



From the SIGHC Chair

All,

Welcome to the November/December newsletter of SIGHC. Apologies for the lateness of this newsletter, but we did finally manage to get it out. A lot is happening at ISTE with regards to the SIGs. More on that below. I hope everybody is having a good year and is doing lots of exciting things with handhelds. The HandheldLearning conference in London (October 12-13) appears to have been a big success, with over 600 people attending. Links to some of the excellent presentations can be found at

http://www.handheldlearning.co.uk/index.php?option=com_smf&Itemid=48&?topic=626.msg1962;topicseen#msg1962. mLearn and the Michigan Handheld Conference are behind us as well. It's already been a busy school year....

Mark van 't Hooft
Chair SIGHC

SIGHC News

The SIGHC wiki has been up and running. Please go to <http://www.rcet.org/sighc/wiki> to check it out. 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 10/26/06 is 177. 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 still 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. For now, we've created a frappr map which can be accessed at <http://www.frappr.com/sighc>. Please add yourself to the map!

NECC News

We had many good proposals that were submitted via our SIG. Thanks to all of those who submitted ideas and proposals. Reviews are now underway. If you submitted a proposal for Atlanta, you should get a accept/reject decision by mid-December. Check the NECC website (<http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2007/>) for details. Thanks to Dave Ramage for chairing the review committee this year and thank you to all the reviewers as well.

SIGHC is a proud organizer of the 1st Annual International Leadership Summit for Learning Technology Research, Development and Dissemination, in collaboration with SIGILT, SIGDE, and ISTE's International Committee. Detailed information about this event is at the end of this newsletter. Please plan to register and attend the summit in Atlanta. Tentative date for the summit is Saturday, June 23, 2007, so this will be a pre-conference event.

ISTE News

At the last SIC Council meeting, we discussed some changes in the ISTE website. More specifically, in the foreseeable future (most likely by the end of this year) ISTE is going to do away with the "My Communities" component and move to a discussion listserv/wiki type of setup. More on this to follow very soon. For now, please

contribute to the SIGHC wiki if you haven't done so yet. Once we have the ISTE SIGHC wiki, we'll just move over all of our info to that one.

Feature Article

Following the nice feature that was contributed to the newsletter by Julie Lindsay in September, no individual feature this time, but a brief preview of what the SIGHC spotlight in the next all-SIG newsletter will look like. Many of our members contributed a piece. Here is one of them, by Tim Lavery, all the way from Ireland. If you would like to contribute a feature article for the next newsletter, please send it to input to Debbie.Bordelon@wca-hsv.org. We look forward to hearing from you!!! Pictures are always welcome too!

Crossing Generational Boundaries

Tim Lavery

Virtual Anytime Anywhere Learning Initiative, Ireland

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The European Learning Laboratory for Innovation in Education, or ELLIE is a newly established education institute located on an idyllic parkland campus in the southwest of Ireland, perched on the edge of Europe. ELLIE is focused especially on Education Technology and its effects on teachers and teaching, learners and learning.

During 2005, the European Commission approved funding for a 3-year research project entitled "outLAB Europe - A Study of the use of Heritage sites as an Outdoor Laboratory for innovative Science Teacher Education." As part of this project it was decided to look in particular at how handheld technologies could be used to stimulate both the teacher and the student to appreciating Heritage. The project is proving very significant and results are promising; in fact, the project has spawned a number of other exciting research projects and pilots including the VAALI Project (Virtual Anytime Anywhere Learning Initiative).

Under the guidance of the Director of Academic Services, Tim Lavery, the VALLI Project is looking in particular at how ubiquitous computing models can have major effects on the greater community outside of school. In one case, students in a very small school (31 students and two teachers) in a remote rural area of southwest Ireland were provided with a high-speed handheld computer which they could use 24/7, i.e. at home and in school.

The study has demonstrated that there is a very positive outcome for parents and the community in general where a ubiquitous computing model has been applied. Parents felt clued in to their child's education through the handheld which was set up with two profiles, one for the student and one for the family. Parents sought actively to be trained to use the handhelds, but the training was delivered by their children.

At the local Community Centre, students brought their handhelds and interviewed the elderly citizens of their community, enquiring about the past, and recoding voice, music, songs, and stories. This has been seen to create a wellspring of information which the students would otherwise not have accessed, and equally it has brought old and young together in a way that has disappeared in many places. Interestingly this has been brought about by the same devices that have been considered as the reason for the growing rift in social and community interaction!

Lead researchers from Universities across Europe will continue to monitor this project over the coming year and develop a model for Educational Technology implementation that maximizes social interaction in the future.

And Finally...

As always, don't forget to participate in the online forum, and now the wiki too ☺. Happy Holidays, wherever you may be...

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

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:

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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
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Bonnie Bracey Sutton and Vic Sutton
International Consultants

Graham Brown-Martin
Handheld Learning

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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.