Greetings from the LDT Program

Greetings to all of the alumni and friends of the Learning Design and Technology program at Purdue University! It is time once again for our annual fall newsletter, bringing you news and information from the LDT program, the College of Education, and the Purdue campus. We hope you enjoy hearing a bit about what is happening in West Lafayette.

The university is approaching the end of its second year under the leadership of former Indiana governor Mitch Daniels. This fall, we welcomed a new Provost, Deba Dutta, who came to Purdue from the University of Illinois. Across the campus, the focus of many efforts continues to be affordability and student success.

In the College of Education, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the 1989 creation of an independent School of Education, which had been a department in the old School of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education. In 2005, the School of Education was designated a college as part of a campus-wide change, and that’s how we got to where we are now!

LDT Online Program Leading the Way

The online master’s degree program in Learning Design and Technology continues to be a leader in the college and across campus. Launched in the fall of 2011, the program has grown from an initial cohort of 39 students to a consistent enrollment from term to term of about 170 to 190 students. The program has made a huge impact not only on LDT but on the department and college, and the LDT program was praised for its efforts in an external review of the department conducted last spring.

The LDT online program was designed and created by the faculty of the LDT program, and faculty remain integrally involved either teaching courses or overseeing adjunct instructors (all PhDs) hired to work in the program. The LDT program was the first at Purdue to be launched in partnership with Deltak, a subsidiary of Wiley, which provides marketing, student support, and technical assistance services. With the success of the LDT program, new programs in communication and, most recently, special education (in partnership with Purdue’s Calumet campus) have also been launched with Deltak.

For more about the Purdue’s online programs visit our online programs website.
Engineering and CS Project Updates

Jim Lehman, LDT faculty member and associate dean in the college, continues his work on two National Science Foundation funded projects, SLED and PD4CS.

SLED, Science Learning through Engineering Design, is a targeted Math Science Partnership project involving four Purdue academic colleges, the Discovery Learning Research Center, and multiple schools in Indiana. The goal of the project is to improve science learning in grades 3-6 through the integration of an engineering design-based approach to science teaching and learning. Entering its 5th and final year, SLED is seeking to scale up its impact by recruiting teachers beyond the original partner schools to participate in the 2015 teacher professional development summer institute. For more information, see sledhub.org.

PD4CS, Professional Development for Computer Science, is a project that is developing teacher professional development materials for teachers who teach high school computer science. The project is creating and assessing just-in-time, online professional development resources for teachers teaching a new Computer Science and Software Engineering (CSE) course offered by Project Lead the Way (PLTW). PLTW is a non-profit organization that has successfully implemented innovative and rigorous STEM curriculum in over 4,700 schools. For more information, see the PD4CS website.

Course Converted to Digital Badges

Tim Newby continues to devote most of his teaching time and efforts to the large LDT undergraduate course “Introduction to Educational Technology and Computing.” During the spring of 2014 Tim was on sabbatical leave and spent his time researching and developing digital badges for this course. Over 35 badges are now available for student competencies in such areas as Digital Literacy, Information Literacy, Web 2.0 applications, and Instructional Design Literacy. The badges are being created in the Purdue Passport system.

This fall, a pilot study is being conducted comparing the effectiveness and levels of motivation of those preservice teachers in a traditionally taught course and those in the newly designed badge version of the course. Badges represent an exciting change for this course which has ramifications for other LDT courses and for future teacher technology professional development.

PBL and Teacher Beliefs

Peg Ertmer continues her work in problem- and case-based learning as well as teacher beliefs. With Adrie Koehler, an advanced doctoral student in the LDT program, she recently published an article in ETRO (Vol 62, pp. 617-636) comparing the problem space covered by students in a facilitated vs a non-facilitated case discussion. Peg also recently completed an online course offered by Harvard Business School related to “Teaching with Cases Online.”

As part of her ongoing research related to teacher beliefs, this past year Peg worked with colleagues in Belgium, Turkey, and Finland. With former student, Anne Ottenbreit-Leftwich, and a colleague from Ghent University, she recently published a chapter in the International Handbook of Research on Teacher Beliefs entitled, “Teacher beliefs and uses of technology to support 21st century teaching and learning.”
**Faculty Updates**

**Jennifer Richardson** is on a Study in a Second Discipline Faculty Fellowship this year with support of Purdue’s Office of the Provost. A major strand of her research is social presence and community in online learning, which necessarily involves the social aspects of teaching and learning. Her fellowship on social networking explores this domain through different theoretical and methodological approaches, such as Social Network Analysis (SNA), that help to inform our research. During this year, Jennifer is working with a faculty advisor, Dr. Seung-yoon Lee of Communications, taking classes, and attending conferences in this field.

**Bill Watson** will be a College of Education Dean’s Fellow during the 2015 spring semester, working to implement digital badges through Passport, Purdue’s digital badge platform, across courses in the LDT online master’s program as well as preparing professional development materials to support other faculty and programs to do the same. Once implemented, students in the program will complete badges in courses to build an e-portfolio of badges that captures evidence of their mastery of LDT competencies. As director of the Purdue Center for Serious Games and Learning in Virtual Environments, Bill is also preparing professional development for pre-service and in-service teachers on the adoption and implementation of educational video games in the classroom.

**Marisa Exter** is working with Purdue’s Polytechnic Institute (https://polytechhub.org/), a multi-disciplinary, competency based program that combines liberal arts and technology topics in a way that encourages student autonomy, risk taking, and intrinsic motivation. The PPI began its first year in Fall 2014 with 33 students from the College of Technology and Exploratory Studies. Dr. Exter and PhD students Iryna Ashby and Secil Caskurl are part of a cross-disciplinary team responsible for evaluating this program. This year, the team has focused on formative evaluation to determine what is working well and what needs to be improved in order to meet the needs of students and faculty. The evaluation team plans to continue surveying, interviewing, and observing students and faculty throughout the first year, and to add additional components to the evaluation in coming years.

**Sunnie Lee Watson** continues to engage in research on information age, learner-centered education. Her recent publications and projects focus on educational software design for customized learning (PIES), web-based tools for designing meaningful educational experiences for attitudinal change, and Critical Systems Theory for qualitative educational research and educational transformation. Her 2014 article on systemic transformation in higher education in *Techrrends*, “Exploding the Ivory Tower: Systemic Change for Higher Education,” was given the best article of the year award from AECT’s Division for Systemic Change. She also continues her role as program co-convener for the online master’s program, overseeing scheduling and evaluation, among other responsibilities.

**Victoria Walker** is co-convener of the online MSEd program, responsible for employing and working with limited term instructors who teach in the program. She also serves as the faculty advisor for the Purdue Association of Learning Design and Technology (PALDT), the program’s student organization. She is a Wiley Faculty Fellow and serves on the Board of Directors and as the Awards Manager for AECT’s Division of Distance Learning. Recently, Dr. Walker made two presentations at the Online Learning Consortium conference, and another at AECT, on the design and development on the LDT program’s adjunct faculty training and support processes. She is collaborating on a proposal to study social learning in formal and informal learning environments and how leadership roles develop.

**Judy Lewandowski** is serving as a visiting assistant professor this year. Judy, a Purdue graduate, formerly taught at Indiana University – South Bend.

**Minchi Kim** is on leave this year. She is living and working in San Diego.
Student News and Awards

Adrie Koehler, LDT doctoral student, received the 2014 Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award from the College of Education. Adrie was recognized for her teaching in EDCI 27000, Introduction to Educational Technology and Computing, an LDT course taken by all teacher education students. The award was presented at the annual college awards ceremony in April.

LDT doctoral students Adrie Koehler, Kadir Kozan, Jamie Loizzo, and Taeho Yu are recipients of a Frank B. DeBruicker Graduate Award for 2014-15. 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. Family members Tim and Cheri were on hand to participate in making the award at the 2014 Scholarship Reception in September.

WooRi Kim and Jamie Loizzo, LDT doctoral students, were selected to participate in the NSF/AECT Early Career Symposium at the 2014 AECT conference in Jacksonville, FL. Former students were also recognized at the AECT conference. Ron Carr won the Robert Gagne Dissertation Award, and David Huang won the Outstanding ETRD Research Reviewer Award and a Crystal Award from the Division of Distance Learning (DDL). Brian Belland and Cindy York also won DDL awards, and Linda Mellish was named the new DDL President.

Staff News and Recognitions

Aggie Ward, long-time LDT secretary, was honored as the recipient of the 2014 CSSAC Excellence Award at Purdue. The award recognizes clerical and service staff members who perform at outstanding levels. The award was announced and presented during a Clerical and Service Staff Advisory Committee luncheon September 9th. Read more about it.

Aggie has provided outstanding support to LDT faculty and students for many years. She wants everyone to know that she is planning to retire in May following 26 years of service to the university.

Holly Fiock joined the LDT Program in April 2014. As the Curriculum Coordinator, she helps manage the online program in a multifaceted position. Holly has a bachelor’s degree in Social Studies Education from Purdue and is currently pursuing her Master’s Degree in Education at Purdue. In her free time, Holly enjoys coaching junior high basketball, which she has done for the past five years. Recently, Holly was awarded the Mortar Board Rose Award which recognizes a clerical staff member for outstanding leadership and community involvement.