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## Get Ready for Some Changes

*Dr. Richard Smith, INST Program Coordinator*

At the start of the Fall 07 semester, all of the UHCL computer laboratories will be upgraded to Microsoft Office 2007 running on Windows XP. This means that any INST courses, on-line or face-to-face, that are dependent upon Microsoft Office will be modified to take advantage of Office 2007 features. One course, in particular, that will be affected is Applications of Technology (INST 6031). The entire first third of the course concentrates on teaching the details of Microsoft Office 2003 to improve communication in professional settings. In the Fall 07 semester new INST 6031 students will instead become experts on Office 2007. This is going to be quite a change but it will keep our students up-to-date and able to apply what they have learned to the jobs they are going to take in education, business, and government.

## Drs. Smith and Crawford Podcast from Austin

Drs. Richard Smith and Caroline Crawford traveled to Austin in July to create three podcasts, for INST's [Education and Technology Today](#) podcast series, with guest co-host Sandy Fivecoat, the Chief Executive Officer of [WeAreTeachers](#). Ms. Fivecoat, who was also the first Director of Educational Technology for the Texas Education Agency, and a high-ranking Apple Computer executive swapped ideas on communication in education with Drs. Smith and Crawford and also gave some insights into WeAreTeachers and how teachers could make money on-line with the expertise they have gained as educators.



*L to R are Dr. Richard Smith, Sandra Fivecoat (CEO-WeAreTeachers) and Dr. Caroline Crawford*

## Instructional Technology Graduates

### Brenda Quintanilla, M.S.

Brenda Quintanilla received her M.S. in Instructional Technology at UHCL in 2004. Brenda says, "obtaining her INST master's degree was one of her proudest accomplishments." She added that the program really helped set the framework for her career. Not only was the knowledge she gained in instructional technology significant, the relationships she has made and kept have been extremely important to her. Brenda is currently employed at Lee College in Baytown, Texas, as the Instructional Designer/Director of their Course Design Center. She explains that "I loved technology and I loved working with people - what more could I ask for?"

Some of the projects she has worked on include: a hybrid technology Implementation plan, a district-wide software pilot, and the development of a distance learning certification program.

She also offers professional development technology workshops training faculty in the use of video conferencing equipment, multimedia equipment, Blackboard/WebCT, and various software programs.

At present, Brenda is working with [The Greater Houston Education Collaboration](#) and AT&T to establish video conferencing opportunities for the classroom. She is an active member of the [Texas Distance Learning Association](#) and the program chair for the 2008 [TxDLA conference](#). In addition, she is a member of the [Texas Faculty Development Network](#) and [The Learning Times Network](#).

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*Brenda Quintanilla, M.S. –  
Instructional Designer/Director  
of the Course Design Center,  
Lee College*

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*Michael Chamberlin, M.S. –  
Instructional  
Designer/Administrator of  
Course Management System,  
Portland State University*

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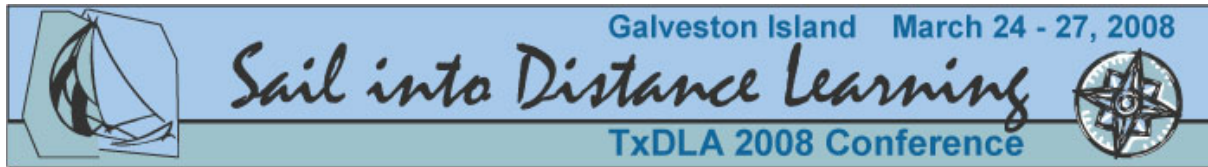


### Michael Chamberlain, M.S.

Michael graduated from UHCL in Instructional Technology in 2002. He has worked developing curriculum for a National Science Foundation project and as an instructional designer in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at University of Houston (main campus).

In 2005, Michael accepted a position at Portland State University (PSU) in Portland, Oregon as an instructional designer in the Center for Academic Excellence at PSU. He serves on the provost's task force for hybrid instruction – helping to lead the conversion of traditional courses to a partially online format. Michael is also the administrator of the course management system (CMS) at PSU and is helping to lead the migration to Blackboard CE6. He works closely with faculty on a day to day basis helping them to think through how to develop interactive and effective instruction in the online environment.

## Calls for Conference Presentations



### The Texas Distance Learning Association

The Texas Distance Learning Association (TxDLA) invites [presentation proposals](#) for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual conference, **Sail into Distance Learning**. The conference is scheduled for March 24-27, 2008. It will be held at the Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa, and Convention Center on Galveston Island. By logging into the [Texas Distance Learning Association](#) website, you can see the conference information. One of our alums, Brenda Quintanilla, is the program chair of the conference (see story on Page 2). The call for proposals deadline is August 10, 2007.

### Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education 2008 International Conference

The [Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education](#) (SITE) 2008 International Conference will take place in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 3-7, 2008. This is an opportunity for all teacher educators and associated teacher educator organizations, within all disciplines, to disseminate instructional technology knowledge and innovations. The deadline for [submission of conference presentations](#) is October 22, 2007. Our own Dr. Caroline M. Crawford was the Review Editor for the SITE conference proceedings from 2002 through 2006.

## From the Program Coordinator – Dr. Richard Smith

On schedule, for the Fall 2008 semester, are INST courses offered in eight week semesters. Students will have the opportunity to take INST courses offered in the normal 15-week format and also compressed into the eight-week format, as offered during UHCL summer semesters. Thus, the ambitious student could conceivably work full-time and still take three INST courses in one semester. For instance, a student could take one normally paced 15-week course and two eight-week courses, one following the other. It is now conceivable that an INST master's degree could be completed in about one and a half years. Keep tuned. More to come.

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For tips on how to enroll in the INST Program please visit our website at <http://inst.cl.uh.edu>

Our Master's Degree in Instructional Technology is offered face-to-face and online.

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## Web 2.0 Defined

Web 2.0 is a term copyrighted by O'Reilly Media. It refers to web-delivered applications that stimulate and enable online sharing and user collaboration. Whereas Web 1.0 presented web pages as static information, Web 2.0 applications are interactive, user-driven applications. Britannica online is a good example of Web 1.0 and Wikipedia is an example of Web 2.0. The difference manifests in seven conditions essential for Web 2.0 applications, all described in detail on the [O'Reilly Publications web site](#).

*By Dr. Kat Ley*

## Free and Open Source Resources

A colleague at the University of Texas at El Paso, Dr. Brian Giza (bhgiza@utep.edu), is a brilliantly innovative Assistant Professor of Science and Technology Education. Dr. Giza's area of interest surrounds the realm of open source, as offered through his [web site](#). Dr. Giza also maintains a list of [free open source resources](#) where you will find some great open source resources, such as: Audacity, a sound editing software that Dr. Richard Smith and I use to develop our podcast series; Gimp, a graphics software package; Open Office, an office suite software package; TuxPaint, a child-friendly graphics software program; and, the Stop Motion Animator (SMA Anasazi) Windows-only webcam animation software package.

While emailing with Dr. Giza, he was busy loading [Ubuntu Linux](#), the Linux operating system designed for children, onto one of his older laptops, as a dual boot opportunity. "Ubuntu" is an ancient African word, meaning "humanity to others" (Dr. Giza noted that Eudbuntu is "gorgeous" and designed for classroom use). A related project is [Xubuntu](#) (<http://www.xubuntu.org/>) designed for older or low-end machines or even for people who want more performance out of their machines. *By Dr. Caroline Crawford*

## Focus on Faculty : Recent Presentations and Publications

As is always the case, our Instructional Technology faculty has been busy. Dr. Richard Smith and Dr. Caroline Crawford have been actively engaged in the podcast series [Education and Technology Today](#)

Dr. Caroline Crawford has been busy presenting at international conferences over the previous few months, as well as publishing research in international refereed publications. Her recent international virtual conference presentations are:

- With Dr. Denise McDonald, at the 2007 International Symposium on the Arts in Society, from February 23-25, 2007, at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and Center for Art and Public Policy, in New York, New York.
- The Seventh International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities and Nations, from July 3-6, 2007, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- with Dr. Ruth Gannon Cook, at The Fourteenth International Conference on Learning, from June 26-29, 2007, in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Dr. Crawford will present at The Fifth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, from July 17-20, 2007, in Paris, France.

Further, Dr. Crawford's work has been published in the following international refereed publications:

Freeman, L., & Crawford, C. M. (2007). Integrating multimedia components into the traditional and innovative instructional environment. *The International Journal of the Book* (4). Melbourne, Australia: Common Ground Publishing Party Ltd.

McDonald, D., & Crawford, C. M. (2007). Graphic novels as cognitive and creative support for emergent literacy learners: Integrating multimedia components into the traditional and innovative emergent literacy learner instructional environment. *The International Journal of the Arts in Society* (2). Melbourne, Australia: Common Ground Publishing Party Ltd.

Crawford, C. M. (2007). Social cohesion within online learning environments; Enhancing diversity and supporting learning amid social mobility through instructional design and instructor competence. *The International Journal of Diversity in Organizations, Communities and Nations* (7). Melbourne, Australia: Common Ground Publishing Party Ltd.

Crawford, C. M. (2007). Developing multimedia architectural support within online learning environments: Reinventing modalities of meaning as society moves from the information age towards the conceptual age within the knowledge economy. *The International Journal of the Humanities* (5). Melbourne, Australia: Common Ground Publishing Party Ltd.