

## Announcements

### Assistive Technology Certificate Program - Summer 2009

George Mason University is offering a new, redesigned Assistive Technology (AT) Certificate Program during the 2009 summer semester. This exciting and challenging pilot program has been structured to better meet the educational goals and interests of working individuals. The subject matter will appeal to a variety of professionals and increase student understanding of AT. Moreover, the classes are flexible to accommodate busy work and personal schedules.

Briefly, the Assistive Technology (AT) Certificate Program is designed to provide supplemental training to practitioners needing to use assistive technology with individuals with disabilities. Some people may wish to complete the certificate or choose to only take specific courses to meet their needs. As an additional benefit, the Certificate Program can be applied to a 30 credit Master's degree in Assistive Technology.

Students will receive hands on training wherein work experiences will also prove beneficial. We think this approach is crucial to reinforcing learning outcomes; thus, some classes will contain face-to-face sessions. In addition, students will have implementation projects to complete that will enable them to apply classroom knowledge as well as real client experience in the learning environment.

Other significant aspects of our new offering include:

- Many courses are offered completely online
- Face-to-face sessions are held only one weekend during the semester
- An AT Certificate can be completed in two semesters

Admission requirements for the AT Certificate Program include a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, a minimum GPA of 2.5 in the last 60 hours of an undergraduate degree, and two official transcripts from each college or university attended. Applications must be submitted by April 1, 2009. For more information on the AT Certificate program, please contact **Marci Kinan Jerome** at [mkinas@gmu.edu](mailto:mkinas@gmu.edu) or visit [http://it.gse.gmu.edu/cert\\_at/htm](http://it.gse.gmu.edu/cert_at/htm).

### New Book in the Making

**Nada Dabbagh** and colleague **Anastasia Kitsantas** are nearing completion of a book titled *Learning to Learn with Integrative Learning Technologies (ILT): A Practical Guide for Academic Success*. This book provides an overview of the theory of self-regulation from a social cognitive perspective and describes how the principles and processes of this theory can be applied through the design of engaging instructional and learning activities using ILT. The process of interrelating technology and self-regulated learning is based on a decade of research and is thoughtfully crafted throughout the book enabling the college instructor, online instructor, instructional developer, or educator to envision, plan for, and implement customized instructional designs that foster *learning to learn* and motivate students to take ownership of their own learning. The book consists of 10 chapters and will be published by Information Age Publishing (IAP). Stay tuned for upcoming announcements!

## IT Open House

The George Mason University Instructional Technology Program will be hosting an Open House on **Friday, March 20, 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 Office Manager, at [kshillin@gmu.edu](mailto:kshillin@gmu.edu) or 703-993-3798.

## 5th Annual Innovations in e-Learning Symposium - Register Now!

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.

**Topics** for this year's symposium include

- Next Generation e-Learners
- CLO Best Practices
- Virtual Collaboration
- Gaming and Simulation

For more information and to register, go to [innovationsinelearning.gmu.edu](http://innovationsinelearning.gmu.edu).

## Projects & Partnerships

### Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM-VA)

In the academic year 2007-2008, **Dr. Mike Behrman** (Track 3) received funding from the Virginia Department of Education to create the Virginia Accessible Instructional Materials Center (AIM-VA) as part of the Helen A. Kellar Institute for Human disabilities. This funded project produces and delivers accessible instructional materials for the 130+ school divisions in Virginia who have students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) indicating a need for alternate formats of printed materials. AIM-VA also provides training and technical assistance to over 250 school personnel across the state who order and use these accessible instructional materials. These Digital Rights Managers (DRMs) certify the eligibility of students and process orders for schools.

During the first six months of operation, AIM-VA scanned and produced over 2500 K-12 textbooks for students in Virginia, including nearly 2000 large print texts for nearly 500 students across the state. Each of these books is now available in electronic format and became easily available once services began in June of 2008. Since then, AIM-VA has continued to build its library of resources as well as developing a comprehensive website, an online library catalog, and an ordering system at [www.aimva.org](http://www.aimva.org). The Catalog now has more than 1,000 books catalogued and barcoded to enhance ordering and tracking. AIM-VA also provides help desk assistance by toll-free phone and by email to Digital Rights Managers and others who have questions or need help with AIM-VA.



## Energy Game Featured at Simulation and Education Conference

Students from McKinley Technology High School in Washington, DC were invited to participate in the Future Leaders' Pavilion at The Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) ([www.iitsec.org](http://www.iitsec.org)) in Orlando, FL from November 30 – December 3, 2009. In the Future Leaders' Pavilion, secondary school students demonstrate technical projects, some of which have previously won national competition. Secondary schools from Alabama, Florida, Texas, Georgia, Washington, DC, Hawaii, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom were represented. The McKinley students featured their "The You Energy Game" ([www.youenergygame.com](http://www.youenergygame.com)), developed as part of a grant funded by the AMD Foundation and in collaboration with **Dr. Kevin Clark**.

YouEnergyGame is a 3D game template where students follow tutorials to learn to make 3D energy models, upload their 3D models, and play a 3D game using their own and other students' models. Over 40 students from McKinley Technology High School created the first 3D models of Oil Wells, Solar Panels, and Wind Turbines as part of their training in 3D modeling



## Immersion Team 2008-2009 Project

The current Immersion team is working on another phase of an ongoing project effort with the Virginia Department of Education. The Virginia Training and Technical Assistance Centers (T/TAC) provides support and instruction to the parents and educators of children and young adults with special needs. The T/TAC mission is "to improve educational opportunities and contribute to the success of children and youth with disabilities (birth – 22 years)".

The 2008-2009 Immersion Team of George Mason University has identified one of the T/TAC Organization's requisites to be the ability to create dynamic online training. Thus, the Immersion Team is charged with developing training modules for T/TAC staff. Upon completion of the training modules, T/TAC staff will be able to incorporate Camtasia, Captivate, and Podcasting into their Webshops, making the interface more progressive and interactive.

## 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'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/>

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

## Where Are They Now?



### **Marc Zalar**

IT M.Ed - Instructional Design and Development - Immersion Program

Graduated 2000

Marc Zalar graduated from the IT Immersion Program in 2000. Since leaving GMU, he has worked as a learning and performance improvement professional across the corporate, government and academic sectors. Marc has a broad background in consulting, instructional design, and communications.

In describing his experience at GMU, Marc explains, “The program was an overwhelmingly positive experience that provided great preparation for a career in training and development. In particular, the program’s focus on real-world application of ISD principles and processes through actual training project deliverables was invaluable. The ability to hit the ground running and start delivering solutions from day one is what organizations are looking for, and that is exactly what the IT program prepared us to do.”

Marc’s professional services experience includes: performance analysis and solution design, ISD production and staff management, program leadership and implementation, business development and relationship management. His recent work focuses on helping clients migrate from instructor-led to blended-learning and e-learning training solutions.

The list of organizations Marc has worked with on performance improvement solutions since graduating from GMU includes: American Management Association, America Online, American Research Institute, AT&T, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Central Carolina Community College, Delta Air Lines, Florida State University, IBM, McKesson, U.S. Department of Defense, United States Marine Corps, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Verizon, and Walden University.

Marc is active in professional and civic organizations including writing and speaking engagements. Prior to entering the IT Immersion Program, Marc spent several years in publishing and direct marketing.



### **Emily McKeough-Fallings**

Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS)-North

IT M.Ed - Assistive Technology

Graduated 2005

Emily McKeough-Fallings graduated in 2005 from George Mason University with a Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Assistive Technology (Track 3). After receiving her degree, Emily was a part-time special education teacher at Caroline County Middle School and worked as the Assistive Technology (AT) coordinator for Caroline County, Virginia. Before finding her niche at George Mason University, she was employed as a special education teacher at Brookland Middle School in Henrico County, Virginia. In 2008, Emily became coordinator for Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS)-North. She is also the director for George Mason University’s upcoming CompuWrite Summer 2009 Camp for children who need help with the writing process.

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



### **Regina King**

Education Specialist, Instructional Technology, Fairfax County Public Schools

IT M.Ed - Integrating Technology in Schools - K-12

Graduated 1999



### **Brenda Winter**

Education Specialist, Instructional Technology, Fairfax County Public Schools

IT M.Ed - Integrating Technology in Schools - K-12

Graduated 2003

### **Diane Harazin**

Education Specialist, Instructional Technology, Fairfax County Public Schools

IT M.Ed - Integrating Technology in Schools - K-12

Graduated 1999

Diane Harazin ('99), Regina King ('99), and Brenda Winter ('03 ) form the perfect triumvirate. Together, they serve as Education Specialist, Instructional Technology for Fairfax County Public Schools with responsibilities for middle schools, elementary schools, and early childhood respectively. As Education Specialists with an emphasis in Instructional Technology, this threesome is responsible for discussing and planning upcoming implementations, for helping with technology related regulations, and for impacting school division initiatives. They work with school division curriculum specialists to identify the technology needs of schools, students, and teachers. In addition, this triumvirate serves as school division leaders in the planning and conducting of educational opportunities for curriculum specialists and site-based instructional technology resource teachers (ITRTs). Through their positions, they help make sure the needs of the entire school system are met while they simultaneously advocate for their own specialty area. Combining their expertise in teaching and learning with the integration of technology in schools, these Track2 graduates are important instructional leaders in Fairfax County Public Schools.

### **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 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.