



From the SIGHC Chair

All,

Welcome to the September newsletter of SIGHC. By now, everybody should be back at school, on campus, etc. I hope that all of you had a relaxing summer and are ready for another great school year! SIGHC plans to be very active this year.

Mark van 't Hooft
Chair SIGHC

SIGHC News

The SIGHC wiki is up and running. Please go to <http://www.rcet.org/sighc/wiki>. Participation in the wiki is free. Just create a user name and password for yourself and start adding to the wiki. We hope that it will become a quality resource for information related to teaching and learning with mobile devices. We are also working on getting a blog online.

Our membership as of last count is 164. We keep growing!

One issue that came up in the NECC business meeting is that the SIG really doesn't know who uses handhelds and where. It was proposed that we attempt to find out if states have enough technology data on hand so that we can do a census and find out who is using what and where (we need volunteers to help with this, please contact Mark van 't Hooft at mvanthoo@kent.edu). We'd like to get this project underway ASAP.

NECC News

The call for proposals for NECC 2007 in Atlanta is now open. Please check the ISTE site at <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2007/> for details.

SIGHC will co-sponsor the First Annual International Leadership Summit (with SIGILT, SIGDE, and potentially SIGTEL as well as the ISTE International Committee). See attached flyer for more information and call for volunteers.

Newsletter Addition

In this newsletter, you will find a feature article from one of our SIGHC members, Julie Lindsay. We hope that it will be the first of many articles contributed by our wonderful membership. It is this very sharing of information that makes our SIG so valuable. We encourage you to write a short or long article to share in the SIGHC Newsletter. You could share a project, idea, mobile technology, or anything that you think our members will find valuable. Please send your input to Debbie.Bordelon@wca-hsv.org. We look forward to hearing from you!!!

Feature Article

Profile:

I am an international educator currently Head of Technology at the International School Dhaka (ISD), Bangladesh. Prior to this position I was teaching in Kuwait and Zambia. I am originally from Melbourne, Australia.

Once upon a time I was a music educator and founder of the Music education and Technology Association, a national group of educators interested in the impact technology had on music education (now defunct). Over the past 10 years I have concentrated specifically on educational technology in terms of developing ICT leadership and curriculum development skills and experience. The recent completion of an MA in Educational Technology Leadership from the George Washington University has helped instill in me a desire to work with other educators and classes to improve and extend the use of ICT tools. I am a member of the ISTE International Committee and the new ICT curriculum specialist for Learning and Leading magazine.

Current Projects:

Mobile, Ubiquitous, Digital

At ISD we have a technology initiative that includes a one-to-one, ubiquitous computing program in the secondary school. This includes a handheld initiative in Grades 6-7 and a laptop initiative in Grades 8-12. I have documented the development of the handheld program on the 1-to-1 Stories Project at <http://1to1stories.org/?p=53> This page hyperlinks to other related handheld resources as well. Despite the difficulties of implementing a new program in a school, and doing it in Bangladesh, we are now after 2 years starting to see real benefits. The introduction of the Palm TX as the #1 Palm to use has helped us turn a corner. Developments in the device including flash memory, more physical memory and WiFi capability have encouraged students and teachers to incorporate it more often and for a wider range of uses.

Currently we have 120 handhelds (Palms) and about 200 laptops most of which are accessing our wireless network each day. All devices are student-owned. Our IT Department has developed a support area that configures and services and troubleshoots everyday but essentially our approach to the students and parents is you buy it, you look after it, you have it at school everyday (as a policy) and you pay to fix it/buy another if it goes down beyond what our IT support can do. I realize this approach is tough and a luxury only afforded by being a private school and currently the only IB world school in Bangladesh.

Podcast Bangladesh

Another project over the past year has been the introduction of podcasting. We have experimented with 'radio style' podcasts, interview based podcasts and podcasts for curriculum integration. It is exciting to see the convergence of technology and the use of online resources, mobile devices and best classroom practice in the development of audio files for sharing via Palms and laptops and also made available via blogs and wikis. This project is still in its infancy but there are plans to consolidate and extend this year, particularly with a focus on the creation and use of MP3 files on the handhelds. Further information about Podcast Bangladesh can be found at <http://podcastbangla.blogspot.com> and <http://podcastjazz.pbwiki.com/> The latter is a wiki that includes a page on the NECC06 presentation I delivered this year as well as podcasting pedagogy links and resources

Future Directions:

This academic year offers further opportunities to continue developing and consolidating the handheld initiative. A series of eLearning classes have been organized to deliver specific skills on the handhelds for organization, communication and curriculum use. These are offered to Grade 6 and 7 students as well as teachers, with both learning together and from each other. The Language departments (English, French, Spanish and Bangla) are looking at using podcasting as a constructivist tool within their curriculum and of course using the handhelds and laptops.

For myself I am continuing to work with online learning communities and have plans to pilot alternative social networking software for blogging and collaboration. Currently we have a weblog program with students' blogging and creating digital portfolios. Newer developments have led me to elgg.net and Moodle, soon to be incorporated. More information about future directions this year can be found in my eLearning blog at <http://123elearning.blogspot.com/> and also my new blog, In Touch with a Flat World, which concentrates on integration and classroom implementation at <http://elgg.net/julielindsay/weblog> I hope you will join me in these adventures!

Julie Lindsay, International School Dhaka
lindsay.julie@gmail.com

And Finally...

As always, don't forget to participate in the online forum, and now the wiki too ☺.

Mark van 't Hooft
Chair, SIGHC
mvanthoo@kent.edu

Mark Yehle
Vice-Chair, SIGHC
myehle@successlink.org

Debbie Bordelon
Secretary, SIGHC
Debbie.Bordelon@wca-hsv.org



**1st Annual International Leadership Summit for Learning Technology Research,
Development and Dissemination
NECC 2007 June 24 – 27, 2007
Atlanta, GA**

(Note: an updated version of this flyer will be available soon)

At the annual conference of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) during June 2007, ISTE's special interest groups on innovative learning technologies (SIGILT) and handheld computing (SIGHC) will host the 1st Annual Summit on Innovative Learning Technologies. The purpose of this day-long, primarily invitational gathering is to mobilize international and national leaders in learning technology innovation to develop a collaborative community that fosters improved processes and tools for:

- Field testing promising innovations in learning technology, especially with regard to the most pressing educational needs of students.
- Encouraging more research and evaluation to assess and validate promising learning technologies in terms of impact on learning climate, learning opportunities, learning results and/or other key outcomes.
- Cataloguing promising and proven innovative learning technologies relative to NETS and national content standards, so that teachers and administrators seeking to improve students' learning climate, learning opportunities and learning results in a given subject and grade level can much more easily locate technologies relevant to their priorities.
- Promoting the dissemination and availability of this information on promising and proven innovation in learning technology.

SIGILT was first formed by a national network of over one hundred directors of ED funded Technology Innovation Challenge Grant (TICG) projects who together had received over one-half *billion* dollars in federal research and development funding to create innovative learning technologies. ISTE has institutionalized this network by creating SIGILT. In 1999, with TICG program support, the National Institute for Community Innovations (NICI) created a portal on Technology Applications for Learning (<http://applications.edreform.net>) to promote awareness of TICG-funded and other promising technology innovations. In 2005, ISTE endorsed the formation of SIGILT to expand and institutionalize a sustained effort to scale up widespread awareness and use of the most promising emerging learning technologies, in collaboration with other interested partners worldwide. SIGILT's mission is to make it much easier for educators worldwide to learn about and successfully employ innovative learning technologies that enhance teaching and learning, especially for those in economically distressed communities.

ISTE's special interest group on handheld computing (SIGHC) is joining SIGILT in co-hosting the summit (as well as SIGDE and ISTE's International Committee). At the 1st Annual Leadership Summit on Learning Technology Research, Development and Dissemination, we will invite leaders in learning technology research and development, academic research and external evaluation, philanthropy and reforms in K-12 education, educator preparation and professional development to participate. We envision the annual summit not only as an integral feature of ISTE's annual conference but also as a face-to-face meeting that complements year-round threaded conversation and other online communication, all intended to dramatically improve collaboration and alignment among the currently fragmented efforts to create new learning technologies, assess and validate them, and disseminate information about them in ways that large numbers of educators can access, understand and pragmatically apply.

At the 1st Annual Summit, we will explore the following questions:

1. What are the biggest obstacles to developing a cohesive, collaborative system for generating, assessing and disseminating promising learning technologies?
2. What key strategies and resources currently exist that can contribute to overcoming these obstacles?
3. What are concrete actions that each summit participant pledges to take during the following year to contribute to an improved international system for promoting innovative learning technologies?

Following the summit, SIGILT and SIGHC together will create a summit proceedings publication which highlights both insights arising from the summit *and* each participant's pledges. The volunteers will cluster the pledges thematically and then create and moderate threaded conversations regarding the most widely shared interests to act (e.g., one discussion group may enable those interested in fostering research to discuss their efforts, while another considers how best to catalog information on assessed learning technologies).

The summit's hosting SIGs will seek sponsorship to defray the costs for meals, refreshments, equipment and materials during the summit, for publishing the summit proceedings, and for moderating year-round threaded discussion and other online interactions among summit participants.

We also want to explore the interest of other educational organizations (e.g., CoSN, which has already agreed) to provide additional opportunities for summit participants to meet at their respective conferences, so that we generate a community of leaders in learning technology research, development and dissemination where participants can meet on multiple occasions throughout the year while also engaging, to the extent they want to, in moderated, ongoing threaded discussion about issues of shared concern. For example, those concerned about fostering more and better research and evaluation of promising new learning technologies could form a discussion group, while those in a position to "translate" research findings into terms accessible to educators and to disseminate them widely (e.g., via national associations with web sites, journals, conference packets, etc.) could participate in a separate conversation about how best to catalog and disseminate this information in ways that are responsive to educators' priorities for improving students' learning.

SIGILT and SIGHC have formed a summit advisory committee to advise the SIGs both regarding outreach to national and international leaders in learning technology development, research and dissemination, as well as regarding the summit's format. Please see the attached listing of those who have thus far agreed to serve on the summit advisory committee. SIGDE's officers have agreed to assist with summit outreach, promotion and planning and we will invite interested officers from other SIGs to serve on the summit advisory committee.

We propose that the summit be held during NECC, starting with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and concluding at 1:00 p.m. after lunch. We anticipate engaging 150 to 200 national and international participants and hope to provide from 5 to 10 scholarships – summit sponsorship funds permitting – to cover part or all of travel costs to enable educators from developing nations to attend.

For more information, please contact summit planning co-chairs:

Robert T. McLaughlin, Ph.D.
Chair, SIGILT
Chair, SIGDE
Executive Director
National Institute for Community Innovations
2905 North Street
Montpelier, VT USA 05602-9425
Tel. (802) 229-1742
Cell (802) 249-1159
Fax (802) 223-4101
Email: mcclaughb@nici-mc2.org
Skype: mclaughb
<http://www.nici-mc2.org>
<http://www.digitalequity.org>

Mark van 't Hooft, Ph.D.
Chair, SIGHC
Tech Specialist/Researcher
Kent State University
Research Center for Educational Technology
201 Moulton Hall
Kent, OH 44242-0001
Voice: (330) 672-5996 (office)
Voice: (330) 672-9722 (lab)
Fax: (330) 672-5834
Email: mvanthoo@kent.edu
Skype: markvanthooft
<http://www.rcet.org>
<http://ubiquitousthoughts.wordpress.com>

SIGILT/SIGHC Summit Advisory Committee
(as of 8/24/06)

Functions of the advisory committee:

1. Advise summit planners on outreach strategies to encourage attendance at the summit of key national and international leaders in learning technology development, research and dissemination.
2. Advise summit planners on the design of the summit agenda.
3. Advise summit leaders, after the summit, on how best to promote, disseminate and implement recommendations formulated at the summit.

Members:

Mark Atkinson
CEO
Teachscape

Bonnie Bracey Sutton and Vic Sutton
International Consultants

Graham Brown-Martin
Handheld Learning

Dr. Thomas Carroll
President
National Commission on Teaching and America's Future

Dr. Niki Davis
Past President, Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education
Co-Chair, UNESCO Global Task Force on ICT in Teacher Education

Dr. Chris Dede, Professor
Graduate School of Education
Harvard University

Bruce Duncan
Director of Technology
New Teacher Center
University of California at Santa Cruz

Dr. Kathleen Fulton
Associate Director
National Commission on Teaching and America's Future

Dr. Joyce Pittman
Member, ISTE Board of Directors
Member, ISTE International Committee

Dr. Paul Resta,
Founding president of ISTE
Co-Chair, UNESCO Global Task Force on ICT in Teacher Education

Mark Schlager
Associate Director of Learning Communities
Center for Technology in Learning
SRI International
333 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025

mark.schlager@sri.com
(p) 650-859-2881 (fax) 650-859-3673
ctl.sri.com www.tappedin.org www.cltnet.org

Dr. Robert Tinker
President
Concord Consortium
bob@concord.org

Call for volunteers for the 1st Annual International Leadership Summit

All, if you are interested in volunteering for the summit in Atlanta in any of the capacities below, please contact Mark van 't Hooft (mvanthoo@kent.edu).

1. Nominate exemplary strategies for improving collaboration/coordination between technology inventors, researchers and disseminators. That we will showcase at the summit.
2. Facilitate round-table discussion during the summit.
3. Record the discussion, issues raised and recommendations offered in the roundtable discussion.
4. Provide moderation for year-round threaded discussion among and between educators working in these otherwise disparate three domains.
5. Help to produce a summit proceedings publication which we'll make available for free, that will highlight challenges to more effective dissemination to educators, teacher educators, staff developers, tech coordinators, etc. of practical, jargon-free research-supported information about technologies found promising or proven to improve students' learning opportunities, climate and/or results.
6. Help raise funds for travel scholarships so that educators from the developing world and from economically distressed communities in the US can afford to attend.
7. Help to contribute, review, catalog and expand information on promising and proven technology applications for learning for dissemination via the open source software-based Technology Applications for Learning Portal at <http://applications.edreform.net>, for whom George Lucas Fellow Bonnie Bracey serves as editor, so that teachers in a given subject (and those who provide preservice and inservice support for them) can more readily find tech applications relevant to their specific priorities for improving their students' results.