Welcome from the LDT Program

Hello to all of our alumni and friends from the Learning Design and Technology program at Purdue University! Another academic year is well underway.

Our annual fall newsletter is a little behind schedule this year. We usually try to get it out before the AECT conference, but faculty and graduate students have been and now returned from Anaheim where the conference was held this year.

Here at the university, the fall semester brings football (not a high point this year) as well as many new initiatives. Much attention on campus is being devoted to student success. A new undergraduate core curriculum is being implemented, an Honors College has been launched, and the university’s IMPACT program has redesigned many key courses. Among the redesigned courses is LDT’s Introduction to Educational Technology and Computing, which was revamped under the direction of program convener, Tim Newby, to use a flipped classroom approach.

Online Master’s Program Still Growing!

The online master’s degree program in Learning Design and Technology, launched in the fall of 2011, continues to exceed expectations. The chart at the right depicts the growth of the program over the past two years. From a start of nearly 40 students (double what we had initially expected), the program has grown to about 200 students this semester. We expect to settle into our “steady state” enrollment of 200-250 students as we go forward.

In May of 2013, our first cohort of students graduated with much fanfare and celebration. (See photo at left.) The second cohort completed in August, and the third is finishing in December. We have enjoyed having these excellent students be part of the program, and we wish them the best as they move forward in their careers.

Big thanks go to our partner, Deltak, which is now a part of Wiley. The company has done a terrific job of providing marketing and support services to help the program succeed. We could not have grown as we have without them.

For more about the Purdue’s online master’s degree program visit our online program website.
LDT Faculty Changes

We’re excited to welcome a new faculty member to LDT. Marisa Exter completed her Ph.D. in instructional systems, with a minor in computer science, from Indiana University, in 2011. Prior to pursuing her Ph.D., Marisa spent time working as a software engineer for Lucent Technologies.

Her experience informs her research interests which focus on improving university curricula in programs like LDT by better understanding the experiences of working design professionals. This includes the formal and non-formal educational experiences of software designers and experienced instructional designers’ beliefs about design character. Since coming to Purdue, she has been working with the EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service) program in the College of Engineering, and is a Faculty Fellow in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute initiative of the College of Technology, which aims to transform the way technologists are educated.

Meanwhile, we had to say goodbye to two LDT faculty members. In December, Scott Schaffer left Purdue to return to the private sector. Scott is now with Caveo Learning, a learning consulting firm, in Austin, Texas. This October, Johannes Strobel began a new position as Director of Educational Outreach Programs for the Dwight Lock College of Engineering at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. We wish Scott and Johannes the best in their new pursuits.

New Project Focuses on CS Teachers

Jim Lehman, LDT faculty member and associate dean in the college, is a member of the project team of a new NSF-funded grant project, Leading the Way to CS10K: Assessing a Just-in-Time Professional Development Approach for Teacher Knowledge Growth in Computer Science. Dubbed PD4CS, the project is led by Educational Studies colleague Aman Yadav and also involves faculty in the Department of Computer Science.

The project will develop and assess a teacher professional development approach for teaching computer science with continuous online just-in-time support. The project is in partnership with Project Lead the Way, a non-profit organization that has successfully implemented innovative and rigorous STEM curriculum in over 4,700 schools and is introducing a new Computer Science and Software Engineering (CSE) course.

Faculty Scholarship Recognized

Peg Ertmer recently published the 4th edition of the ID CaseBook and continues to use the book in her Advanced ID course (EDCI 67200). This fall, there are 10 students enrolled in a face-to-face section of the course, and an additional 8 sections of the course are being offered as part of our online master’s program.

At the just-completed AECT conference in Anaheim, Dr. Ertmer received two awards, one for the best presentation from the Research and Theory Division and one for the best article of the year from the Division of Distance Education. See the Honors and Awards on p. 4 for additional details.
Jennifer Richardson has been working with the SAC Center for Giftedness and Creativity in Kuwait, in partnership with Purdue Gifted Education Resource Institute, for more than a year. She is serving as technology integration point person for a gifted middle school development project. To date, an enhanced curriculum for several grade levels has been implemented involving apps, Web 2.0 tools and other software, a 1:1 iPad initiative, and fully integrated classrooms including Smartboards and WiFi.

Bill Watson has been advocating for digital badges as attainment-based assessment through his collaboration with Information Technology at Purdue (ITaP) on the design of their digital badges platform, Passport. He was a part of a University task force on measuring student growth at Purdue which recommended implementation of Passport across all undergraduate courses at the University. He also is completing a three year grant project, working as part of a three university team, focused on the design and evaluation of an open-source, case-based simulation game for systems engineers.

Sunnie Watson has been managing LDT online program scheduling and evaluation, among other responsibilities, in her role as program convener for the online master’s program. She has recent publications related to issues in the systemic change of higher education, new learning management systems for customized, student-centered education, and critical systems theory for qualitative research methodology.

Victoria Walker has also been a critical part of the administration of the LDT online master’s degree program. She finds, employs, and works with limited term instructors who teach part-time in the program. She serves on the Board of Directors and as Awards Manager for the AECT Division of Distance Education. In addition, she recently wrote a chapter on technologies in a student’s doctoral education that will be included in a handbook for potential doctoral students titled, Navigating the Doctoral Journey. Her strategies for teaching online were recently profiled in an ITaP newsletter. You can view the article online here.

Minchi Kim is on sabbatical leave this year. She is living and working in San Diego. She remains interested in scaffolding students’ learning in technology-mediated environments.

Peter Fadde, Associate Professor of Learning Systems Design and Technology at Southern Illinois University, is the recipient of the 2013 SIU Innovator of the Year Award. Peter develops computer applications for training expert perceptual skills in sports such as tennis, softball, and baseball. His research has resulted in a commercial sports training product with others in development.

Ayesha Sadaf, recent graduate of Purdue’s LDT program, is now an assistant professor of educational technology at Ball State University. With Peg Ertmer, she was a recipient of a best article award from the Distance Learning Division of AECT. See Awards and Honors for details.

Dana Ruggerio, another recent graduate, is now a Senior Lecturer in Learning Technology in the School of Education at Bath Spa University in the UK. Her research interests focus on praxis in design for persuasive technology, multimedia installations, and affective knowledge.

Two more recent graduates, Chris Mong and Constance Harris, are now employees of ITaP, Purdue’s central information technology support organization.
Honors and Awards

Peg Ertmer and graduate student Adrie Kohler received the Outstanding Research and Theory Division Sponsored Presentation Award from the Research and Theory Division of AECT for their presentation, “Examining student engagement in the problem space afforded by case-based discussions.” They received the award at the recent AECT national conference in Anaheim (see the photo at left).

Along with recent graduate, Ayesha Sadaf and her hubby Dave Ertmer, Peg Ertmer also received the Journal Article Award, Quantitative-Based 2013 – First Place from the AECT Distance Learning Division for their article: Ertmer, P. A., Sadaf, A., & Ertmer, D. (2011). Student-content interactions in online courses: The role of question prompts in facilitating higher-level engagement with course content. Journal of Computing in Higher Education, 23(2-3), 157-186. This award was also presented at the recent AECT national conference in Anaheim.

LDT doctoral students Jea Choi and WooRi Kim are recipients of a Frank B. DeBruicker Graduate Award for 2013-14. This award, which comes in the form of a graduate scholarship, recognizes excellence in graduate student research. The award was established by the DeBruicker family in honor and memory of their father, Frank. DeBruicker family members Tim and Cheri were on hand to participate in making the award at the 2013 Scholarship Reception in September.

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, 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. Your gift may provide support for student travel to conferences or other important program needs.

For more information, see http://www.education.purdue.edu/makeagift/.