

## Announcements

### IT Program Ranks Among Top in the Nation

The Instructional Technology program at George Mason University was recently ranked among the top programs in the country by the Educational Media and Technology Yearbook (2009). The IT program is organized into three tracks: Track 1 is the Instructional Design and Development (IDD) track, serving those with educational interests primarily in government, military, business, and higher education; Track 2 is the Integrating Technology in Schools (ITS) track, serving public and private school teachers and school divisions; and Track 3 is the Assistive Technology (AT) track, serving those with disabilities in public schools and local, state, and federal agencies. Even though these tracks appear to be three unique programs, we have found a unifying center in the field of design. To learn more about the concept of design as it can be applied to understanding the teaching/learning enterprise regardless of context, goal, and audience please read our program's position paper.



#### *EMTY Yearbook Citation*

Orey, M., McClendon, V.J. & Branch, R. M. (Eds.). (in press). Educational media and technology yearbook (Vol 34). NY: Springer.

### Proposed IT Ph.D. Program is Back on Track

The proposed Ph.D. program for Instructional Technology has been given the go ahead. This means we are permitted to submit a proposal to the Higher Education Officials in Richmond, VA. If all goes well, the program could be approved as early as Fall 2010. If you want to start in the Ph.D. in Education program (<http://it.gse.gmu.edu/degrees/phd>), you'll be able to transfer to the new program when it's official. For more information, please contact Dr. Brenda Bannan-Ritland at 703-993-2067 or [bbannan@gmu.edu](mailto:bbannan@gmu.edu).

### Dr. Nada Dabbagh Keynotes in Oman

Dr. Nada Dabbagh's keynote presentation in March 2008 at the International Conference of Educational Technology (ICOET 2008) in Muscat Oman was well received. The title of her presentation was "Pedagogical Ecology of Learning Technologies: Past, Present, and Future." Sultan Qaboos University sponsors this conference on a yearly basis. Educational technology researchers and practitioners from the U.S., Europe, the Middle East, and Asia attended the conference. Dr. Dabbagh also interacted with students of the Instructional Technology program at Sultan Qaboos University and was impressed with their knowledge of instructional design principles and processes. The students were majoring in instructional design and technology at the undergraduate level, which is not typical in U.S. universities.



## Dr. Nada Dabbagh Presents at Booz Allen Hamilton's Design Kaizens

Dr. Dabbagh presented at Booz Allen Hamilton's Design Kaizens in Herndon, Virginia on the topic of social software and Web 2.0. Her presentation "Web 2.0 and Social Software Inspired Learning Designs" was premised on a book chapter titled "Back to the Future: Tracing the Roots and Learning Affordances of Social Software" which will soon be published by IGI Global.

## Second Life in IT Courses

A Second Life presentation was featured in Dr. Badrul Khan's Analysis and Design of Multimedia Learning Environments course (EDIT 730). The presentation by Dr. Mary Anne Clark demonstrated the Genomic Island she created to teach Genetics content at Texas Wesleyan University. Maricel Medina-Mora, a student in the IT Program, arranged the presentation. To learn more about Dr. Kahn's classes and his work go to <http://badrulkh.com>



## Dr. Kelly and Dr. Bannan-Ritland Receive New Grant

Dr. Kelly and Dr. Bannan-Ritland received a new grant from the National Science Foundation entitled, Modeling Cyber-Enabled Learning and Teaching: Addressing Methodological and Measurement Issues. The grant addresses the methodological challenges in defining and assessing "cyberinfrastructure." Cyber-enabled learning is a term that describes work across a team of scientists leveraging Internet 2 technologies or infrastructure. The year-long project will focus on questions such as: What does it mean to study analytical reasoning for geoscience within a networked, cyberinfrastructure framework, which occurs across a team of scientists and students in an emergent, and time-variant fashion? What are the methodological challenges in modeling and assessing learning within a cyberinfrastructure project?

## IT Open House

The George Mason University Instructional Technology Program will be having an Open House on **Friday, October 24, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** in Commerce I, Room 100 located at 4085 University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia. Faculty advisors will be available to answer questions from individuals interested in enrolling in the program. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Ms. Kelley Shillingburg, Program Office Manager, at [kshillin@gmu.edu](mailto:kshillin@gmu.edu) or 703-993-3798.

## 5th Annual Innovations in e-Learning Symposium

The **George Mason University Instructional Technology Program** and the **Defense Acquisition University** invite you to attend the 5th Annual Innovations in e-Learning Symposium to be held on **June 3, 4 & 5, 2009** in the Johnson Center on the Fairfax Campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

The **topics** for this year's symposium are

- Virtual Collaboration
- Gaming
- Next Generation Learners
- CLO Best Practices

For more information, go to [innovationsinelearning.gmu.edu](http://innovationsinelearning.gmu.edu). The web site is currently being updated.

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

## Projects & Partnerships

### 1<sup>st</sup> African American Astronaut in Space To Help Students at McKinley Technology High School Achieve Their Dreams

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) program engages students

WASHINGTON, DC- ExxonMobil brings [The Dream Tour](#) to Washington, DC. The Dream Tour is a motivational series that encourages America's students to find and achieve their potential by encouraging them to go to college and study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as a way to fulfill their dreams. The sixth stop of the national tour took place at McKinley Technology High School Thursday, October 9, 2008 4:00 p.m and featured [Dr. Bernard Harris](#), the first African American astronaut to walk in space. Dr. Harris and students will demonstrate what it's like inside a space shuttle as well as talk with students about reaching their personal potential through the problem-solving skills they learn in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Dream Tour was invited to the Washington, DC area with support from [McKinley Technology High School](#) and [George Mason University's College of Education and Human Development](#). "It's important that we get all students motivated and engaged in the STEM - science, technology, engineering, and mathematics- enterprise," said Dr. Kevin Clark, associate professor and principal investigator of a National Science Foundation funded [video game design project](#) at McKinley that focuses on motivating students to get involved in STEM majors and careers.



Created by [The Harris Foundation](#) and funded by a grant from the ExxonMobil Foundation, the Dreams Tour's goal is to reach over 1,000,000 students, teachers and parents by the year 2010. The goal is to work with communities to demand access to strong science and mathematics programs in their schools, improve teacher training in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), and increase access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses for students.



## Stay Connected

### Where are they now?



#### Tianna Feaster

*Instructional Designer/Personal Chef – Feast Your Eyes on This*

<http://www.feastyoureyesonthis.net/>

IT M.Ed. - Immersion Program

Graduated 2001

“As Owner and Operator of Feast Your Eyes on This, a personal chef business targeting working professionals and families, I never thought I would use the knowledge I have acquired as a graduate student at George Mason University (GMU) in addition to using the skills and experience I

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

have gained over the last seven years working as an instructional designer with various organizations in the Washington, DC area.

As a graduate of the Instructional Design program at GMU, I learned how to apply the ADDIE (Analysis, Design, Develop, Implementation, and Evaluation) model in order to effectively train clients. When I look at the ADDIE model, I notice its usefulness in the instructional design field and how it can be applied to operating my personal chef business.

First, I assess and analyze the needs of the client prior to preparing their meals. Next, I design a menu that meets their nutritional needs and goals. After designing their menu, I develop an entrée or a set of meals, which are later packaged and delivered to clients. The delivery and consumption of the meals by the clients represents the implementation phase of the ADDIE model. After the implementation phase, I evaluate my business's overall service and my client's satisfaction by emailing a survey to solicit feedback.

There are similarities between running a business like the personal chef and instructional design industries. It is amazing how I have taken the knowledge I acquired in my instructional design program at GMU and used it in a closely related industry by opening Feast Your Eyes on This and fulfilling a lifelong dream. Thank you GMU!"



**Allison Czapracki**

*Academic Technology Consultant/Instructional Technologist*

University of Richmond

IT M.Ed. - Immersion Program

Graduated 2007

"My Immersion experience was the perfect path to landing an academically-focused position and paved the way for my career in technology in higher education. I currently serve as an academic technology consultant or instructional technologist at the University of

Richmond's Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology. I teach faculty from various disciplines how to integrate technology with their teaching, lead workshops dedicated to training faculty in multimedia software programs and web-2.0 technologies, and evaluate whether The Center's initiatives are impacting student learning.

My project-based experiences during my year of extensive hands-on instructional design work in Immersion continue to give me insight into the minds of my faculty as they're designing, creating and refining their courses. An intensive, Immersion-sponsored Myers-Briggs workshop, designed to help students understand each other's communication styles and personalities taught me much about the interpersonal styles of others. This knowledge is especially useful in relating to and deciphering the large range of personalities found in academia.

Often, a faculty member comes to me with a lone idea or end-goal of a project, not knowing what technologies are available or how to implement a solution. My project-based Immersion courses prepared me to lead such projects from start to finish and taught me to be constantly on the lookout for new advances in technology, as newer, better and often free and open-source technologies and tools are emerging daily. Lastly, the skills I learned conducting formative and summative evaluations of projects, particularly in my team's yearlong development of an online training system for underground coal mine supervisors, prove to be invaluable. Evaluating is a difficult, though integral, part of my position today, and the evaluative skills I developed in Immersion enable me to contribute to The Center's mission of designing more effective educational programs."

## **Dr. Nancy Farrell**

*Staff Development Trainer*

Loudoun County Public Schools

Ph.D. Program

Graduated 2003

Dr. Nancy Farrell completed her doctorate in 2003. Until the 2006-07 academic year, Dr. Farrell served as the Instructional Technology Resource Teacher at Horizon Elementary School - a Loudoun County Public School (LCPS). In August, 2007, she moved to a LCPS district level position as Staff Development Trainer with primary responsibilities facilitating the Technology Leadership Program for Administrators. Dr. Farrell's contributions in promoting the role of technology to support teaching and learning are deep and broad. In addition to her service to LCPS, Dr. Farrell contributes regularly to the Track 2 program, serving as an adjunct faculty member teaching online summer courses and contributing to the online component of Track 2's Leadership Academy.

## **Calling All Alumni!**

Because we'd like to keep up with you when you graduate, we're 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're 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 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/>

## **IT Program Contact**

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