Announcements

"Changing of the Guard" in the IT Program starting Fall 2009

With the opening of the 2009-2010 academic year, Dr. Kevin Clark steps down as Program Coordinator. A huge thank you to Dr. Clark for his years of service and leadership and best wishes as he redirects his efforts to developing the new Center for Digital Media Innovation and Diversity (CDMID).

The IT Program would like to welcome Dr. Priscilla Norton as the new Program Director. Dr. Norton has been a member of the IT Program since Fall 1997. Her primary teaching and research agenda center on the integration of technology in K-12 settings, focusing on the role of various technologies to support teaching and learning and on the various issues related to teacher education. She is the author of three books and numerous journal articles and book chapters. Since 2003, she has collaborated with teachers and several Northern Virginia school divisions to design, develop, and deliver virtual high school courses to middle and high school students who seek alternatives to meet some of their educational needs. *The Online Academy* now offers 23 courses spanning the high school curriculum. Dr. Norton can be reached at pnorton@gmu.edu or 703-993-2015.

IT Open House

The George Mason University Instructional Technology Program will be hosting an Open House on **Monday, November 2, 2009 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 Manager, at kshillin@gmu.edu or 703-993-3798.

Winter Session Courses Offered

Need to get your mind off the fruitcake and eggnog? Take one or both of the following courses during our winter session:

<u>**EDIT 772 WT1 - Web Conferencing/Virtual Collaboration Tools (1 credit)**</u>: Virtual communication and collaboration is a key component of any 21st century learning environment. Web conferencing tools like Adobe Connect, Elluminate, or WebEx are being used to hold live, online meetings, interactive presentations, just-in-time training, and remote support. Students will learn the central capabilities of Web 2.0 tools and best practices for effectively using the key online meeting features, such as real-time presentations (typically PowerPoint), application sharing, polling, shared white boarding, web tours and other functionality. Students will also develop skills as an e-moderator through individual and group assignments including conducting a live webinar for the final project. The course will be conducted in a blended format using both synchronous class meetings (via Elluminate) and asynchronous activities (via Blackboard). Adobe Acrobat Connect Pro will also be covered. The course begins on Monday, January 4.

<u>**EDIT 575 WT1 - Podcasting (2 credits)**</u>: Back by popular demand, this course introduces students to the fundamentals of podcasting, with an emphasis on how to design effective educational podcasts that meet instructional goals. The course will be conducted in a blended format using both face-to-face/on campus and synchronous class meetings. The course begins on January 5.

For scheduled dates and times, go to https://patriotweb.gmu.edu/. Registration begins **November 2, 2009**.

e-Learning Certificate Program Approved by MDWD

Our e-Learning Graduate Certificate Program has received Individual Training Account (ITA) approval from the Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development (MDWD). This means that any Massachusetts state employee enrolling in the program is eligible for tuition reimbursement from the State of Massachusetts. We began the application process following an inquiry from a state employee about the program. The link to our approved provider page is http://web.detma.org/Jobseeker/tr1.asp?sid=&pageFrom=&displayMap=0. Thanks to everyone who contributed data to this long and labor-intensive process.

5th Annual Innovations in e-Learning Symposium a Great Success!

Nearly 300 participants attended the Innovations in e-Learning Symposium June 3-5, 2009 at the Johnson Center on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University. Hosted by the George Mason University Instructional Technology Program and the Defense Acquisition University, this year's symposium focused on four industry themes - 1) next generation e-learners, 2) CLO best practices, 3) virtual collaboration, and 4) gaming and simulation - with nearly 40 sessions, including keynote presentations from thought leaders in the field of e-learning, pre-conference workshops, and concurrent sessions. Plans are already underway for the **6th Annual Innovations in e-Learning Symposium, June 1-3, 2010**, so save the date!

Immersion Student Awarded Scholarship

Debra Moore, an Immersion 2009 student, was awarded the Edith Clark Nalls scholarship on Tuesday October 6th by the Zonta Club, Fairfax Chapter.The Zonta Club is an international women's organization that works to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. Congratulations, Debra!

Projects & Partnerships

New Research Center Established - The Center for Digital Media Innovation and Diversity

Dr. Kevin Clark has established a new research center at George Mason called The Center for Digital Media Innovation and Diversity (CDMID). The purpose of the Center is to design, develop, and distribute quality educational media products for diverse audiences. The goals of the Center will be achieved by utilizing the expertise of scholars and industry professionals across the country by 1) creating opportunities for educational outreach, research, and development of innovative educational media products among faculty, students, artists, entrepreneurs, grassroots and non-profit organizations, and others; and 2) providing access to quality educational media products that target children of color who are economically challenged, first generation college students, and other diverse or traditionally underserved populations in K-12, higher education, and non-formal learning environments. More information about the Center can be found at http://cdmid.gmu.edu.

IT Students Prototype iPhone Learning Apps

The Instructional Technology students enrolled in EDIT730 - Analysis and Design of Multimedia/Hypermedia Environments this semester are deeply engaged in designing and prototyping mobile learning applications for the iPhone in conjunction with at team of developers at the Institute for Training and Simulation at the University of Central Florida. Working closely with the client, David Rogers, a research associate at the Institute, three teams of instructional design students are currently conducting analysis and progressing toward producing prototypes for

new iPhone applications that address topics related to 1) nutrition instruction for rural clinical workers in Africa; 2) foreign language instruction in Spanish at the high school level; and 3) teaching high school geometry through art. The teams will conduct performance analysis, needs analysis and then generate prototypes, wireframes and visual design of the iPhone apps. The focus of the designs will be on the digital distribution of materials or media, text and creating interactive experiences using the capabilities of mobile technology devices in these contexts. Developers at the Institute for Training and Simulation at UCF will then leverage some or all of the designs to develop high fidelity prototypes for testing in the follow-up course of EDIT752 - Design and Production of Multimedia and Hypermedia Learning Environments in the Spring. Stay tuned for an update on these exciting projects in our Spring newsletter!

2009/2010 Immersion Project

Dr. Nada Dabbagh and Dr. Kevin Clark received an award in the amount of $300,000 to support an immersion team for the 2009-2010 academic year. The overall goal of this year's immersion project is to help improve or increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) training programs and consulting capabilities which will empower the DOD Acquisition Workforce to better manage and execute job performance. The project is investigative in nature and shall conduct research on innovative learning technology designs and recommend the development, application or integration of Advanced Learning Technologies (ALT). More specifically, the scope of this project is to conduct research on two broad categories of ALT: game and simulation based learning and social media enabled learning.

The award was in response to the Army's Research Development and Engineering Command, Simulation and Training Technology Center (RDECOM-STTC) Broad Agency Announcement (BAA). DAU is partnering with RDECOM-STTC since it is anticipated that current research, projects and initiatives can be leveraged for dual use in both organizations.

The IT Immersion Program faculty are thrilled about this opportunity and have welcomed a team of 9 highly qualified graduate students who are already working diligently on this project. For more information, go to http://immersion09.onmason.com/

EDSE 610: Developing Adaptive Environments Final Project - Birmingham Green
By: Lindsay Ivey

George Mason University's Designing Adaptive Environments (EDSE 610) course taught by Cindy George, Assistive Technology faculty, provides students with an overview of environmental adaptations for persons with disabilities to increase their access to community, workplace, and school activities. Each year Ms. George develops a new final project for students who work in teams to conduct a functional needs assessment of a specific environment in the community. This year's final project for students in this course is to participate in a field study that has been coordinated by the instructor. This course consists of 11 students with an array of educational backgrounds, such as graphic design, technology education, special education, and occupational therapy, all who have completed and passed Assistive Technology tools courses as a prerequisite. During the Fall 2009 semester, students will be working in collaboration with Birmingham Green to establish new innovative and inventive ideas to sustain the quality of their assisted living facility, Willow Oaks, for the present and future.

Birmingham Green is a non-profit assisted living residence and nursing home that provides long-term care to adults with limited resources. Their facility is located in Manassas, Virginia and is sponsored by the counties of Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, and the City of Alexandria in Northern Virginia. Students in the EDSE 610 course will be working with Willow Oaks, which is the assisted living entity of Birmingham Green for adults ages 18 and up. The coordinators of Birmingham Green have outlined three significant enhancement tasks to be completed by December 2009.

The first aspect of this environmental assessment is to create an efficient and practical outdoors gathering area on the grounds of Willow Oaks for residents to use throughout the day. The second task is to develop resourceful ideas

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to increase the use and functionality of the activity rooms and lounge areas situated on both floors of the building. The last objective is to upgrade and enhance the computer capabilities of Willow Oaks to give accessibility to all residents with or without disabilities to freely and readily use the Internet, games, and e-mail applications. To fulfill the requirements of this course and Birmingham Green, the students of EDSE 610 have brainstormed an immense amount of ideas on ways to improve and advance Willow Oaks for the residents and community. They will showcase these ideas to the board of members and others in December.

Stay Connected

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.

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