



From the SIGHC Chair

All,

Welcome to the June newsletter of SIGHC. Lots of news and updates this month. The SIG elections have been completed and NECC is just around the corner. I would like to welcome our newest SIG officer, Delaine Cochran, who will replace Elliot Soloway as an at-large member. I would also like to thank Elliot for his efforts in getting the SIG up and running. Make sure you do the same when you see him or talk to him. I hope to see many of you at NECC. Don't forget to attend the SIGHC business meeting on Tuesday, June 26 (4:45-6:00 pm, GWCC B301).

Mark van 't Hooft
Chair SIGHC

SIGHC News

SIGHC Wiki

The new SIGHC wiki has been up and running. We'd really like to see more participation, as we know there are many good ideas out there. Please go to <http://sighc.iste.wikispaces.net/space> to check it out. Participation in the wiki is free. Just create a user name and password for yourself and start adding content. We hope that it will become a quality resource for information related to teaching and learning with mobile devices.

Also, if you haven't done so, please add yourself to the frappr map which can be accessed at <http://www.frappr.com/sighc>, so we can start to get a handle on who is using handhelds and where.

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

Our membership as of 5/25/06 was 195. Let's see if we can get it to at least 200 by the NECC Conference. We're almost there.

SIGHC Election Results

I am pleased to announce the results of the recent election of our SIGHC officers. There were a total of 28 votes cast. Mark van 't Hooft, the incumbent, was chosen Chair-Elect with 28 votes. Delaine Cochran was elected for the At-Large Member Rep Position, also receiving 28 votes. Our SIGHC appreciates the time and efforts that have been given by our candidates and memberships to provide leadership for our organization.

Mark indicates that he looks forward to serving this coming year and wants to increase membership, develop more services for our members, and seek input from everyone. If you have ideas, suggestions, or visions please contact Mark at mvanthoo@kent.edu. During NECC our annual business meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 26, 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm in room GWCC B301. Refreshments will be served.

Congratulations again to Mark and Delaine,

Mark Yehle

NECC News

We've added several items to the SIGHC wiki (<http://sighc.iste.wikispaces.net/>) to help you prepare for NECC. Please go to the NECC 2007 page (<http://sighc.iste.wikispaces.net/NECC+2007>) for updated information on sessions and meetings, as well as downloadable grid of sessions that may be helpful in your planning. Plenty of good sessions to attend this year!

In addition, please visit the NECC Business Meeting page (<http://sighc.iste.wikispaces.net/NECC+2007+Business+Meeting>) to provide your input on the agenda for the meeting. Remember that the SIG is here to support YOU, so your input and participation is vital. The agenda will be finalized by Thursday, June 21, 2007, and the wiki page will be locked.

Don't forget to attend:

**SIGHC (Handheld Computing) Business Meeting
Tuesday, 6/26/2007, 4:45pm–6:15pm; (GWCC B301)**

Gather with fellow SIG subscribers and leaders, plan yearly activities, exchange best practices, and recognize innovators and leaders who are committed to advancing educational technology. And, there will be food!

And if you can, please register for

1st Annual International Leadership Summit for Learning Technology Research, Development, and Dissemination (SIILT, SICHC, SIGDE, SIGTC, and ISTE's International Committee (Monday, June 25, 2007, 7:30 am – 1 pm; registration is \$20. See http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2007/program/search_results_details.php?sessionid=40920979 for details). There is additional information at the end of this newsletter.

Also support our SIG by attending the SIGHC sponsored sessions:

Mobile, Digital, Ubiquitous: Solutions for Learning with Handhelds [Session: Panel]

Julie Lindsay, International School Dhaka, Bangladesh with Judy Breck, Graham Brown-Martin, Michael Curtis, Janice Kelly and Tony Vincent

Monday, 6/25/2007, 8:30am–9:30am; (GWCC B213)

Panel members present solutions for curriculum integration, multimedia inclusion, and best practice of mobile technologies for learning at any age. Sponsored by ISTE's SIGHC.

Anywhere, Anytime: Using Mobile Phones for Learning [Session: Lecture]

Thomas McNeal, Kent State University with Mark van't Hooft

Monday, 6/25/2007, 11:00am–12:00pm; (GWCC B301)

The Desktop Videoconferencing (DVC) Project at Kent State University has been investigating new and unique ways of using video-conferencing for learning with mobile phones. Sponsored by SIGHC. (Commercial Content).

Handhelds: Empower Students to Increase Academic and Behavioral Achievement [Poster: Traditional]

Daniel Gulchak, Arizona State University

Wednesday, 6/27/2007, 9:00am–11:00am; (GWCC Level 5, Galleria)

Learn how students can use handhelds to monitor their performance in school with results of an empirical study and ideas for replication in your class. Sponsored by ISTE's SIGHC. (Commercial Content)

mLearning with Cell Phones: Just the Beginning [Poster: Traditional]

Lucianne Sweder, Governors State University/Capella University

Wednesday, 6/27/2007, 12:00pm–2:00pm; (GWCC Level 5, Galleria)

Can mobile phone learning be designed to advance the adolescent reader so maybe "Johnny" can read? Sponsored by ISTE's SIGHC.

Using Student Response Systems Across Environments: See It in Action [Session: Lecture]

Margie Johnson, Metro Nashville Public Schools with Patrick Artz and Daniel Gulchak

Wednesday, 6/27/2007, 1:30pm–2:30pm; (GWCC B405)

Engage students in your classroom discussions like never before. See how three educators use student response systems and learn to use them yourself. Sponsored by ISTE's SIGHC. (Commercial Content)

The following workshop was cancelled:

SAF148 Linking Palm Handhelds to Desktop Applications: Advanced Curriculum Integration [Workshop: Hands-on] *Michael Curtis, Mobile Technovations, LCC*

Saturday, 6/23/2007, 8:30am–3:30pm; (location available mid-May)

Leverage existing technologies and use handhelds more efficiently and effectively. Better understand how handhelds fit into the continuum of educational technology. Sponsored by ISTE's SIGHC.

There are other sessions being offered by our members and officers. Here are two of them:

1:1 Mobile Initiatives: Learning from Each Other

[Session: Spotlight]

Elliot Soloway (University of Michigan) with Kerri Neubauer (Alvin ISD, TX), Cathleen Norris (University of North Texas), Beverly Walker (Alvin ISD, TX) and Dave Whyley (Wolverhampton LEA, UK)

Monday, 6/25/2007, 8:30am–9:30am; (location available mid-May)

The US and the UK have 1:1 mobile (handheld) computing initiatives. Although they have elements in common, the ways in which they differ are surprising.

TP449 Instructional Strategies for Using Mobile, Handheld Computers in the Classroom

[Workshop: Hands-on]

Elliot Soloway, University of Michigan with Cathleen Norris, University of North Texas

Tuesday, 6/26/2007, 1:00pm–4:00pm; (location available mid-May)

We present 10 instructional strategies for using handhelds for lessons and projects. Participants will then design curriculum using these strategies and share with the group. (Commercial Content) (Exhibitor-Sponsored)

Feature Articles

New SIGHC Officer

Let's all welcome our newest officer, At-Large Member Delaine Cochran. She is indeed highly qualified and educated. Dee has a B.S. in Mathematics/Computer Science and M.A. in Mathematics from the University of Louisville. She holds an M.S. in Instructional Systems Technology from Indiana University, where she is currently a PhD candidate in mathematics education and IST.

Dee is currently the Coordinator of the Mathematics Resource Laboratory for Indiana University Southeast. She is active on many academic committees. Her interests are graphical representation of functions, algebraic thinking, technology in teaching, teacher knowledge, and instructional systems technology.

Podcasting offers something for everyone

By Karen Fasimpaur, K12 Handhelds and SIGHC member (karen@k12handhelds.com)

Podcasting is the hottest new trend in educational technology and with good reason. It is a low cost publishing platform with many benefits for educators.

First, and perhaps most importantly for educators, nearly all podcasts are free, and you don't need any special hardware to listen or view. (Listening to podcasts does not require an iPod as many think.) Podcasting also has the benefit of facilitating time shifting, which means consuming content when it's convenient for you. In today's world of so many competing time priorities, this is critical. Podcasting is becoming a serious platform for delivering

professional development for just this reason. Another advantage of podcasting is the feature of RSS – being able to subscribe to shows of interest to you and having the content automatically delivered. You can even have podcasts automatically downloaded and sync'd directly to your mobile device (handheld, MP3 player, etc.) without having to do anything after you subscribe.

There are compelling applications of podcasting for administrators, teachers, parents, and students. Administrators are using podcasting to air their board meetings or to broadcast multimedia school newsletters. Many districts are looking at video podcasts as a way to deliver just-in-time professional development. Teachers can also use podcasting as way to get information to parents about homework, class activities, or special projects. Parents can also get information from podcasts about topics such as learning disabilities or educational activities they can do with their kids.

For classroom use, podcasting is another way to engage in project-based learning. Creating podcasts offers students another way to demonstrate their mastery of content. Instead of writing a report or taking a test, students might be given the option of creating an audio or video podcast. If you listen to a student-created podcast on an academic topic, you will quickly be convinced of the instructional benefits of this approach.

There are many books being written and workshops being done about how to create your own podcasts. While this is a rewarding endeavor, it is not for everyone. Many teachers simply don't have time to produce and broadcast their own show. There are many ways to take advantage of podcasting, however, without creating your own show. There are thousands of great FREE podcasts out there for you to access.

Many of these podcasts are educationally oriented and designed for students. There are podcasts on writing, math, social studies, science, ESL, and even test prep. These podcasts are a terrific resource for differentiating instruction. They can be used for remediation for students who are behind or for enrichment for more advanced students. The possibilities are endless. Because podcasts can be listened to on everything from desktop computers to inexpensive (under \$50) MP3 players, they are very accessible from both school and home.

There are many good podcast directories that you can use to locate podcasts suitable to your subject, grade level, interest, etc. Try doing a Google search on podcast + whatever you're looking for.

Another resource is my new podcast "Karen's Educational Mashups" (www.k12handhelds.com/mashups). This show features excerpts from podcasts and other digital audio and video content of interest to educators. Some shows feature professional development content for administrators or teachers, while other shows focus on content for kids. The purpose of this podcast is to provide a convenient way for educators to sample some of the great content out there. Also, if you are conducting professional development workshop or presentation about podcasting, feel free to use this resource to show people what's out there. Finally, if you have a suggestion for a future show or a favorite podcast, send an email to mashups@k12handhelds.com or leave a voice message at 206-984-2258.

The power of podcasting is immense. If you haven't already taken advantage of this exciting medium, try it today!

And Finally...

Thanks to everybody who contributed to this month's newsletter. As always, don't forget to participate by submitting articles, or adding content to the SIGHC wiki ☺. Its success is depends on YOU! This is the last newsletter before NECC. If you have any news or info, please send it to Debbie Bordelon. We hope to see many of you at NECC.

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**1st Annual International Leadership Summit for Learning Technology Research,
Development and Dissemination
NECC 2007 June 24, (7:30am-12:30pm)
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), handheld computing (SIGHC), teacher education (SIGTE), Telecommunications (SIGTEL), and ISTE's International Committee 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.

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.

The summit will be held during NECC, starting with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and concluding at 1:00 p.m. 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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