CampIT Continues to Shine

Several “campers” participating at CampIT earlier this summer. Pictured from left to right: CD Mitchell, Jennifer Woodard, and Margaret Cantrell; back row: Raj Barnwal.

CampIT was held from May 14 – 25 in the Telecommunication Building classroom. The first week was held virtually, with faculty reading online assignments about developing Web-supported, Web-enhanced, blended, and fully online courses. Attendees experienced taking an online course from a student’s perspective, learning to use most of the basic D2L tools. They also learned about accessing files of various types from a student’s point-of-view using several different Web browsers. Week one stressed the importance of developing a community of learners in an online course.

As week one kicked off, participants introduced themselves and got to know the camp counselors by participating in a scavenger hunt designed to familiarize participants with common D2L.

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Grants Foster Innovation in Learning Technologies

To facilitate the exploration and integration of innovative technologies in teaching/learning, the Instructional Technologies Development Grants were recently “rebooted” as Innovative Technology Grants. The revision broadens the funding criteria and redefines the purpose of these grants.

Proposals are now judged on the degree of innovation in instructional design, development and integration of resources, and collaboration, etc. that is represented in the proposal.

These projects should have the potential for exploring new learning methodologies and allow faculty to enhance their knowledge related to the use of technology in teaching and learning environments.

Projects funded during the 2011/2012 academic year included: experimental and field-based learning with mobile devices, interactive 3D modeling for virtual learning, use of a virtual environment for international class collaboration, and multimedia tutorial development for self-paced learning.

Proposals are accepted twice per year – fall and spring semesters – by the Instructional Technologies Development Committee (ITDC) which makes funding recommendations to the Information Technology Division (ITD) dependent on available resources.

Grant applications must be submitted on the current form, which may be obtained from the Information Technology Division (Cope Administration Building, Room 003), ITD-Faculty Instructional Technology Center (Telecommunications Building, Room 214), the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost (Cope Administration Building, Room 119), or online at http://www.mtsu.edu/itdacad/itres/grantguide_aits.php.

To read more about the Innovative Technology Grants, see the related article on page 4.

MTSU to Host Mobile App Summit on October 15 and 16

The Information Technology Division is partnering with the College of Education and the TBR Office of Mobilization to host the MTSU Mobility Summit – Practical Magic: Using Mobile Devices in Education, Research and Workplace Training. The event will be held on campus October 15 and 16.

Nationally known keynote speakers, multiple tracks for K-12 and higher education, workshops on application development and eBook authoring, as well as vendor displays will provide attendees with information and experience in using and managing mobility in learning.

MTSU implemented a strategy to accommodate the increasing presence of mobile devices on campus by supporting the development and integration of applications into MTSU business, student, and learning environments.

ITD is playing an integral part in this strategy by supporting a student application development team that maintains the official MTSU app (available for both Apple and Android devices) and by working with areas across campus to develop content-specific apps to assist faculty.

Faculty and staff interested in attending should visit www.mtsu.edu/msummit2012.
The Information Technology Division is hosting a series of open forums periodically to help establish a culture of open dialog and to share ideas regarding information technology at MTSU.

The 2012 ITD open forum schedule kicks off at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, in room 475 at the James Walker Library. Additional open forums will be held at 2-3 p.m. on Oct. 4 and 10, in room 475 at the Walker Library.

For more information including agenda items and how to suggest agenda items, future meeting dates, and locations and times, visit http://mtsu.edu/projects/forum.php.

Would you like to be able to start your screensaver when you want instead of waiting for it to kick in? Follow these simple steps to find out how.

In Windows XP, click Start; Search (or in Windows 7, click Start and the search bar is there waiting for you to type; make sure and just search the C:\ drive); in the search box type in *.scr and press enter to perform the search. It will give you a list of all screensaver files on your computer. Find the one you want, right click on it, and select ‘Send To.’ Then click Desktop.

Now navigate to your desktop and double click the .scr file to start up the screensaver anytime you wish.

ITD Open Forums to be Held in October

CampIT
Continued from page 1

tools. They investigated online course design and implementation methods and established a D2L space to initiate their own online course development. Participants learned about appropriate online content and how multimedia file types could be integrated into D2L.

Campers also learned about different online evaluation methods which will not only teach and test students but also reveal the effectiveness of online course design. Week one was wrapped up by reviewing and using D2L tools that help the instructor get to know students including how to maintain a confidential means of communication with students throughout the course.

During week two, attendees learned about the flipped classroom approach and syllabus design and D2L tools from the faculty perspective (Introduction to D2L and the following tools: Content, Grade, Quiz, Discussion, Dropbox, Group, Rubric, Email, Chat, LiveRoom, Checklist, Blog, and TurnItIn).

The proper design of PowerPoint and online presentations was demonstrated. Participants learned to create SoftChalk lessons from existing course materials and enhanced these lessons using media, quiz questions, and interactive activities.

In addition, there was a demonstration on the usage of student response systems in the classroom. During the camp show-and-tell session, attendees shared their plans for online, hybrid, and Web-enhanced courses. Week two ended with a tour of the Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technology and the Faculty Instructional Technology Centers.

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Teaching, Learning & Technology

PROFILE

MTSU archaeology professors Drs. Tanya Peres (left) and Shannon Hodge embarked on a mission to eliminate paper in their classrooms by replacing it with sleek new iPads.

Archaeology can be a dirty business. Literally. “We work out in the field, where there is a lot of rain, mud, and paper-eating grasshoppers,” said MTSU bioarchaeologist Dr. Shannon Hodge. “The data we collect goes on paper, but paper is vulnerable to things like dirt, sweat, and sunscreen.”

In a field where data is the most essential component of one’s research, it isn’t exactly comforting to know that the only thing standing between your data and Mother Nature’s destructive forces is a thin sheet of paper.

So Hodge and her colleague, MTSU anthropology professor Dr. Tanya Peres, embarked on a mission to eliminate paper in the field altogether by replacing it with sleek new iPads.

“When you collect data on paper, that data is eventually going to go into a computer,” Hodge noted. “It has to be transcribed from paper into some kind of database management software, so that leaves the possibility for error.”

What Hodge and Peres’ project does, essentially, is eliminate the middle man by allowing researchers to enter in their data directly.

The excavating duo’s ambitious efforts, which became known as “The MTSU Paperless Archaeology Project,” paid off when they received an Innovative Technology Grant (formerly known as the Instructional Technologies Development Grant) this summer. Projects that were awarded funding during the 2011/2012 academic year included experimental and field-based learning with mobile devices, interactive 3D modeling for virtual learning, use of a virtual environment for international class collaboration and multimedia tutorial development for self-paced learning.

The grant has allowed Hodge and Peres to purchase 12 iPads in time for their fall anthropology classes, where they will be used in the labs for the first time. The grant also provided funding for a docking cart to sync the iPads with the parent MacBook and the to charge the devices.

“The iPads are better than laptops because they’re a closed system,” Peres explained. “There are no moving parts that dirt or dust can get into. They’re also smaller, lighter, and easier to transport. Another nice thing about the iPads is the iCloud. No documents or data get lost.”

There’s another benefit to the paperless system as well. Aside from mitigating the margin of error in data entry and saving lots of time out in the field, using iPads in the classroom also allows students to stay ahead of the curve as technology continues to evolve.

“College students now and those who are going to be college students in the next few years are going to be in a position to be leap-frogged by those who are younger and more technologically savvy in terms of tablet computing,” Hodge said. “Both the lab classes we teach and the field are EXL (experimental learning) courses, so the whole point is to give students the use of this tool that’s already being deployed in real-world applications in archaeology.”

Hodge, who’s been teaching at MTSU since 2004, works with human skeletal remains. Such a delicate line of work leaves little room for mistakes and requires as few hands as possible.

“Sometimes the items we document have to be re-buried,” Hodge said. “They’re not permanently curated therefore they must be fully documented.”

There are some instances where Hodge is the only researcher who sees human skeletal remains because such a find has to be re-buried almost immediately. In these more sensitive situations, Hodge and Peres have found that using iPads significantly improves their workflow.

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REMINDER: MTSU’s Help Desk and email administrators will NEVER ask you for your password over email. Any email received that asks you for a username and password to be sent in a reply is an attempt to compromise your account and should be immediately forwarded to abuse@mtsu.edu.

New Version of Banner Is on the Way

Coming soon to TBR campuses all over the state will be the next release of Banner software, Version 9. This new version will be built on Groovy/Grails and will offer a fresh new look to end users. However, don’t expect the whole Banner system to look significantly different all at once because the vendor is going to release the new components in a series of phases. Check back for more information.

Faculty Focus: D2L Learning Community

Are you seeking ideas to complement or enhance your courses? Not really sure where to start? Check out the resources in the MTSU D2L Learning Community.

To take advantage of this innovative resource, simply go online to www.elearn.mtsu.edu, log in using your Pipeline user credentials, click on the “Student” tab, and “MTSU D2L Learning Community” (located in “No Semester”) and “Content” in the navigation area at the top of the screen. There you will find information on using a variety of items including:

- SoftChalk—An easy-to-use content authoring software that incorporates engaging student activities and assessments within your content presentation.
- Respondus—Create quizzes, tests and exams using a network of textbook test banks.
- D2L Tools—Learn more about how to implement tools available inside your D2L course shells.

Continued on Page 8
There’s more than meets the eye when it comes to Aaron Schmuhl’s responsibilities at MTSU.

“My job is basically log analysis,” said the Detroit native who joined ITD in 2008.

But there’s a whole lot more to it than that.

“What I do is go through and look at logs, correlate them and find any existing threats,” he explained. “I’m also in charge of blocking and unblocking firewall rules and the anti-virus server.”

Yet, there’s more.

As ITD’s senior information technology security analyst, Schmuhl protects the campus network from technological threats and ensures all confidential information remains confidential.

“The MTSU campus is scanned for open or weak remote desktops on a constant basis,” he said. “If someone were to find a weak password or something they would try to expose that machine or take over that computer to either send out spam or affect other computers on the network.”

Schmuhl thrives on the challenges that accompany the role of an IT gatekeeper.

“I really do enjoy the challenge of trying to secure a university, which is by its essence an open environment,” he explained. “So it seems sometimes almost like an impossible task, but it’s fun when I catch something that’s gone bad and I’m able to clear it out. Those things don’t happen very often, but they keep my job interesting.”


In addition, he picked up a master’s degree in computer information systems from MTSU in 2010.

While attending MTSU as an undergrad Schmuhl became involved in a co-op program that provided him with an opportunity to work in the IT department at a factory in Smyrna called Tridon.

One of the biggest day-to-day challenges that Schmuhl often encounters is convincing users that the Internet is not a 100 percent safe environment.

During his seven-year stint at Tridon, Schmuhl saw the growing importance of IT security as the Internet changed and evolved. He enrolled in online security classes, learning everything he could to stay ahead of the curve.

The online experience has changed so rapidly over the last decade that some users are not accustomed to the modern way the Internet operates in terms of maintaining security, Schmuhl said.

“The Internet 20 years ago was a very different place,” he pointed out.

As ITD’s senior information technology security analyst, Aaron Schmuhl protects the campus network from technological threats and ensures all confidential information remains confidential.
Information Technology Division • Middle Tennessee State University

ITD Staff News

Instructional design specialist Paula Calahan recently attended the Southeast Regional Conference in Tampa, Fla., and third annual P-16 Summer Summit “Teaching with Technology” Professional Development and Training Conference, held on the campus of Cleveland State Community College in Cleveland, Tenn. Both events were beneficial in providing current information in the field of instructional design and technology, and offered exceptional professional development opportunities to meet, network, and collaborate with higher education colleagues in the southeast region.

ITD assistant vice president Barbara Draude attended the EDU-CAUSE Institute Learning Technology Leadership Program, which was held in Atlanta on June 25-29. The endeavor was created for professionals whose campus role involves the support and promotion of teaching and learning. Attendees developed leadership skills and abilities that will help them both in current and future campus roles. Designed as a leadership immersion experience, the program allowed participants to engage in active learning experiences.

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ITD Goes Green

As part of the GoGreen initiative, the Information Technology Division is doing its part by recycling items such as old PCs, keyboards, monitors, power cables, mouse devices, network cables, ink cartridges, and even software. The benefits of this endeavor are to clean up clutter, remove and recycle electronic waste from offices and buildings, recover valuable materials from old electronics that can be used to make new products, and the promotion of sound management of electronic waste such as ink, lead, and mercury.

ITD Faculty/Staff Workshops

Get started with computer graphic programs such as Illustrator; edit and enhance pictures with Photoshop; get familiar with D2L and Photoshop; get trained in Word 2010, Excel 2010, and Access; learn to design Web pages; and more!

Registration is required (except where noted)
- Register on the Web or call ITD at x5345
- Most workshops are offered at the ITD Training Center in the Telecommunication Building
- Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis
- Please give a 24-hour cancellation notice

Individual consultation for instructional technology needs can be requested by calling ext. 8189. Other workshops are available upon request.

See our website for more information at http://www.mtsu.edu/itd/faestaff_train_itd.php

Paperless Archaeology

Continued from page 4

excavations she has only one chance to collect the data. The iPads are conveniently equipped with cameras and video capabilities to allow her to document those kinds of excavations in as much detail as possible before her data is compiled. It also allows other researchers to examine her findings.

Peres, who studies the significance of animal remains at archaeological digs, has already experimented with the iPads earlier this summer when she took the devices into the field near the Cumberland River, allowing students to blog about their experiences.

“The information is more legible on an iPad,” said Peres, who’s been with the University since 2005. “Rain, sweat, and sunscreen wreak havoc on ink.”

Peres and Hodge predict tablet computing will revolutionize archaeology as researchers continue to seek alternatives to paper. And thus far they haven’t encountered any iPad-eating insects, either.

With EVM, voice mail messages are only one click away! Enabled Voice Mail, or EVM, allows you access to voice mail through email. Contact the Voice Mail Coordinator at 2206, or visit http://www.mtsu.edu/itdtele/services/voicemail.php for more information.
Aaron Schmuhl
Continued from page 6

“It was a very safe, secure environment. The Internet now can be a very dangerous place, so the idea that you can’t completely trust the Internet anymore is sometimes hard for some users to accept.”

Aside from thriving on the challenges of IT security, Schmuhl enjoys his work environment at MTSU.

“I have a good working relationship with everybody here,” he said. “It’s a laid-back atmosphere, and I’ve never run into anyone that’s hard to work with. Everyone at ITD is very good at what they do. They do an amazing amount of work, and they do it well.”

Off campus Schmuhl enjoys recreational running and spending time with his family. He resides in Murfreesboro with his wife, Amber; and daughters, Isabella, Chloe, and his newest addition, five-month-old Alice.

Faculty Fair Set for October 31

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the Learning, Teaching and Innovative Technologies Center (LT&ITC) Faculty Fair on Wednesday, October 31. Held in the LT&ITC in Walker Library, room 348, the Faculty Fair is the “One-Stop-Shop” event for faculty to learn more about resources and services available to them at MTSU.

This event provides faculty with an opportunity to meet peers who have distinguished themselves by developing innovative teaching practices and integrating technology in their courses. Faculty Fair exhibitors typically include MTSU grant recipients, outstanding teachers, experiential faculty, and others who, by means of creative poster exhibits illustrating their methods, eagerly share their pedagogies and outcomes with colleagues.

MTSU Faculty Grant Committee

Members
• Instructional Technology
• Instructional Development
• Faculty Development
• Public Service
* Previous award members shared/demonstrated their projects.

Faculty Development Opportunities
• Faculty/University Learning Community facilitators and participants
• Teaching and Professional Development Program sponsored by LT&ITC
• EXL and Service Learning programs
• Education Abroad programs
• Online Course Development
• TBR E-Mobilization Initiative

Faculty Resources and Services
• Faculty Instructional Technology Center
• American Association of University Professors (AAUP)
• Student Support Services
• Career Development Services
• University Fellowship Office
• Walker Library

D2L

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• Virtual Learning Environments such as Second Life and others
• Instructional Design Resources
• Articles regarding Teaching Techniques

And much MORE!
If you would like more information related to the resources described or presented in the MTSU D2L Learning Community, please call the Faculty Instructional Technology Center (FITC) at 615-904-8189.