

From the SIGHC Chair

All,

Welcome to the June 2008 newsletter of SIGHC. This is the last issue before NECC in San Antonio. All indications are that we'll have a great conference again this year. Head over to the NECC section on p. 3 of this newsletter to see what SIGHC is offering this year, and to see where to register for the SIGHC forum while you still can. Check the SIGHC wiki to see the agenda for the business meeting, which should be posted soon. For those of you who are attending this year, safe travels and I hope to see many of you at our events. For those of you who won't be able to make the trip, the conference can be followed from a distance, using one of the many technology tools available this year. Check the NECC website for more details.

Mark van 't Hooft
Chair SIGHC

SIGHC News

SIGHC Survey

Initial results are in. A total of 61 people responded to the survey (as of noon EST on Friday 6/6) and we got some valuable feedback. Here are some general responses. The survey will be discussed in more detail at the SIGHC business meeting at NECC.

As far as demographics go, we had a decent variety in respondents, except for the fact that more than 90% of them are located in North America. Most respondents joined SIGHC because of their interest in mobile computing, and we had a nice mix of those who've been with us a while and those who just joined. Two thirds of the SIGHC members rate their overall satisfaction with the SIG as good or excellent. The newsletter is the most used communication tool (80% of respondents said they read it), and rated as the best tool by most respondents (60%).

51% of respondents stated they are attending NECC, and if they are, they are also attending SIGHC events, mostly the SIGHC picks.

What SIGHC does well: Communication. This was an overwhelming consensus, with this newsletter being mentioned quite a few times!

What SIGHC needs to improve on: The answers are more diverse here, and include suggestions like more information about current trends and practices, doing more member networking, and having events outside of NECC.

SIGHC Mission and Vision

We've been discussing a potential adjustment of our mission and vision. Do we need to adjust our mission statement to accommodate

- Learning while mobile
- New tools such as cell phones
- New practices such as podcasting
- Informal learning

We cannot change the name of our SIG easily, as we discussed last year. However, we can change the mission statement. A page has been set up at the wiki to play around with some changes and discuss them:

http://sighc.iste.wikispaces.net/mission_vision

Please take some time to check this out and provide your input. We will discuss this issue at the SIGHC business meeting.

SIGHC Communication Tools

SIGHC Wiki



The SIGHC wiki continues to grow, and while many people visit our site, 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. 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

SIGHC Website (www.iste.org/sighc)

And of course, if you have updates for the SIGHC website, please contact 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. 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 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.



Information about the 2008 conference is available here (<http://web.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2008/>).

Here are the events sponsored by SIGHC. Make sure to attend them! For more info and last minute news about these events, please visit the [SIGHC NECC 2008 wiki page](#).

SIGHC Forum (Monday, 6/30/2008, 10am-12pm). Location: HGCC 217D. Registration is required (\$20). Light refreshments will be provided. [Click here to register](#).

Presenters include Tony Vincent, David Whyley & Jill Purcell, Cathie Norris, Elliot Soloway, The forum will be moderated by Mark van 't Hooft, Chair, SIGHC. Here is the line-up:

Title: Web Apps to Go

Presenter: **Tony Vincent**, Learning in Hand

There are many tasks that used to require software that you can now do from inside of your Web browser. Web applications are great for students and teachers because they are usually free and you won't install software. Web apps don't require a specific operating system and so many of them work perfectly fine on ultra-compact and inexpensive laptops like the XO and Eee PC. Because Web apps and their data are stored online, students and teachers can access the apps and data from anywhere. They also tend to facilitate online sharing and collaboration. Tony will share some of his favorite educational uses of web apps, including word processing, text-to-speech, and cartoon creation. The group will even use a Web app to share their favorite ones.

Title: Making Mobile Learning a Reality

Presenters: **David Whyley and Jill Purcell**

How can we take the theory of Mobile Learning and make it a reality for learners teachers and their families? David and Jill are lead members of the City of Wolverhampton's innovative award winning mobile learning initiative "Learning2Go". It is the largest collaborative mobile learning initiative for pupils in the UK. Imagine a scenario where at any time learners could; have access to the internet in the palm of their hand, take videos and still photos, author PowerPoint presentations on the fly, carry a digital library in their pocket and produce dynamic mind maps of their project based work? Welcome to the world of Mobile Learning. Using the latest handheld devices, this once dreamed of seamless integration of technology has been achieved in Wolverhampton. The mobile device has become like a 21st Century Hi-tech pencil case! David and Jill will share a practical approach to embedding this into everyday teaching and learning. Get a glimpse of the latest developments as 3G mobile web connectivity is added to the mix. These developments will explore the potential of connected mobile devices with some of the most deprived groups where mobility is key. The community of learners are linked by an on line environment which promotes a social networking and themed "Hot seat" approach, this harnesses the best of web 2.0 developments while retaining an underlying educational ethos.

Title: The Day 1 Challenge: When Mainstream Teachers Meet Technology

Presenter: **Cathleen Norris**, Regents Professor, University of North Texas, Denton TX

The 1:1 efforts in the U.S., despite significant expenditure of resources, have not been particularly successful at positively impacting student performance. Why? While there are a number of contributing factors, one major one is ineffective professional development. As documented on the front page of the New York Times, teachers oftentimes are shown how to use the laptops, how to use the software, and shoved into the classroom with precious little else. Teachers need help in understanding how to integrate the technology into their existing curriculum and that means teachers must have help in developing pedagogical content knowledge (PCK) – strategies for using the technology

to teach the content of the lessons. During my presentation I will expand on professional develop can help teachers develop PCK and be better prepared for that first day of 1:1.

Title: The New Ultra Light Laptops: An Intermediate Solution

Presenter: Elliot Soloway, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Up until literally May of 2008, K-12 had a choice between \$300 handheld devices and \$900 laptop computers. However, with the introduction of OLPC's XO (\$200), Intel's Classmate (\$500), and HP's Mini-note (\$700) K-12 has a new genre of computing device from which to choose. There are, in fact, a range of similarly priced ultra-light laptops coming to market in the next 12 months. While K-12 will initially be excited about this opportunity, reality will eventually strike: this genre of machine is still too expensive to enable K-12 schools to scale and sustain a 1:1 effort. But there lurks another technology that is evolving and maturing that is waiting in the wings and will surface just as schools become disillusioned with the ultra-lights. In my presentation I will discuss it-which-can't-be-named since it is currently banned from 99.9% of primary and secondary schools worldwide.

SIGHC Business Meeting (Monday, 6/30/2008, 4:45pm–6:15pm). Location: HGCC 101B

We are currently finalizing the [agenda for the business meeting](#)., which can be found on the wiki.

SIGHC recommended sessions: This year, the NECC program search offers a section called “SIG Picks.” Choosing to sort on SIGHC Picks brings up 19 sessions, including concurrent sessions, workshops, and SIGHC-sponsored events. [SIGHC picks can be found here](#).

Here are some of the other things that we are working on for NECC and after:

- SIGHC award: the SIG would like to put together a committee for this, to hammer out the details on what kind of award it would be (teaching, best practices, research, ...), criteria for submission and review, and the award itself (plaque, monetary award, session at NECC). If you would like to volunteer for this, please contact Delaine Cochran **ASAP** at dcochran@ius.edu. We will have to write a proposal that needs to be submitted to ISTE by July 15 if we want to have this award in place for NECC 2009.

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)!

No features were submitted this month, but we know they're out there!! Don't be shy, send us your stories ☺.

We are also interested in adding a couple of feature sections to the newsletter, as requested by our members:

- ***Member spotlight***: if you would like to be interviewed about all of the exciting things you are doing with mobile devices for teaching and learning, let us know. Interviews can be done by phone, email, Skype, IM, etc. Please contact Mark van 't Hooft (mvanthoo@kent.edu) if you are interested in being featured or would like to help out (as a section editor).
- ***Mobile technology trends***: featuring some of the latest trends in mobile devices and education. **Note that this is not a place for vendors to advertise!** However, we are open to a variety of pieces here, including member submissions, interviews, reviews, etc. More guidelines about this section are forthcoming. Please contact Mark van 't Hooft (mvanthoo@kent.edu) with questions or if you are interested in helping out (as a section editor).

Member News

SIGHC members contributed the following news items about the 3rd Annual Best Educational Podcast Awards, the Carnival of the Mobilists, as well as three upcoming conferences.



3rd Annual Best Educational Podcast Awards

Kathleen P. King, Ed.D.
Fordham University
Professor

Mark Gura
Teachers Podcast
Transformation Education LLC

The Teachers Podcast (www.teacherspodcast.org) is announcing its ***Third Annual Best Educational Podcast Awards Contest***. The Teachers Podcast, a pioneering effort to establish podcasting as an extremely low cost approach to professional development for educators that surmounts a host of logistical content delivery issues that defeat much of the professional development currently undertaken, is once again offering this program in order to further the use of podcasting in a variety of ways in the classroom. According to co-hosts/co-producers Mark Gura and Dr. Kathleen P. King “We weren't sure whether or not to do the contest a third time. However, so many of our listeners requested it, that we really had no choice. Submissions were arriving in our email inbox even though we didn't have a contest announced for this year. Basically, the listeners decided they wanted it and we didn't really have a choice in the matter.”

The Teachers Podcast has been providing free professional development content for the downloading for almost three years and has been downloaded roughly 4 million times, making it the most successful example of this type of offering so far. The contest seeks out podcasts created by students as part of their school work or studies, podcasts created by teachers either for their students or with their students, and podcasts created as professional development for educators. A winner will be chosen in each category. Winners will be interviewed for a segment of an upcoming podcast episode offered worldwide and receive signed award letters and certificates. King and Gura are also updating their popular book ***Podcasting for Teachers*** (Information Age Publishers www.infoagepub.com) and are

continually examining podcasts for possible inclusion in this publication. Entries to the contest, whether they win or not, will be seriously considered for inclusion in the book.

The deadline for the 3rd Annual competition is July 5, 2008. The Teachers Podcast co-hosts provide details about the contest, including information about past winners, in Episode 15 of the series and at their podcast website/blog www.teacherspodcast.org.



Carnival of the Mobilists (<http://mobili.st>)

The Carnival of the Mobilists is a weekly blog publication, aggregating some of the best writing about the mobile world. Each week, it is hosted at a different site, so you can visit the Carnival and experience both new writers about mobile, as well as all your old favorites. Read the summaries on the host's site and click through to any story you'd like to read in its entirety.

In order to host a weekly installment (or more), a blogger has to submit three posts to the Carnival (mobilists@gmail.com). Ideally, that person would then volunteer to be the host. The advantages of getting traffic are worth the effort for bloggers doing the posts and hosting! In addition, it is important for us as mobile educators in getting the message to mobilists to think about education.

The Carnival always needs volunteers to host, so if you're interested, why not give it a try? Please visit http://mobili.st/?page_id=2 for more information or contact Judy Breck (judybreck@gmail.com) with questions or to volunteer.



6th Annual Technology Innovations Conference

The 6th Annual Technology Innovations Conference is **July 17-18** at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, MO. For information and registration, please go to http://216.128.25.141/handheld/hh_detail.asp?ID=19



MAHET 2008

We invite you to check out the 2008 Mid-Atlantic Handheld and Emerging Technology Conference slated for **July 24-25, 2008** in Salisbury, Maryland. This is the 4th year for the conference that has expanded to include informative hands-on workshops and concurrent sessions in emerging technology and mobile technology. The two day event draws educators from across the country with nationally known presenters like Tony Vincent from [Learning in Hand](#) and Karen Fasimpaur from [K-12 Handhelds](#).

This is a great opportunity for educators to hone their technology integration skills as well as to learn about new Web 2.0 tools for the classroom and beyond.

Please visit our web site for more information on the conference and have a great school year – 2008 Mid-Atlantic Handheld and Emerging Technology Conference Planning Committee! www.seaford.k12.de.us/mahc



Handheld Learning 2008

This year's conference takes place from **Oct 13th-15th** at The Brewery, Barbican, London EC1 with the first day being open to the general public. The event is about learning and examines the current and potential future effects of the proliferation of technologies; from smart phones to low cost laptops, MIDs, mp3 players and gaming consoles to entertainment software, virtual worlds, social networks and web 2.0 applications.

This years confirmed speakers include, Andrew Pinder, Steven Berlin Johnson, John Seely Brown, danah boyd, David Cavallo, Keri Facer, Mike Sharples and Stephen Heppell.

The conference programme is already extensive in its scope. In addition to inspiring presentations from some of the worlds leading thought leaders and practitioners there will be plenty of networking opportunities as well as participatory sessions and discussions.

The call for papers is open until May 30th and poster sessions by June 20th.

Our first awards event is also taking place and we're now taking nominations that celebrate innovative practitioners as well as initiatives, organisations or products that have made significant impacts on learning using mobile or ubiquitous technologies. Nominations must be made by June 6th.

All "Early Bird" registrations before 31st July will receive a FREE Nintendo DS handheld with game cartridge for use at the conference (and to keep afterwards!). Delegates registering for Handheld Learning will also receive a 10% discount to register for the mLearn 2008 research conference being held the previous week in Shropshire.

More information visit:

<http://www.handheldlearning2008.com>

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! NECC is just around the corner. We hope to see many of you at our SIG's events.

If you have any news or info, please send it to Mark van 't Hooft. Until the next issue...

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