



Instructional Technology

at the School of Education

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From the Program Coordinator

The 27th Annual Texas Computer Education Association Convention took place February 5-9 in Austin. I attended the convention (I never miss it), did a presentation, and found some very interesting and practical products on display in the huge exhibit hall. [WeAreTeachers](#) is a new website designed to be a kind of [MySpace](#) for teachers. Though still under construction, it holds a great deal of promise since its chief learning officer is Sandy Fivecoat, who amongst other accomplishments was the Texas Education Agency's first Director of Technology during the 1980s.

[CCS Presentation Systems](#), had a nifty little loudspeaker system, the [GoSpeak! Wireless Microphone UltraPortable Speaker System](#) by Interlink Electronics. This device will easily project your voice to an audience of 200 people. [M&A Technology](#) showed its very mobile tablet PC called the [iKnow](#). It has a seven inch screen and weighs about two pounds, including a built in camera all at a price under \$800.00. Also, [Parat Solutions](#), demonstrated its mobile laptop lab storage and charging system called [Paradidact](#). It also provides for easy software updates as the laptops are charged during the evening hours.

If you ever get an opportunity to attend this exciting convention, make certain that you take advantage of it. You will not be disappointed! Richard A. Smith

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The INST Program will be represented at the SITE conference in San Antonio March 23-30

Drs. Crawford, Willis and Driskell to make presentations!

What is a wiki?

A wiki is an interesting collaborative online environment. Have you ever wanted an effective tool for mass collaborative authoring or an area where viewers can edit the content, well you might just need to learn more about wikis. [Wikipedia](#) offers an explanation of a wiki. There are innumerable types of wikis, with a growing number of educational wikis. For example, [The Student Room](#) is a United Kingdom-based wiki forum, for both PreK-12 school-based and university-based students. For an interesting background of this wiki, visit the History of the [Student Room](#).

[Curriki](#), is a wiki dedicated to curriculum.

Adjunct Faculty Spotlight – Michelle Giles

*Michelle Giles –
Professional Instructional
Designer and an INST
Adjunct Faculty Member*



Michelle Giles is an adjunct faculty member teaching for the Instructional Technology Program. She teaches the course, INST4535 *eLearning*. She also teaches teacher education courses at the bachelor's level within the School of Education. When she is not teaching at UHCL, she can be found at the University of St. Thomas where she is the Instructional Technologist for the university. Her responsibilities include assisting faculty with the use of technology, developing online courses, and developing and conducting training workshops in areas related to instructional technology. She is also an adjunct faculty member at the University of St. Thomas' School of Education, where she teaches the course *Computers and Technology*.

Her educational experience includes a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies and an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, both from Texas A&M and an M.S. in Instructional Technology from UHCL. She currently holds three teaching certificates (Elementary Self-Contained 1-8, Elementary Reading 1-8, and Technology Applications EC-12).

In the past she taught classes at Texas A&M for the Center for Academic Enhancement and was the Instructional Designer for the Cullen College of Engineering at the University of Houston before taking the position at UST. We are very pleased to have her as an adjunct faculty member.

INST Podcasts Provide Exciting Information – [So Tune In!](#)

INST Podcast Gets Second Life

If you are interested in simulated worlds on the Internet, you should listen to the latest edition of the INST podcast [Education and Technology Today](#). Dr. Smith and Dr. Crawford get into a fascinating discussion with their guest co-host, instructional designer Virginia Dickerson, on creating a virtual persona and life in *SecondLife* the "3-D virtual world entirely built and owned by its residents." You also get to hear the details of the *SecondLife* university and research center that Ms. Dickerson is building. It's hot stuff!

Upcoming Education and Technology Today Podcasts

Trina Davis, the president-elect of the International Society for Technology and Education has agreed to be a guest host on an upcoming edition of the INST podcast series *Education and Technology Today*. Dr. Davis, who is currently an assistant professor of instructional technology at Texas A&M University, is an authority on distance education and has been active in the field for many years. Sandy Fivecoat, the Chief Learning Officer of *WeAreTeachers*, has also agreed to appear as a guest host on *Education and Technology Today*. Sandy has held top management positions with Apple Computer, Lightspan and Plato. A former TEA technology director, TCEA president, classroom teacher and university researcher, Sandy is always an exciting and thought provoking speaker.

Helping INST Program Applicants

When Dr. Kathryn Ley asked the Fall 2006, *Human Performance Technology* (HPT) class, what problem they would like to analyze, they quickly agreed upon a common direct experience -they wanted to analyze the UHCL admissions process through to the first meeting with an assigned faculty advisor. The students' work in the course resulted in answers to questions such as: How and when were INST graduate faculty advisors assigned? How do students their faculty advisor's name? How can a faculty advisor help a student travel the most efficient path to a Master's degree?

The questions arose from class members' experience. The INST5233 students were eager for the opportunity to help other students through an analysis of the SoE INST advising process. The class applied current techniques to determine what information to collect, how to interpret it, and how to develop data-based recommendations. Thanks to the help and support of their peers, the INST faculty, and David Benz, the SoE Advising Coordinator (and coincidentally a graduate student in the Instructional Technology Program) the students were able to collect data about the admissions process from multiple perspectives. Class members conducted faculty interviews, used an online survey to collect data from fellow students, reviewed advising literature, and analyzed written organizational policy/procedures.

The class was able to offer some valuable insights into the process. Each class member suggested several recommendations to improve the system and prepared a personal version of a guide to navigating the program application process.



*The SSCB is Home to the
Instructional Technology Department*

*"How To" guides for smooth
sailing into the INST Program
at the INST Website*



*Students Working in the
SSCB's Open Lab*

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.

NEW INST Course Offering: Change Leadership



Open Lab in the New SSCB

The INST program is changing all the time, introducing new courses to keep students up-to-date within the field. One new course being offered is INST5123 *Change Leadership*. This course offers a theoretical overview of innovation and change leadership within the field of instructional communications and technology. It will focus upon change theory, models, and real-world planning and implementation of innovations within preK-12 education, business/industry and higher education.

Change Leadership offers the opportunity to develop a more advanced understanding of change within the framework of introducing innovations into an environment.

New Grants Opportunities Web Page

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) Office for Planning, Grants and Evaluation (OPGE) has announced the release of a new website-- the [TEA Grant Opportunities page](#). This site is now the central resource for all State and Federal grant opportunities administered by TEA. This site links to all grant information, including due dates for grant applications and reports pertaining to each grant program.

INST at the First TCEA Educational Technology Research Symposium

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

Dr. Richard A. Smith presented a paper entitled, *Considerations for Reconsidering Research in Media* at the very first TCEA Educational Technology Research Symposium held in conjunction with TCEA's 27th Annual Convention held during the first week in February. The paper, by Dr. Smith and co-authors Dr. Caroline M. Crawford and Dr. Marion Smith of Texas Southern University's Jesse Jones School of Business, reviewed the impact of technology on instructional effectiveness as well as providing principles for the design of instruction in large scale school technology projects. Dr. Smith noted that it was really an honor for INST faculty to be chosen to present at the very first Symposium and hopes to participate again next year.

Internship Highlight: eLumenta University

Did you hear Virginia Dickenson describe eLumenata University and Educational Research Center on the INST podcast series, *Education and Technology Today* when she was a guest host? If so, you may be wondering if you can get to do your INST internship helping to develop e-learning courses and blended technology learning solutions for this virtual university that exists in the Massively Multiplayer Online Game (MMO) Second Life. The answer is, "Yes!" In fact, Virginia Dickenson told the Instructional Technology Newsletter that eLumenata University is looking for creative instructional designers for internship positions to conduct research, design curriculum and instruction, perform project management, and participate in many other areas that they have not even thought of yet! Your imagination is your limit! eLumenata University and Educational Research Center provides strategic program planning, educational research, blended technology development and team-based learning opportunities. Virginia Dickenson explained that they utilize proven instructional systems design methodology and accelerated learning infrastructure. They rely on learning modularization for maximizing learning performance and client requirements and develop solutions that meet specific learning needs

It is the vision of eLumenata University and Educational Research Center to promote, develop, and research SecondLife and MMO environments at large as a legitimate and rich learning medium. They value and promote instructional excellence through the use of instructional systems design for curriculum and course development, as well as curriculum standardization, entrepreneurial spirit, customer service, and Integrity in all things. If this opportunity interests you, contact your advisor or Dr. Caroline Crawford for further information.



Xenon Darrow is the Chancellor and owner of eLumenata University and Research Center

Read about the vision for eLumenata University



eLumenata Research Center on the sim Xe is dedicated to doing educational research

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