



Instructional Technology

at the School of Education

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Students Have Choice of Internship Opportunities

Richard Smith, INST Program Coordinator

Students may choose from several different environments for the capstone experience in the INST master's degree program. Most options come with an intern stipend, so the 160 hours spent as an intern becomes a learning and earning experience. Internship opportunities for INST students include helping design distance learning programs for Space Center Houston, assisting with the development of mediated instruction at imedia.it for members of the armed forces, and helping design distance learning and face-to-face courses for a variety of businesses at SoloLearning. Also, many students will be interested in an internship at Lee College where one can get hands-on experience designing workshops for college faculty. The INST faculty is constantly on the lookout for additional intern sites so stay in close contact with your adviser to learn more about what will be available when your turn comes.

Smith and Crawford Podcast from Texas A&M

Education and Technology podcast co-hosts and UHCL faculty members Caroline M. Crawford and Richard A. Smith traveled to Texas A&M University in June to chat with [Trina Davis](#), the president of the International Society for Technology in Education. Davis is also an assistant professor of educational technology at TAMU. Two very interesting discussions were recorded and turned into podcasts. The first discussion centered on the beliefs people hold regarding the efficacy of technology in the classroom. The second discussion started with the concept and application of distance learning and extended to the role of the International Society for Technology in Education in making certain that educational technology is used effectively. To hear these podcasts, go to the INST Web site: <http://inst.uhcl.edu> and click on the podcast link on the page menu.

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Pictured above: Caroline Crawford (l), Trina Davis and Richard Smith. Below: Trina Davis and Richard Smith.



Instructional Technology Graduate: Fatai Oyejobi

It has been a long road, but yet the beginning of a new life journey. Although I have thought of myself as being a researcher at a university, it never crossed my mind that this would manifest itself in my 50s. The most challenging part of the journey was getting through the graduate program in Instructional Technology (INST) at University of Houston-Clear Lake.

The INST program at UHCL offers flexibility for people with busy work schedules like me. Many courses are offered online, and the online course management system (WebCT) is user-friendly. The instructors encourage interaction of students regardless of their geographic location. The tough part was commuting to Clear Lake twice a week for classes that I couldn't take online. The INST experience at UHCL certainly prepared me for my new role as a doctoral student in Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University.



Fatai Oyejobi, an INST alumnus.

My doctoral studies at TSU offer a new challenge. Environmental issues dominate discussions of international issues and intertwine with economic development issues in Third World countries. My research areas will focus on investigating cultural and economic effects on urban planning and environmental policies. I will also work on finding ways to strike a balance between economic development and environmental concerns.

The journey ends at making the world better for all mankind.

Sloodle: Learning System for Virtual Environments

Sloodle is a learning system, also referred to as a course management system, that marries the world of text-based learning environments (such as [Moodle](#)), with three-dimensional virtual learning environments (such as [Second Life](#) or [ActiveWorlds](#) at <http://www.activeworlds.com/>).

Sloodle is the meshing of Moodle and Second Life, into a learning system for virtual environments and has recently become a reality. Sloodle's original Web address is now an archive (<http://www.sloodle.com/>), while the "real" Sloodle arena is available at <http://www.sloodle.org/>. Sloodle is open source software. We look forward to offering the opportunity to design, develop and instruct within Sloodle.

Register for courses early for spring 2008 to ensure you get the courses you want.

Open Access to Information: eBooks

As time passes, there are so many areas of interest that expand at an innovative speed. Yet how do we find what we are looking for when it comes to electronic books? Innovations within an open environment have led to a growing number of sites that focus upon freely available digital book texts, known as "ebooks." There are several interesting ebook sites that are available within today's information environment. Following are merely a few ebooks locations:

- Project Gutenberg
http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page
- Free eBooks.net
<http://www.free-ebooks.net/>
- Free eBooks (list)
<http://www.free-ebooks.net/>
- ManyBooks.net
<http://manybooks.net/>
- Free eBooks from Adobe
<http://www.adobe.com/epaper/ebooks/freebooks.html>
- eBookLobby
<http://www.ebooklobby.com/>
- Microsoft Reader Catalog of eBooks
<http://www.mslib.com/default.asp?mjr=FRE>
- eText Center: Collections
<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/ebooks/>
- PlanetPDF: Free eBook Archive
http://www.planetpdf.com/free_pdf_ebooks.asp

One Laptop Per Child Project

The One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) project, or better known as the \$100 laptop or even the XO machine, is readying itself for mass production. The [mission of the organization](#) is: "To provide children around the world with new opportunities to explore, experiment and express themselves" (<http://www.laptop.org/vision/index.shtml>). Starting Nov. 12, you will be able to purchase an XO laptop for about \$399. The extra money you pay for your XO will be used to buy an XO laptop for a child in need (<http://www.xogiving.org/>). This offer will be available for only a short period of time. If you are not interested in purchasing one for yourself, you can donate an XO laptop for \$200. The XO laptop's Web site is <http://www.laptop.org/>. The specifications for the XO laptop can be found at <http://www.laptop.org/en/laptop/hardware/specs.shtml>. The life of the XO laptop is at least five years. This laptop is built upon primarily free and open source software (<http://www.laptop.org/en/laptop/software/specs.shtml>), (One Laptop Per Child, 2007, paragraph 1, <http://www.laptop.org/en/laptop/software/specs.shtml>). What an exciting adventure!

Take Note

* **David Benz**, UHCL IT graduate and director of student relations for the School of Education, has begun a podcast series for School of Education advising services. [Please visit...](#)

* For those interested in **e-learning or tech/learning course development** there is a [replacement for Authorware](#).

* **Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award**

Amazon.com is accepting unpublished English language works of fiction for entry in the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award through Nov. 5, 2007. The winning author will receive a publishing contract from Penguin Group, including promotional support for their book on Amazon.com, and a media suite from Hewlett-Packard. All entrants are eligible to self-publish their novel with CreateSpace and sell it on Amazon.com. [Further details...](#)

* **British Library Books Go Digital**

More than 100,000 old books previously unavailable to the public will go online thanks to a mass digitization program at the British Library. The program focuses on 19th Century books, many of which are unknown as few were reprinted after first editions.

[Full article...](#)

Moving on from Facebook: Lifecasting

Everyone has heard of MySpace and Facebook, but how about offering people the opportunity to watch every aspect of your life as it occurs? All you need is a Web cam and Internet accessibility. A growing number of people are engaging in lifecasting, such as Justin.tv (<http://www.justin.tv/>) where different "channels" offer the opportunity for anyone to watch as a person gets morning java from the corner coffee shop, goes shopping or even jogging. It is a growing phenomenon, with other lifecasting sites coming online, such as blogTV.com (<http://www.blogtv.com/>).

Now, outside of the freakish side to the Internet online communities, there are educational possibilities related to this type of environment. For example, perhaps simplistic just-in-time support for students? Or, maybe virtual learning environments? The possibilities are endless. Check it out to see the next wave.



UHCL student Douglas Gogorth in NASA's Reduced Gravity Airplane.

At work on NASA's Reduced Gravity Aircraft

Douglas Goforth currently in his final semester in the INST graduate program, co-directs NASA's Reduced Gravity Student Flight Program for the NASA Johnson Space Center. Since 2000, he has overseen a number of NASA Education and Operations efforts, including the Digital Learning Network (a videoconferencing program that connects U.S. K-12 students to NASA resources), Organizational Computer Security and the Texas Aerospace Scholars Program. He is a strong supporter of NASA's educational mission to inspire the next generation of explorers. Goforth began working for NASA in 2000 as a student in the Cooperative Education program while completing his bachelor's degree at UHCL. In addition to his duties in education, he serves as a human test subject for various NASA research projects and is a volunteer fire fighter in his community.

From Intern to IT Support Specialist

Paula Lee will be completing her INST master's degree in December 2007 at UHCL. She has a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology-Industrial Distribution from Texas A&M University – College Station.

She worked on a temporary three-month project with Boeing and held a temporary position with the College of the Mainland. Currently, she is completing her internship at Tietronix Software Inc. and taking her last class. She states that the internship has shown her that what students learn in the master's degree courses is actually used in the real world.

Lee has recently accepted an instructional technology support specialist position at Lee College and is really looking forward to the job. She wants to put the skills and knowledge that she has gained throughout her INST courses and intern experience into practice.

Lee states that the master's degree program was challenging, but she is very glad that she did not give up.



Paula Lee joins Lee College as an instructional technology support specialist.

From the Program Coordinator – Richard Smith

We have our usual array of excellent courses scheduled for the Spring 2008 semester. Included in the Spring 2008 lineup is the ever-popular INST 6031 **Applications of Technology** where students get to create a real mini online course as their final project. Also on the schedule is Associate Professor Caroline Crawford's INST 5035 **Creating Digital Resources**. The course gives students the opportunity to learn about the latest trends in instructional technology and to create instructional products. Adjunct Instructor Deborah Buell will be teaching the online version of INST 6037 **Advanced Technology Applications**. Students in this course will engage in video production, desktop publishing, Web design and multimedia development.

Assistant Professor Shujen Chang is going to teach INST 5233 **Performance Technology** face-to-face Thursday evenings. This is a great course for those of you who want to learn how to apply human performance improvement tools and techniques to identify performance problems and apply solutions. Assistant Professor Chang will also teach her very popular and content-rich course, INST 5130 **Learning Theory & Instruction**, on Monday evenings. Take note that Associate Professor Crawford will be teaching her version of INST 5433 **Instructional Design, Project Management, and Grant Writing**.

Rounding out our spring 2008 schedule are: INST 5131 Trends and Issues (Associate Professor Crawford); INST 5135 Multimedia for Educators (Adjunct Instructor Buell); INST 5333 Systematic Design of Technology-Based Instruction (Assistant Professor Chang); INST 5535 Internet for Instruction (Trudy Driskell, Lecturer); INST 5735 Advanced Web Development (Associate Professor Jana Willis); and INST 6537 Management of Computer Resources (Yours Truly).

At the undergraduate level, we will be offering INST 4535 eLearning taught by Adjunct Instructor Michelle Giles and INST 4635 Web Development taught by Adjunct Tyler Delane.

Great Academic Software Pricing for UHCL Students

UHCL students may purchase software at <http://software.uhcl.edu/>. The list of software is available in PDF format, at <http://software.uhcl.edu/Software%20Order%20Form.pdf>.

Software can be obtained in the Delta Building, Room 120. No requests will be taken by phone. Please note this is a special service being and not a full-time supported function, so someone may not always be available to readily assist you. For more information on software purchases, contact David Webb, systems specialist, at 281-283-3890 or webb@uhcl.edu.

Subscribe to Education and Technology Today at the [Education Podcast Network](#)

[Calendar of Important Dates for Spring 2008](#)

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