



From the SIGHC Chair

All,

Welcome to the May 2009 newsletter of SIGHC. This month's edition is chockfull of member contributions so I won't take up any more of your time here, other than to say that NECC is promising to be a good conference for our SIG. The forum is already completely filled up, and we could use some more volunteers to help us out!!

Mark van't Hooft
Chair SIGHC (soon to be SIGML)
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SIGHC News

SIGHC Professional Development Session

Tony Vincent's "Picks from the App Store" on Ustream.tv was a great success. About 65 people attended the session that is archived at <http://ustream.tv/recorded/1445088>. Links to the apps that Tony talked about in the session can be found on Tony's blog at <http://learninginhand.com/blog/2009/04/picks-from-app-store-april-2009.html>. Here is what some SIGHC members had to say about Tony's presentation:

I enjoyed the presentation on this wonderful free presentation tool. The live visuals of the iPod Touch and Phone could clearly be seen through UStream. The chatter among the participants was well worth grasping. Hopefully we will have more of these sessions. Sharing of Apps and educational ideas of using them in our classrooms reminds me of software reviews of years gone by. But the perk today is that we can all participate in the interactive collaboration on the "now" ideas.

Tony made everyone feel that they had something to contribute.

Thank you,

Lucianne Brown (Faculty/Educational Technologist, Governors State University)

I was not able to watch the show live, so I was excited to find that a recording was available. I have been looking for ways to incorporate the iPod Touch into classrooms, and the information shared by Tony was invaluable. I followed along on my Touch while he demonstrated the apps - please do more sessions like this!

Julie Holland (Instructional Technology Coordinator, Alvarado ISD)

SIGHC Award

The SIGHC Award Committee, headed by Veronica McGowan and Cathy Risberg, has been working hard on the proposal that is scheduled to be submitted sometime in May. This award, to be given out at NECC in 2010, will be the first award ever given out by the SIGHC. The deadline for submitting our proposal is July 15, 2009. We are currently looking for some entities to help sponsor the award. If you have any questions about our proposal or are interested in sponsoring the award, please contact Cathy Risberg at mindsthatsoar@comcast.net. Thank you!

Cathy Risberg

SIGHC Name Change

The name change to SIGML has been approved and the official unveiling of the new name will happen at this year's NECC conference.

SIGHC Communication Tools

ISTE Community on Ning

ISTE recently launched a networking community on Ning. SIGHC has its own group set up on this networking site at <http://www.iste-community.org/group/sighc>. We invite you to join and use this site for any community activities and networking related to mobile learning. You will need to register on the main ISTE Ning site (<http://www.iste-community.org/>) to access the SIGHC Ning.

SIGHC Wiki



The SIGHC wiki continues to grow, and we always welcome more participation. Please go to <http://sighc.iste.wikispaces.net/space> to register (free!) and check it out. Just create a user name and password for yourself and start adding content. If you have ideas for topics that should be added to the wiki, please let us know, or add them yourself! Some topics we could add include:

- Mobile phones
- Podcasting
- Assessment
- Informal learning
- Research

We really want the wiki to be a resource for all of you!

SIGHC Website (www.iste.org/sighc)

And of course, if you have updates for the SIGHC website, please send them to Mark van't Hooft (mvanthoo@kent.edu)

SIGHC Discussion Listserv (sighc-discussion@iste-listserver.iste.org)

We've had a discussion listserv for a while now and we've had some questions about why it's not being used. First of all, make sure that you sign up for the listserv using the SIG Manager tool (<http://www.iste.org/inhouse/membership/myprofile/sig-manager/index.cfm?>). Note that you will need to be logged on to the site using your username and password. You would also log into the SIG Manager tool if you want to unsubscribe from the listserv.

Second, if you have questions, stories, links, articles etc. related to the use of mobile devices for teaching and learning, please post them to the listserv. Somebody has to get the discussion started. If you would like to volunteer to post something to the discussion listserv on a regular basis (say, once per month), please contact the SIGHC Chair Mark van't Hooft at mvanthoo@kent.edu.

SIGHC Announcement Listserv

If you are a SIGHC member, please make sure you are subscribed to this listserv as well as we use it to make announcements related to the SIG, including elections, newsletters, and NECC events. Note that only SIG officers can post to this listserv. Everybody else should post to the discussion listserv.

NECC News



NECC 2009

Information about the 2009 conference is available here (<http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009/>).

SIGHC will have a forum, a sponsored session, and the annual business meeting at NECC 2009. This year's SIGHC picks are now posted on the SIGHC wiki at <http://sighc.iste.wikispaces.net/NECC+2009>.

SIGHC Sponsored Session

Title: The Missing Link: Preparing Teachers to Integrate SmartPhones Effectively.
Description: Teachers are vital to the effective integration and advocacy of this powerful 1:1 computing option. Learn to develop meaningful and effective smartphone classroom strategies.
Presenters: Ann Cunningham and Kristin Bennett
Date and Time: Monday, June 29, 2009, 11am-12pm
Location: TBA

SIGHC Annual Business Meeting

Date and Time: Monday, June 29, 2009, 4:45pm-6:15pm
Location: TBA

SIGHC Forum

Based on the survey responses and our business meeting at NECC, we have come up with what we think is an awesome forum for the 2009 NECC conference.

Title: Mobile, Connected, and Learning with Cell Phones.
Description: Join SIGHC at the World War II memorial in DC for a hands-on activity with camera phones, the web, and QR codes. Bring your phone!!
Presenters: Thomas McNeal and Mark van't Hooft
Date and Time: Tuesday, June 30, 2009, 3-5 pm
Location: World War II Memorial
(See the SIGHC conference page at <http://sighc.iste.wikispaces.net/NECC+2009> for directions)

We still need volunteers to help us run the event, so if you're interested in helping out, please contact Mark van't Hooft (myanthoo@kent.edu). Volunteers will be asked to participate in a brief meeting on Monday to prepare for the event, and help out during the Forum on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 (3-5 pm). And who knows, there might be cool t-shirt in it for you!!

Feature Articles

Are you doing some cool stuff with mobile devices? Do you have any good stories to tell? Fellow SIGHC members would love to hear from you! Please submit your ideas and stories to the newsletter. Heck, we'll even help you write up your story if need be! Please contact any of the SIGHC officers for details (contact info is at the end of the newsletter)! This month's contribution is an update from Cristy McBee and her Kindergarten students from Rock Springs, Wyoming.

SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT WITH HANDHELDS

Cristy McBee

The students in Mrs. Cristy McBee's kindergarten classroom at Lincoln Elementary School, in Rock Springs, Wyoming have been studying ways to help the environment as part of their social studies unit on recycling, reusing, and reducing, and their science unit on the Earth (Earth Day) and ways to protect it. The kindergarten students work in collaborative teams to make their decisions and each group has a leader to ensure that students remain on task. Conversations work in a round-robin fashion to ensure that each student has been heard and then a vote is taken to decide a final outcome. There are twenty-one students in her class and they have been using the HP iPaq handheld computers all year.

The students decided that one way to help the environment was to use fewer paper and pencils, which in turn would save more trees. Saving trees would then produce more oxygen for the animals and all of the people. The students expressed an interest in using the Microsoft notes program to practice writing their sight words, color words, number words, and sentences. Lathan said, "The handhelds take the place of lined paper and pencils."



Once this practice took shape the students asked to use the handheld computers for additional work to save on markers and white boards. The students then started using the program to replace their use of white boards for math. The notes program was used to practice writing numbers and solving addition and subtraction problems. "We save on markers and this reduces the pollution in our environment," said Susie.

His was not the end of their thinking because the third group decided to save on copies. Gavin said, "Mrs. McBee place one worksheet under the document camera and then have us work out the problem or answer the question on the handhelds instead of on copies of the worksheet." They could then save them and allow Mrs. McBee to view them later or to send them to her computer using their Bluetooth capabilities.

The students have continued to use these practices and each week they talk about additional uses for the handheld devices to save on school supplies and to save our planet. Mitchell said it best when he stated that by using technology we all win.



On Earth Day, April 22, the students demonstrated their handheld technologies to other teachers and the principal. They shared how they could save the environment by using technology and they stressed that even five-year-olds could do it.

These students have also been using Bee-Bots, Pro-Bots, a Promethean Board, a Wii, classroom computers, and digital cameras to learn. The handhelds have enhanced the use of each of these technologies and allowed for the students to have an all-digital classroom. Next year it is the hope that Mrs. McBee will add iPods and ActivExpressions into her lab classroom to give additional use to handheld technology.

IPOD TOUCHES AND AVID, A PERFECT PAIRING

Susan Wells and Lynne Goodhand
Culbreth Administration

For the 08-09 school year at Culbreth Middle school we have piloted a project with iPod Touch handheld mobile devices and our AVID, *Advancement Via Individual Determination*, students. Partnering handheld devices with AVID students seemed like a natural match because of AVID's focus on organization skills and building personal responsibility. It has proven to be the perfect pairing. As one eighth grade AVID student stated, "The iPod Touch is the 100 tools I need in my pocket every day."

Our AVID students use the iPod Touch in all their courses, carrying the device throughout each day. They have piloted this program, using this mobile computer for note taking, keeping individual agendas, translation for world languages, and accessing research through the Internet. In addition, our AVID students use many of the applications found through the iTunes store. Teachers control the applications students use by syncing all the iPod Touches to a master laptop every day. Our teachers use this device and the applications tying the state Standard Course of Study to the National ISTE Standards. AVID students understand their responsibility to work and share this tool in collaborative groups modeling what they have learned with all students in their classrooms.

Results from our AVID students are exciting. Data at this point suggests that over seventy percent of our AVID eighth graders improved their GPA from first to second semester. Our eighth graders began carrying the iPod Touches daily in November of 2008. In surveying this group of student, the students overwhelmingly agree that the iPod Touch helps them: pay attention in class, stay organized, and makes class more interesting.

A number of staff members have noted the motivational aspect of this learning tool. They've observed students taking careful notes, who may not have been note takers in the past. They've observed students asking for additional curriculum information - including homework - because the device itself helps to motivate students. One teacher said that he has seen students who in two years never brought a pencil to class, have not once this year forgotten their iPod Touch.

This pilot project pairing iPod Touches with our AVID program students has clearly demonstrated the benefits of daily collaborative opportunities. Students enjoy inquiry based learning and sharing information and search

techniques. Educational research tells us that interactive, inquiry based, hands on learning is how middle school students best learn, process, remember, and apply information. The iPod Touches have enhanced these learning opportunities.

NEW HAMPSHIRE TECH LEADER COHORT (TLC) TRAINING PROGRAM

Cathy Higgins

Teachers involved in a new program in New Hampshire K-12 schools have an interesting new twist to their own professional development experience. The following article describes the inclusion of iPod Touches in the program. This feature of the TLC Program will unfold over the next several months as “TLCers” engage in this experience. What follows here is the beginning of the story:

Background

In 2007-08, the New Hampshire Department of Education conducted its annual competition for federal grants to school districts under the NCLB Title II-D Program (Enhancing Education Through Technology). The Tech Leader Cohort (TLC) Training Program was one type of grant made available through this competition. This is a collaborative effort with the state’s six professional development centers, providing local sites for training and consortium purchasing power.

Program Description

The goal of the TLC Program is to engage and empower a statewide cadre of skilled, informed teacher leaders to support their colleagues in creating truly 21st century learning environments. The program consists of a year-long series of professional development opportunities delivered in a combination of face-to-face and online formats. Tech leaders are immersed in content aligned to the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS), spending an average of 3-4 hours per week on activities, including online discussions, face to face sessions, readings, planning, and data collection activities. Participants’ school principals are also provided opportunities to be engaged in a modest amount of discussions connected to the program. Training emphasizes the use of free and low-cost resources for professional development and curriculum planning, Internet safety, and interactive simulation software for student engagement. Intel’s Thinking with Technology Program is the centerpiece of face to face sessions. Resources on 21st century skills, Web 2.0 tools, policies and practices, as well as organizational change, are a large focus of this program. Additional motivating features include use of an iPod Touch, the choice of an online course from the state’s eLearning for Educators project (www.opennh.org), and registration at two in-state educational technology conferences.

Getting Participants Started with the iPod Touch

1. After all tech leader registrations were confirmed, the sponsoring professional development center purchased enough for all participants plus a few extras as backups in case of technical issues.
2. The decision was made not to purchase an AppleCare for each unit. This decision will be revisited before we begin the next cohort.
3. The tools were inventoried and tagged by the purchasing professional development center.
4. Participants were loaned an iPod Touch for the duration of their participation in the program. When receiving their handheld, each participant was asked to sign a memo of understanding indicating that it was being provided to support TLC program activities.
5. During the first face to face Intel sessions beginning May 15, 2009, extra time will be set aside for participants to discuss various ways to start using their handhelds.
6. Since TLCers engage in weekly online discussions, the TLC Online modules will include resources to explore and expand use of the iTouch.

When planning this program feature, we contacted our New England Comprehensive Center to ask if they could provide a small collection of research specifically on the use of handhelds in K-12 classrooms. This collection would be used to “seed” the monthly online discussions with additional readings. This collection is now being reviewed and aligned to the upcoming months of the program. The online discussions and readings are built within a Moodle course environment, which we call the “TLC Online Workspace.”

Opportunities and Challenges

Most participants show clear excitement about the addition of the iTouch to the program. Since there has already been a great deal of sharing in the online course regarding other resources, we expect that much more will occur as they discover uses for the handheld. We hope to report on more interesting developments with this program in future newsletters!

To Learn More: <http://www.nheon.org/oet/nclb/2008-09/focus4.htm>

Contact: Dr. Cathy Higgins, State Educational Technology Director
New Hampshire Department of Education, chiggins@ed.state.nh.us, or (603) 271-2453

Member News

Here is a quick update from *Kyle Menchofer from St. Marys Schools in Ohio*: I wanted to send you a link to a video of 3rd graders at St. Marys City Schools using smart phones. This is a 2 month pilot partnership with Verizon Wireless. Here is the link: <http://www.smriders.net/Administration/kmench/VW-Smartphones.mov> They are also working on a case study that will show how mobile technology is working in St. Marys schools.

We are also happy to announce that one of our members, *Dr. Kathleen King from Fordham University*, won an outstanding paper award at the AERA Conference in April. Congratulations! Here is the announcement:

2009 AERA Outstanding Research Publication Award

Dr. Kathleen King (ISTE-SIGHC member) and Dr. Joan Griggs, editors of the collected volume, *Harnessing Innovative Technology in Higher Education*. The award was presented at the American Education Research Association Division I meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 in San Diego. Kathleen King was there to accept the award.

The book is a collaborative and coordinated collection of analyses of a number of the FIPSE projects. (FIPSE is the Fund for Improvement of Post Secondary Education, a granting arm of the US Department of Education.) Each FIPSE grant project had been designed to create and implement creative new programs to further the possibilities of technology in higher education.

Description of the book:

Harnessing Innovative Technology in Higher Education:

Access, Equity, Policy, and Instruction

edited by Kathleen P. King and Joan K. Griggs

Technology insinuated itself into higher education swiftly and permanently. Suddenly, the potential uses for the new technology seemed endless. Academic institutions responded quickly—each trying to meet individual needs and creating varied uses. However, as the trend matured, institutions found that they were each reinventing systems that someone had already created and the cost of working this way was high.

In response to these factors, the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) created a visionary grant program which encouraged creativity and collaboration. The funded projects were innovative and have had a tremendous impact on the distance learning. This book reports on some of those programs, along with an analysis and synthesis of what worked and why. It is unique in addressing some of the more critical and difficult areas that need to be addressed in institutional efforts for distance learning. The broad base of initiatives, content areas,

organizations and purposes of these projects provides a plethora of recommendations and ideas for every professor, administrator and faculty developer.

Please visit the Atwood Publishing site to learn more about the book at <http://www.atwoodpublishing.com/books/255.htm>

Dr. Kathy King is a professor of education at Fordham University and may be reached at kpking@fordham.edu

And Finally...

As always, thanks to everybody who contributed to this month's newsletter. Don't forget to participate by submitting articles, or adding content to the SIGHC wiki ☺. Its success is depends on YOU!

If you have any news or info for a future newsletter, please send it to Mischelle Grubbs. Until the next issue...

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And to join us in June at NECC are

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