraged the attendees to participate by asking various questions that helped me learn more about the topic.

Symposium 2012

8th Annual Innovations in e-Learning Symposium
June 05, 06 & 07 2012



Save the Date for the 8th Annual Innovations in e-Learning Symposium!!

June 05, 06, & 07, 2012 at the Mason Inn

Theme: New Skills for a Global Workforce

Topics: Informal Learning and Social Media; Learning and Performance Analytics;
Competitive Edge Through Innovation

Confirmed keynotes: Mitch Kapor, George Siemens, Tony O'Driscoll, Jane Hart

<http://innovationsinelearning.gmu.edu/>

IT Listserv

Join the IT Listserv to learn about new job opportunities, upcoming and new courses being offered, and Division of Learning Technologies events. To join go to <http://it.gse.gmu.edu/idd/joinlistserv/>

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.

Division of Learning Technologies Contact

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Division of Learning Technologies and its Academic Programs, please contact Ms. Jari Fofana at jfofana@gmu.edu or 703-993-3798.

For more information visit

http://gse.gmu.edu/div_lt & <http://it.gse.gmu.edu>