

FROM THE SIGHC CHAIR

All,

Welcome to the August newsletter of SIGHC, with some reflections on NECC in Atlanta. In my opinion, the 2007 NECC conference was one of the better ones in years past. We had some lively discussions at the SIGHC business meeting, and our sponsored sessions were well-attended (at least the ones I went to) and of high quality. Tom McNeal's session on mobile phones had 100+ attendees, probably an indication of where some of our interests lie.

Mark van 't Hooft
Chair SIGHC

SIGHC NEWS

SIGHC Wiki and Website

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)

NECC NEWS

NECC 2007: Atlanta

NECC was very well attended this year, including SIGHC sponsored events. We had some good discussions at the SIGHC business meeting. The minutes of the meeting are posted on the SIGHC wiki document page (<http://sighc.iste.wikispaces.net/SIGHC+Documents>). Some highlights from the meeting:

- Our SIG membership keeps growing. We'll probably see a jump in the numbers in October, because ISTE will then allow members to choose more than one SIG at no extra cost.
- Planning for NECC 2008: the SIG is playing around with the idea of hosting a SIGHC sponsored summit, in conjunction with a number of SIGHC sponsored sessions. While this needs to be discussed with ISTE staff (mostly because of logistics), the SIG would like your input on the following:
 - Ideas for a theme/topic for the summit and sessions
 - Ideas for a keynote speaker. We can budget some money for that, but not a whole lot.
 - Ideas for sessions.
 - Volunteering: who'd like to help with this?

The idea is to have a summit and several sessions around the same topic/theme, so that people interested in that theme or topic have a nice and coherent set of sessions to go to.

- 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 at dcochran@ius.edu

- How can we be more active throughout the year, aside from NECC?
- 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

- During open discussion, the concern was voiced that SIG1to1's mission statement is very close to ours, and that this may be confusing for ISTE members (especially given the name of this new SIG). These are concerns that have been voiced by SIGHC officers to ISTE and its board since before the proposal was passed late last year. SIG1to1 is supposed to be about laptop projects, as we were told, yet the mission statement makes it sound like they are about mobile computing. For a comparison of the two SIGs, see the SIG home page at http://www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Membership/SIGs/Special_Interest_Groups.htm
If you missed the business meeting and would like to provide input in this ongoing discussion, please contact Mark van 't Hooft at mvanthoo@kent.edu

This year SIGHC co-hosted at NECC 2007 the 1st Annual International Leadership Summit for Learning Technology Research, Development, and Dissemination which was a great success, and will probably have a second edition in San Antonio next year.

NECC 2008: San Antonio

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

Information about submitting proposals can be found at

<http://web.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2007/program/NECC2008.php#submit>

Proposal submissions will be accepted from **September 5 through October 3, 2007**. Details about submitting proposals to SIGHC will follow soon, as well as a call for reviewers and a review chair.

FEATURE ARTICLES

Research Study on Handheld Use by Administrators

by Dr. Ronald Styron, USM; Dr. Kyna Shelley, USM; and Karen Fasimpaur, K12 Handhelds

The [University of Southern Mississippi](http://www.usm.edu) has been a pioneer in the field of using handhelds for administrative leadership. Each year they host a School Leadership Institute for building-level school administrators in Mississippi. One part of that institute focuses on using handhelds as a tool for time management, classroom observation, student records management, and other tasks.

Drs. Ronald Styron and Kyna Shelley are now conducting a research study on handheld use by school administrators.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate school leaders' opinions about and their use of personal digital assistants or handheld computers. There is some research to suggest that PDAs are viewed as making the job of school leader a more efficient undertaking. Likewise, efficient and effective leadership has been associated with stronger school performance.

If you are a K-12 school administrator, they need your input for this research (whether or not you use handhelds). [The survey is online](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=154743616028) (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=154743616028>) and should only take about 10 minutes to complete.

Please help spread the word about this study by writing about it in your own blog, newsletter, or other publication.

Thanks in advance for your valuable assistance.

NECC 2007 Poster Sessions

This year, SIGHC sponsored two posters during Wednesday’s poster session. Here is a brief review of both of them, as posters often don’t get the same exposure as regular sessions do, and they are just as much work to prepare! For details on these posters, please check the NECC 2007 website at <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2007/>

Daniel Gulchak’s poster was entitled “Handhelds: Empower Students to Increase Academic and Behavioral Achievement”, and demonstrated how students can use handhelds to monitor their performance in school. He provided results from an experimental study, as well as ideas for replication in classrooms. For more info, please contact Daniel at daniel.gulchak@asu.edu



“mLearning with Cell Phones: Just the Beginning” was the title of **Lucianne Sweder’s** poster. Her project looked at learning with mobile phones to help adolescents improve their reading skills. For more info on this poster, please contact Luciane at l-sweder@govst.edu.



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! And.... Start thinking about NECC proposals, they are due in less than two months!!

If you have any news or info, please send it to Debbie Bordelon. Until the next issue...

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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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