

Instructional Technology Program

The **Instructional Technology (IT) Program** leverages the theory-based design of learning opportunities that maximize the teaching and learning process through a range of technology applications and design experiences. Master's degrees and graduate certificates can be earned in each of the following three program tracks.

- **Instructional Design and Development (IDD)** - Track One (Master's Degree - Part-time and Full-Time (Immersion) - 30 credits, Graduate Certificate - 15 credits)
- **Integration of Technology in Schools (ITS)** - Track Two (Master's Degree - 36 credits, Graduate Certificate - 15 credits)
- **Assistive/Special Education Technology (A/SET)** - Track Three (Master's Degree - 30 credits, Graduate Certificate - 15 credits)

For more information about the Instructional Technology Program visit <http://it.gse.gmu.edu/>

Announcements

The IT Program introduces Shahron William van Rooij!

Dr. Williams van Rooij is assistant professor in the Instructional Technology program and teaches courses in the e-Learning graduate certificate program. **Dr. Williams van Rooij** received her Ph.D. in Instructional Technology with a minor in Software Information Systems from George Mason University in 2007. She also has a doctorate in Quantitative Methods from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Prior to joining George Mason University, **Dr. Williams van Rooij** worked for 10 years as Director of Product Marketing at Datatel, Inc., in Fairfax, VA, where she facilitated the engineering of new e-learning technology solutions.

Dr. Williams van Rooij's research interests include designing and developing integrated learning environments using open source technologies that address both the academic and administrative needs of an institution. **Dr. Williams van Rooij** is also interested in the adoption of learning technologies by institutions in the various Carnegie classifications, the marketing of instructional technology programs by postsecondary institutions, and the measurement of the effectiveness of various technologies in enhancing teaching and learning. When not teaching or conducting research, **Dr. Williams van Rooij** can be found underwater taking pictures of marine life. Her photos have won prizes at the Manassas-Warrenton Camera Club and have been exhibited at the Photographic Society of America's 2006 and 2007 International Exhibitions.





Online Assistive Technology Class required for the new Teacher Preparation Program in Visual Impairments

This fall three online classes are being offered by the Graduate School of Education as part of a new teacher preparation program in visual impairments. The courses include Characteristics of Students with Visual Impairments, Braille Code and Assistive Technology for Individuals with Sensory Impairments (EDSE/EDIT 522). The classes are delivered online using a combination of Breeze (Adobe Connect) and Blackboard. The assistive technology course is also using a document camera to demonstrate the use of hardware applications and online tool at www.mypc.com to allow students to get hands-on experience with assistive technology software by logging onto a computer located on campus, remotely from their home. While the Characteristics and Braille courses have 22 and 27 students respectively the assistive technology course has only 5 students enrolled which allows all of the students to connect through a conference call making in class discussion seamless. EDSE/EDIT 522 is now a required course for the VI Licensure program so we expect to have more students in the summer and next fall semester.



Dr. Nada Dabbagh to take study leave

Dr. Nada Dabbagh is taking a study leave (sabbatical) beginning Spring 2008 to work on a new book with CEHD colleague Dr. Anastasia Kitsantas. The book will describe how Integrative Learning Technologies (ILT) which include Learning Management Systems, Personal Learning Systems, and Social Learning Systems can support and promote self regulated learning (SRL) skills and motivation to learn. She will spend her between in the U.S. and Lebanon, and will return Fall 2008.

Upcoming Event - 4th Annual Innovations in e-Learning Symposium June 3, 4 & 5, 2008

The 4th Annual Innovations in e-Learning Symposium is scheduled for June 3, 4 & 5, 2008 in the Johnson Center at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.

Topics for 2008

- Mobile Learning
- Web 2.0 and Cyberinfrastructure
- Innovative Design & Research Partnerships
- Collaboration in a Virtual World

The GMU Instructional Technology Program is issuing a "Call for Presentations" for individuals interested in presenting at the 2008 Symposium. The Call for Presentations form and guidelines can be found at <http://it.gse.gmu.edu/news/symposium/>.

Projects & Partnerships

KIHd partnership with VA Department of Education creates a new statewide resource - Accessible Instructional Materials-Virginia (AIM-VA)

The Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education has created a new statewide resource- Accessible Instructional Materials- Virginia (AIM-VA) which will begin operation in September.

AIM-VA will produce and provide K-12 instructional materials including textbooks and supplementary materials in a variety of alternative formats for all Virginia K-12 students with print-related disabilities who are served under Part B of IDEA. There will be no cost to local education agencies. Potential alternative formats including Braille, large print, digital audio, CD, PDF, and HTML will be available through the Kellar Institute Library's online catalog which will serve as the primary access point for requests and distribution of accessible materials statewide. Potentially as many as 70,000 children in 132 local education agencies across the state of Virginia will be served.

To streamline this process, AIM-VA will use a state-of-the-art automatic book scanner system developed by Kirtas Technologies (<http://www.kirtas-tech.com/>) to scan content quickly and accurately with no damage to the books. There will be no need to cut spines off books in order to scan them because the scanner features an automatic page turner which turns one page at a time and a book cradle that creates a low-stress environment for the book. The machine is capable of 1,200 scans an hour, 300-600 dpi, full color, curvature-free, non-distorted images, OCR in over 177 languages, and outputs to JPEG, TIFF, and searchable PDF. In addition to creating digitized instructional materials for AIM-VA, the scanner will also be available for contract work for rare book and special collection digitization projects. For more information, contact **Michael Behrmann** (mbehrman@gmu.edu) at the Kellar Institute for Human disabilities.

Dr. Dabbagh's 2006-2007 Immersion Team goes to Utah

Joe Breighner, Allison Czapracki, LaTanger Gray, Rashmi Jain, and Abi Jones, and Dr. Dabbagh traveled to Provo, Utah in April 2007 to attend the ID+SCORM 2007 Symposium at Brigham Young University. The team presented a paper titled **“The challenges of using SCORM compliant LCMS to implement an online training system for underground coal mine supervisors .”** The presentation highlighted the challenges of using SCORM and 508 compliant LCMS to develop interactive and engaging online training. Examples of these challenges included configuring the look and feel (skin) and navigation structure of the training interface; controlling the location, sizing and spacing of multimedia content; linking content across courses; customizing naming conventions of content folders and files; and implementing interactive and engaging learning activities initially developed in Flash such as drag and drop and plug and play features. The team also discussed the effort required in developing the “first” learning objects in a SCORM compliant system versus developing training using non-object based tools.



Dr. Clark is awarded a new grant from NSF

Kevin Clark (PI) and Kim Sheridan (Co-PI) have been awarded the first year of a 3-year grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant entitled "Game Design Through Mentoring And Collaboration" is a partnership between George Mason University's Instructional Technology Program and McKinley Technology High School (MTHS) in Northeast Washington DC, and has the primary goal to increase motivation, achievement, and exposure to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) content of students from urban public schools where the vast majority of students are Black and Hispanic by having them work with scientists and experts to design and build educational games that can be utilized by other students and teachers.

Dr. Dabbagh submits a grant proposal to the Institute of Educational Sciences (IES)

Dr. Nada Dabbagh submitted a grant proposal to the Institute of Educational Sciences (IES) with CEHD colleagues, Dr. Anastasia Kitsanatas, Dr. Patricia Moyer-Packenham, and Dr. Michelle Buehl titled "Promoting Academic Success for Students in Freshman Mathematics (PASS-Math)". The grant, if awarded, will support a new immersion team for AY 2008-2009 and AY 2009-2010 so stay tuned!

Dr. Clark hosts students from Ghana and South Africa

Dr. Kevin Clark hosted Elementary and Middle school students from Tema International School (<http://www.ibo.org/school/002280/>) in Tema, Ghana, and Christel House Academy (<http://www.christelhouse.org/?section=locations/SouthAfrica&subsect=southafrica>) in Capetown, South Africa from June 15-16, 2007 who were on their way to Raleigh, NC to participate in a Math and Science program at North Carolina State University called the Anderson Academy. The program, where **Dr. Clark** conducted a technology workshop, served students in 3rd through 7th grades, with special emphasis on students from groups underrepresented in scientific and mathematical disciplines.



The Instructional Technology Program is proud to present a list of its award winning student projects

- Innovations **2007** Celebration of Learning Competition: Most Effective Corporate/Community Interaction Award - *The Development of an Online Training System for Underground Coal Mine Supervisors*, Instructional Technology Immersion Program
- Innovations **2005** Celebration of Learning Competition: Best Use of Technology Award - *KIHd Handheld Project*, Instructional Technology Immersion Program
- Innovations **2004** Celebration of Learning Competition: Best Use of Technology Award - *Lip Gloss is Thicker than Water! An Interactive Story CD-ROM by Six Early-Teen Girls* (Robin Seitz, EDUC 999, Doctoral Dissertation)



- Innovations **2002** Celebration of Learning Competition: Best Use of Technology - *Virginia Theological Seminary: Homiletics I Course Management Platform* (Michelle Kitt, Jane Rolufs & Greg Cupec, EDIT 752, Design and Production of Multimedia and Hypermedia Learning Environments)
- Innovations **2002** Celebration of Learning Competition: Student's Choice Award - *TTAC Online Learning Community*, Instructional Technology Immersion Program
- Innovations **2002** Celebration of Learning Competition: Most Effective Corporate/Community Interaction Award - *TTAC Online Learning Community*, Instructional Technology Immersion Program
- Innovations **2001** Celebration of Learning Competition: Best Use of Technology Award - *TTAC Online Learning Community*, Instructional Technology Immersion Program
- Innovations **2000** Celebration of Learning Competition: Best Use of Technology Award - *A Horse Barn Microworld* (Dana Grabiner, EDIT 732, Advanced Instructional Design)
- Innovations **2000** Celebration of Learning Competition: Best Use of Technology Award - *Department of Defense Senior Executive Service Orientation Supplement Project*, Instructional Technology Immersion Program
- Innovations **2000** Celebration of Learning Competition: Best Use of Technology Award (2nd place) - *Literacy Access Online (LAO)*, Instructional Technology Immersion Program
- Innovations **2000** Century Club's IT Showcase: Most Effective Corporate/Community Interaction Award (3rd place) - *Literacy Access Online (LAO)*, Instructional Technology Immersion Program

Application/Registration Information

- The Spring 2008 Schedule of Classes will soon be online at <http://patriotweb.gmu.edu/>
- Registration deadlines can be found at <http://registrar.gmu.edu>.
- Applications are being accepted for Spring 2008. The deadline is November 16, 2007. For application requirements and to apply online go to <http://gse.gmu.edu/admissions/adminrqts.htm>. For Track Two - Integrating Technology in Schools contact Dr. Priscilla Norton at pnorton@gmu.edu.

IT Faculty

For more information on IT Faculty visit <http://it.gse.gmu.edu/faculty.htm>

IT Listserv

Follow the instructions below to subscribe to the IT listserv. As an IT Listserv subscriber you will receive information about new job opportunities, upcoming and new classes being offered, and Instructional Technology Program events.

1. Compose an email message to: listserv@listserv.gmu.edu
2. Leave the Subject line blank/empty.
3. Type the following line in the body of the message: subscribe ITLIST-L (your full name)

For example, for Jane Doe to subscribe to the ITLIST-L list, she would send mail to listserv@listserv.gmu.edu with the following message text: subscribe ITLIST-L Jane Doe.

You will receive an email confirmation of your subscription to the IT Listserv.