



Instructional Technology

at the School of Education

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From the Program Coordinator

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INST Program pilots new courses

The Instructional Technology Program occasionally pilots research topics courses in the effort to make certain that we are keeping our students up-to-date in the fields of instructional technology and instructional design. You will not see these courses in the UHCL catalog. However, you will see them in the semester course schedules. They are listed by the rubric INST 5931 (graduate courses) or INST 4931 (undergraduate courses) followed by the name of the course. For instance, in Spring 07, INST 5931.01 Applied Distance Learning will be offered with me as the instructor. It will emphasize the use of WebCT to create an on-line course while at the same time giving students an historical perspective on distance learning. In Fall 06, two pilot courses were taught. Dr. Caroline Crawford taught INST 5931.01 Change Leadership and Julia Marie Essex, an INST adjunct instructor, taught INST 4931.02 Multimedia for Educators. We always announce research topics courses on the INST Listserv so keep that in mind when you plan your schedules and always check with your advisors.

Dr. Richard A. Smith

Internship Spotlight! Imedia.it

The Instructional Technology Program has many internship opportunities for its master's degree students. One of them is with Imedia.it, a great place where students can get hands-on instructional development experience. Imedia.it develops multimedia programs to meet corporate and government training needs. Interns work on teams to develop projects which call for skills in storyboarding, flowcharting, prototype design, content development and/or testing and validation of courseware. Imedia.it started in 1997 and is located in the Galleria area of Houston. <http://www.imediait.com>

Adjunct Faculty Spotlight – Curtis Rice

*Curtis Rice – adjunct
with a wide variety
of talents joins the IT
Department*



*Entrance to the Student Services
Classroom Building*

Curtis Rice is an UHCL adjunct faculty member teaching instructional technology courses at both the bachelor's and master's level within the School of Education. He has a doctoral degree from the University of Houston. Dr. Rice began his degree in Educational Leadership and Cultural Studies but decided along the way that Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Instructional Technology was his true interest.

When he is not teaching at UHCL, Dr. Rice can be found at Hewlett-Packard where he is the company's Worldwide Training Program Manager. His responsibilities include project management and creation of sales training materials that meet regional specifications around the globe. As you can imagine, a majority of his instruction is delivered through eLearning with some of the new and exciting technologies available. Through the continued implementation of new technologies and his other functions within Hewlett-Packard, he has well rounded experience that aids in his effectiveness as an adjunct instructor at UHCL. It is his professional experience and his educational background that allow to him to continue to offer his students the best possible instruction.

New INST Internship Opportunity-Learn Educational Gaming

The Instructional Technology Program is exploring opportunities with a start-up company for graduate internships. Our interns would help create on-line educational gaming environments using the increasingly popular "Second Life" website. If you are interested in learning more about the possibilities contact Dr. Caroline Crawford at crawford@uhcl.edu, and visit the Second Life web site at <http://secondlife.com/>.

INST Distance Learning Student in Japan

When it comes to studying for the INST master's degree on-line, it may be that Sauna Maragh is our program's most distant student. Certainly, Sauna is our only student who is a Jamaican and working as an assistant language teacher in Osaka City, Japan. Having already completed five on-line courses en-route to the Master's degree in Instructional Technology with a specialization in Human Resource Management, Sauna is in the process of deciding whether to complete the degree completely on-line or to return to finish the last courses on campus. Look for information, on the INST listserv, on Sauna's upcoming on-line community for UHCL distance learning students.

INST Students Learn about Instructional Technology and Design Positions

Students in Dr. Katherine Ley's course, INST 5233 *Performance Technology*, identified recently posted instructional design positions in order to find the instructional design competencies most in demand. The students in her class each posted three positions. Effective communication tops the list of competencies in demand. Other competencies listed most often were the ability to update skills & knowledge, promote collaboration among participants, design a curriculum or program, and manage instructional projects. Here are just a few of the great job opportunities they found:

- # Director of Career and Technology Education (CATE) and Technology Applications – Clear Creek ISD; Salary \$80-\$90
- # Senior Instructional Designer/ Countrywide Financial Corporation, Plano, Texas
- # Instructional Designer/Scholastic, Orlando, FL
- # Instructional Designer/Lowes Companies Inc., Charlotte, NC
- # Learning Performance Organization Consultant, Karta Technologies, Inc., San Antonio, Texas; Salary \$80-\$120
- # Instructional Designer/Developer, Center for the Advancement for Process Technology; Salary \$47,733 - \$52,506
- # eLearning Instructional Designer/Hospital Corporation of America (HCA)
- # Instructional Designer/Advanced Computer Learning Co, LLC
- # Instructional Designer/Janus Capital Group, Denver, CO
- # Director of Courseware Development / Karta Technologies, Inc.
- # Senior Instructional Designer / Countrywide Financial Corp.
- # Instructional Designer / Computer Associates



UHCL Entrance One

*What can you do with your
Master's Degree in Instructional
Technology?*

"Technology is affecting education in revolutionary ways, and the momentum toward these changes is irreversible."

- Joseph Hardin

Did you know?

Dr. Wren Bump, instructional technology lecturer, was one of 14 Texas educators selected by the Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) to become a leader in a new statewide educational technology professional development program known as the Technology Integration Professional Development (TIPD) Corps. Three days of training for the selected educators took place in Austin.

This new initiative focuses on helping kindergarten through 12th grade teachers learn to integrate use of online tools and resources into the curriculum. "I'm excited about the prospect of helping fellow educators better utilize technology within their classroom environment," said Dr. Bump.



Fountain at the new Student Services Classroom Building.

For questions about our program contact the School of Education Office of Academic Advising at 281.283.3600 or education@uhcl.edu.

Open Source Software Gains in Popularity

Open source software is becoming increasingly popular. For K-12 schools the use of open source software provides the advantages of having no purchase cost, being able to meet software application needs in a variety of areas, having the source code freely available, and maintenance costs that are usually far lower than those associated with software that is available for purchase. Consider, OpenOffice.org (<http://www.openoffice.org/>) provides a complete no-purchase-cost office applications suite. Moodle, the course management system (like WebCT, Blackboard, and eCollege) that is gaining popularity in schools, is also open source. As well, Sakai (<http://sakaiproject.org/>) is another "up and coming" open source course management system option. The disadvantage of open source software is that you will no longer be able to count on the support of private software publishers. On the other hand, start-up companies now offer low-cost support for many open source products, with some even hosting products such as Moodle on their own servers at minimal cost.

Become Active in the Profession

Upcoming Conferences in Texas

The 2007 Texas Computer Education Association Annual Convention & Exposition (<http://www.tcea2007.org/>) will be held February 5-9 in the Austin Convention Center.

The Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education Conference (<http://site.aace.org/conf/>) will be held from March 26-30, 2007, in San Antonio, Texas, at the Crowne Plaza Riverwalk San Antonio. There is still time to submit a proposal for a presentation (<http://site.aace.org/conf/call.htm>) since the proposal submission deadline is December 15, 2006.

Highlighting Our Alums: Sam Farsaii

Sam Farsaii graduated from UHCL in 1995 with an M.S. in Instructional Technology. After eight years as a teacher of mathematics and computer science at the High School for Engineering Professions in Houston ISD, he attained the position of district-wide technology specialist for Houston ISD and directed technology training and implementation of computer labs in Houston's 68 Title I schools. Within three years, Sam was promoted to the position of senior technology trainer and soon supervised technology training for the Houston Independent School District. As technology integration in instruction was advancing in HISD, Sam initiated several watershed projects such as the Lego-Robotics project that led to the Texas Computer Education Association's statewide student robotics competition. Recognizing the need for better understanding of mathematics in the 9th grade, Sam designed and headed the project that initiated laptops into the daily instruction of algebra classrooms across the district. Since 2000, Sam has been the Director of Instructional Technology in Irving ISD, a district in the Dallas area, where the vision to bring technology seamlessly to all students is being realized. Presently Irving ISD leads the nation in technology integration with more than 10,000 laptops in students' hands. Through Sam's leadership the district has been recognized with:

- First Center of Excellence from Microsoft
- Intel and Scholastic Schools of Distinction award
- First recipient of the Sylvia Chapp Award from the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (T-STEM) Academy – Grant
- One-to-one Technology immersion Pilot grant for vertical school teams
- Implementation of a \$55 million technology bond

Sam has been instrumental in helping teachers across the state and country to see the value of technology and its impact on inspiring learners. His other contributions include articles for numerous national magazines and collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation training Texas principals and superintendents. He has also served on the Texas Computer Education Association's board of directors.

Presently, Sam is energized about the "One Laptop per Child" organization, and its worldwide impact. Sam believes technology helps bridge the gap between haves and have-nots nationally, and through its empowerment, levels the playing field across the world.



Sam Farsaii, 1995 INST alum

*Read about Sam Farsaii –
successful alum*

"To dream and to plan, to be curious about the future and to wonder how much it can be influenced by our efforts are important aspects of being human." – Torrance
