

May 2007

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Viewers' locations included Bogota, Columbia; San Francisco, CA; Katy ISD; Magnolia ISD; Alief ISD; and UH

## INST Program Reaches Worldwide

Drs. Richard Smith and Caroline Crawford made two presentations at the [University of Houston's College of Technology AT&T lab](#). The presentations were also streamed live to audiences in Bogota, Columbia; San Francisco, California along with Katy, Magnolia, and Alief ISDs. The presentations were part of the [Professional Lecture Series](#) of the [Greater Houston Education Collaboration](#). The INST faculty members discussed the finer points of putting together podcasts. They drew illustrations from radio programs dating from the 1950s, such as Dragnet and the work of first graders who participate in the [WillowWeb podcast series](#). Their second presentation explained how to create an on-line course that will be easy for students to navigate, will teach effectively, and be simple for teachers to manage.

As the presentations progressed, questions were taken both from the overflow audience in the UH/AT&T lab and from the viewers at the distant sites. Katie Beedon, AT&T's Director of Education for the Houston area was the producer (yes, it was like being in a TV studio) and relayed the questions to Drs. Crawford and Smith saying, "I have a question from Bogota..." Dr. Smith said, "This was truly an exciting opportunity to be on the cutting edge of low-cost (Continued on page 6)



Drs. Richard Smith & Caroline Crawford, present at the UH/AT&T Technology Lab

## Recent Papers Presented by INST Faculty

Dr. Kat Ley presented a paper on Self-Regulation models at the 2007 American Educational Research Association conference in Chicago.

Drs. Kat Ley and Shujen Chang presented the paper *Cognitive Lead and Online Reading* also at the 2007 AERA conference

Also, Dr. Kat Ley and Dr. Anne Coppenhaver (Director, UHCL Center for Education Programs) presented the paper *Discovering Technologies of Online Mentoring* at the 2007 Texas Distance Learning Association Conference held in Galveston.

## Adjunct Faculty Spotlight – Deborah Buell



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*Deborah Buell – Professional Instructional Designer and an INST Adjunct Faculty Member*

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Deborah Buell is one of our great adjunct Instructional Technology faculty members. Dr. Buell teaches INST6031 *Applications of Technology*. When she is not teaching for INST, Dr. Buell works on client projects at Shea Writing and Training Solutions, Inc. as an Instructional Designer where she is responsible for developing classroom, blended and online courseware. Some of her most recent projects include development of environmental training, health and safety training and sub-sea engineering training courses for clients in the energy industry. Her educational experience includes a B.S., M.S. and an Ed.D. from the University of Houston. She also holds an M.B.A. from UHCL. Her distance education training includes a certificate in Distance Education from Texas A&M University. Dr. Buell has also taught classes at the University of Houston, University of Houston-Downtown, Cy-Fair College and North Harris College in the North Harris Montgomery Community College district. While teaching at Cy-Fair College, Dr. Buell developed the Human Resource Management online class as well as the Business Communications hybrid class. We are so pleased she is teaching with the Instructional Technology program.

## Three New Podcasts

Three new podcasts in the INST podcast series *Education and Technology Today* can be found on [the INST podcast site](#). Drs. Crawford and Smith join with Dr. Magda El Zarki, Professor of Computer Science at the University of California Irvine, to discuss teaching mathematics, engineering and computer science at the high school and college levels and motivating students to take courses in these areas. This podcast is followed by *Creating Effective Schools, Parts 1 & 2* with guest host Dr. Robert Sanborn, the President and CEO of the Houston-based child advocacy group, “Children at Risk.”

## Conference Highlights

### *The Recent Texas Distance Learning Conference - 2007*

The annual March Texas [Distance Learning Association](#) conference is an ideal place for UHCL Instructional Technology students and faculty to meet distance educators in administrative and teaching positions who are shaping the future of distance learning. Attendees this year heard presentations on the issues affecting distance educators. Some of the highlights included presentations on the growth and demand for distance education in higher education, using teleconferencing for instruction, and several presentations on MOODLE (an open source course management system) in P-12 schools. Also notable were presentations on the rise of Web 2.0 applications and the advent of distance education within [Second Life](#). Check out some of the interesting papers <http://www.txdla.org/conference/2007/>



*Dr. Kat Ley*

### *"Second Life" Featured at the American Educational Research Association Conference*

The [American Educational Research Association](#) conference with 14,000 people held April 9-13 in Chicago had an invited session on Second Life virtual learning spaces. Many universities (such as Pepperdine, Harvard, National Louis, etc.) are buying virtual real estate and offering courses in Second Life. Dr. Caroline Crawford has an intern who is working on a Second Life project. Dr. Kat Ley will be incorporating study of the use of Second Life for instruction into the elective, INST 6637 Analyzing Emerging Uses of Technology that will be taught online during the first five-week 2007 summer session. Second Life is also the subject of [a recent INST podcast](#) by Drs. Smith and Crawford.



*Dr. Shujen Chang*

Dr. Ley's and Dr. Chang's AERA presentation, *Cognitive Lead and Online Reading*, was very well received by their session attendees. Both INST professors responded to several insightful questions from their attentive audience.

## Instructional Technology Graduate – New Ph. D.



*Dr. Marianne C. Phillips*

*MARIANNE C. PHILLIPS, ED.D.*

The Instructional Technology Department was pleased to hear that one of our own graduates recently received a doctorate degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a science education concentration from the University of Houston.

Marianne C. Phillips received a master's degree in Instructional Technology with a specialization in Human Resource Management from UHCL. She is a veteran science teacher and taught science methods courses while studying for her new degree. She used her science expertise in writing her dissertation: *A Content Analysis of Sixth-Grade, and Eighth-Grade Science Textbooks With Regard to the Nature of Science*. Her research explored middle school science textbooks.

## Master Technology Teacher Certificate (MTT) Update

The Master Technology Teacher (MTT) certificate exam recently received an update. The exam was suspended during a recent review of the test questions. The questions were examined for accuracy and validity based on the technology currently used in the K-12 classroom. New baselines were set for pass/fail scores to accurately assess the qualifications of those seeking MTT certification. The review cycle will be repeated every 18 months to ensure the currency of the test questions as they relate to changes in technology. Proposed funding to support Master Technology Teachers on the K-12 campuses are addressed in the state long-range technology plan.

## From the Program Coordinator



*Dr. Richard A. Smith*

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Caroline Crawford and I gave two invited presentations for the Greater Houston Education Collaborative Professional Lecture Series held at the University of Houston, [College of Technology/AT&T Computer Lab](#) in front of a live local audience consisting of instructional design staff from local universities and community colleges. We also reached audiences in Bogota, Columbia; San Francisco, California; Katy ISD; Magnolia ISD; and Alief ISD live via streaming video technology provided by [VBrick Systems](#), an AT&T business partner. It was really a great experience and is now the second project that we have completed with the Houston area AT&T Higher Education Team. Our first project was the [podcast that we did with Katie Beedon](#), AT&T's Education Director. This new relationship with AT&T and those that we are developing with other companies will help to strengthen the depth of the offerings of the Instructional Technology Program. You can read more about our AT&T experience in this issue of the newsletter.

## New INST Graduate

Evrel Gray, originally from Kingston, Jamaica, is one of the Instructional Technology Department's newest graduates. At present Gray is a network engineer for the Science Applications International Corporation at the NASA Johnson Space Center. He has a BS in Communications from the University of Houston and now a master's degree in Instructional Technology from UHCL. He plays bass in his son's band, *D-Fyant Band* with a new CD on the airways. His son is completing his degree from UHCL in history and teaches at Clear Lake Intermediate School. "As I get ready to graduate, I can honestly look back at the INST program with fond memories. After numerous debates and sometimes outright arguments, I have made some great friends, not just my peers, but faculty as well. That is what college and this business of higher learning is all about," says Gray.



*Evrel Gray network engineer at NASA JSC – new INST graduate.*

## INST Student ELLEN ADRIANCE Touts Internship

When Dr. Caroline Crawford recommended an Instructional Technology Internship for my Master's degree in the online, three-dimensional world of Second Life, working with the "privately owned" Second Life University, eLumenata, I was quite hesitant. Who owns an online university and why would I work with the consultant, Virginia Dickenson, when one of the main goals of an internship is to make corporate connections for employment? As a result of the internship I am currently engaged in my first, small, contract employment as an Instructional Designer through eLumenata. I've had the opportunity to perform in the roles of Instructional Designer and also as Project Manager for this online training environment, developing multimedia materials. Universities, such as Harvard Law School, and corporations (CISCO, IBM, and ABC to name a few) are developing here. Software and multimedia skills specific to Second Life are required to develop in this environment, which are attained by participation.

My avatar's name is Elle Bellah (see photo to right), and I orchestrate a group of international participants to assist with my project; they are mostly long time computer "gamers" and role players. The fun nature of role-play and up-side-down physics of the place makes for the most hysterical work environment. I recommend you Google a Second Life video to see for yourself, or, visit my development web page at [www.galvestontexas.com/Elle](http://www.galvestontexas.com/Elle).



*Ellen Adriance has been working on her internship all semester. Her focus has been developing learning environments in Second Life.*

(Continued from page 1)

interactive video-based distance education. The Instructional Technology Program is looking forward to working with the AT&T Higher Education Team on future projects on a continuing basis.” The presentations were supposed to have been taped and archived for future reference but unfortunately the presentation day fell on Friday April 13<sup>th</sup> and hence the taping failed. However, do not worry, Drs. Smith and Crawford did [a somewhat informal version of their presentations](#) after dinner at Katie Beedon’s home and taped it so you do not have to miss a thing. Just click on “video” and visit for a while.



*Drs. Smith and Crawford reach their last slide for the Greater Houston Education Collaboration – AT&T Professional Lecture Series presentation.*