Hearty greetings to all from the Learning Design & Technology program at Purdue University! The campus is abuzz with the many activities that mark the beginning of a new academic year. In addition to classes, football games, and research, this is a busy year for faculty searches.

At the university level, President France Cordova has announced her intention to step down at the end of the academic year. A search committee has been formed to begin the process of finding Purdue’s next president. In the College of Education, we are pleased to have a total of six faculty searches, including two for named chairs.

One of the searches will be for a new clinical faculty member in the LDT program. Thanks to robust enrollment in our new online program (see below), we’re looking for someone to work in that program full-time. For more, see our employment page.

The long awaited online master’s degree program in Learning Design and Technology has been launched! This fall, the first cohort of nearly 40 students (twice what we expected) is taking classes. Minchi Kim is guiding students through the first courses in the new program.

The LDT master’s degree program is the first initiative in that partnership. Deltak brings valuable expertise in marketing, student support, and instructional design that really adds value to what we could do on our own. We are excited about the program and the partnership. As the program goes forward, new cohorts of students will enroll until we reach about 200 students in the program at any one time.

The content of the online program closely parallels the traditional face-to-face master’s degree program we’ve offered for many years. The LDT faculty is taking the lead in offering the courses to ensure that the students get a first-class educational experience.

However, as the program expands, we’ll need limited term lecturers to help teach courses. We are looking to build a cadre of qualified instructors from among our graduates. If you have your doctorate, and might be interested, drop a note to Tim.

Purdue partnered with Deltak, a leading company in online higher education, to explore a partnership model for offering online programs. The LDT master’s degree program is the first initiative in that partnership. Deltak brings valuable expertise in marketing, student support, and instructional design that really adds value to what we could do on our own. We are excited about the program and the partnership. As the program goes forward, new cohorts of students will enroll until we reach about 200 students in the program at any one time.

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Minchi Kim

Tim Newby

Ever thought about teaching LDT courses online? If you might be interested, and have your doctorate, drop Tim a note at newby@purdue.edu.
SLED Off and Running

Science Learning through Engineering Design (SLED) is an NSF-funded Math Science Partnership project focused on using engineering design as a vehicle for science learning in grades 3 through 6. Project partners include Purdue’s Colleges of Education, Engineering, Science, and Technology, the Discovery Learning Research Center, and the Lafayette, Tippecanoe, Taylor Community School Corporation in Indiana.

Johannes Strobel, LDT and Engineering Education faculty member and Director of INSPIRE (Institute for P-12 Engineering Research and Learning) and Jim Lehman, LDT faculty member and associate dean in the College of Education, are part of the leadership team for the project.

During the summer of 2011, SLED offered a two-week summer institute for 35 in-service teachers from the participating schools and 8 pre-service teachers from Purdue. The teachers are integrating engineering design-based activities in their classes during this academic year and outcomes are being assessed. For more about the project, visit http://sledhub.org.

Military Family Project Wraps Up

Jennifer Richardson and Bill Watson recently completed work on a grant awarded by the USDA. In collaboration with Purdue’s Military Family Research Institute, the two were responsible for revising and developing computer-based training (CBT) modules for military family support services. Starting in Fall 2010 and running through Summer 2011, they led a team of LDT graduate students in developing CBT for the Heartlink and KeySpouse programs. These programs seek to help military family members transition to military life and life on their specific base and to navigate any challenges they face, particularly when their spouse is deployed elsewhere. The CBT consolidated and standardized materials for training family support personnel and for workshops for the family members themselves.

Sparking Interest in Sustainable Energy

Peg Ertmer is part of a Purdue team, led by the Discovery Learning Research Center, working on an NSF-funded project to develop a sustainable model that engages teachers in ongoing research projects related to global energy issues while simultaneously building their understandings of how to teach this content using a problem-based learning approach. The goal of the project is to spark student interest in STEM fields by sharing grand-challenge topics with prospective college students, especially in rural settings.

As part of the project, Dr. Ertmer facilitated a two-week intensive summer workshop for a group of 7 STEM in-service teachers from rural schools and 13 pre-service teachers from the Purdue’s STEM Goes Rural program. The workshop was designed to enable participants to first experience, and then create, a PBL unit related to sustainable energy. Results from the summer 2011 workshop were promising, with participants showing significant gains in content knowledge as well as knowledge about, and confidence for using, PBL approaches.
**Student Recognitions**

LDT graduate students have garnered a number of awards and honors this year. Ayesha Sadaf and Xiaojun “June” Chen were awarded AECT conference internships this year; the first time we’ve ever had two! June and Ayesha received other recognitions as well.

Ayesha was awarded an ECT Foundation Mentor Scholarship and was elected president of the AECT Graduate Student Assembly. She was also the recipient of a Bilsland Dissertation Scholarship from Purdue.

June was awarded the outstanding graduate teaching awards from both the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and College of Education. In addition, she received a campus-wide CETA graduate teaching award and was inducted into Purdue’s Teaching Academy as an associate member. She also received the Dean’s Doctoral Scholarship.

June Chen and Hannah Kim were recipients of the Frank B. DeBruicker Graduate Award.

**Faculty Member at NSF**

Scott Schaffer has accepted a position as an Instructional Technology Manager at the National Science Foundation for the year. Scott is serving as a rotator, a limited term position, in the Instructional Technology Office in the Division of Human Resource Management. As a rotator, he provides assistance to NSF on funding programs and advice on new directions.

**Keep in Touch!**

Let us know what you are doing! We want to keep in touch with all of our great alumni. Just send an e-mail to aggie@purdue.edu with any news or updates.

Also, if you have the means in this tough economy, please consider making a tax-deductible donation. Your support would mean a lot! You can donate specifically to the LDT program by specifying that your gift go to the College of Education LDT Gift Fund.

You gift may provide support for student travel to conferences or other important program needs. For more information, see http://www.education.purdue.edu/about_us/giving.html.