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APSCE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3, November 2006

LATEST NEWS ON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION (ICCE2006)

THEME—LEARNING BY EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF TECHNOLOGIES: FACILITATING INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING.

TIME—November 30-December 4, 2006

VENUE—Beijing Xijiao Hotel. For more details on the hotel, visit
http://www.xijiao-hotel.com.cn/en/

ICCE2006 is honored to have the following prominent professors to deliver keynote speeches in our program:

NAOMI MIYAKE

Professor of School of Computer and Cognitive Sciences from Chukyo University

Title: Designed collaboration as a scaffold for schematic knowledge integration

TON DE JONG

Professor of Educational Psychology, Faculty of Behavioral Sciences from University of Twente

Title: The design of effective simulation-based inquiry learning environments

GUANGZUO CUI

Professor of Modern Educational Technology Center from Peking University

Title: E-learning Evolution: from m-Learning to Educational Semantic Web

DANIEL D. SUTHERS

Associate Professor of Department of Information and Computer Sciences from University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Title: Technology Affordances for Intersubjective Meaning-Making

The abstract of each of the keynote speeches is available at
http://www.icce-2006.org/keynote_speakers_Naomi%20Miyake.htm,
http://www.icce-2006.org/keynote_speakers_Ton%20de%20Jong.htm,
http://www.icce-2006.org/keynote_speakers_Guangzuo%20Cui.htm, and
http://www.icce-2006.org/keynote_speakers_Daniel%20D.Suthers.htm

The main conference advance program, and Interactive Events Program is available now at http://www.icce-2006.org/news.htm

The accepted full papers, short papers and poster papers have been announced and can be accessed at http://www.icce-2006.org/full_paper.htm, http://www.icce-2006.org/short_paper.htm, and http://www.icce-2006.org/poster.htm, respectively.

For information on accepted workshops and tutorials, please check http://www.icce-2006.org/workshops_tutorials.htm

The accepted doctoral student consortium papers can be checked at http://www.icce-2006.org/dsc_paper.htm

The online registration system is open and Credit Card Payment Authorization Form is available at http://www.icce-2006.org/register.htm

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR SPECIAL ISSUE OF RESEARCH AND PRACTICE IN TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING: LEARNING COMMUNITIES

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Proposed timeline (variation may occur).

November 2006: Formal call for papers. Authors are encouraged to contact the editors in advance of submission with an expression of interest. There is no specified word limit for submitted papers, but authors are advised that clear, succinct writing is expected. An article

length of 6000 words is a useful benchmark. Further information on submission formatting is available at http://www.apsce.net/RPTEL_CfP.htm

End of February 2007: Deadline for paper submissions to go out for review. Each paper will be sent to three reviewers.

End of May 2007: Reviews finalized and sent to authors

End of July 2007: Deadline for revised manuscripts

End of September 2007: Edited manuscript sent to publisher

The editors invite scholarly articles on learning that takes place within communities and sociotechnical design for this learning, to be considered for a special issue of Research and Practice in Technology Enhanced Learning. Studies of learning in online communities and studies of community-oriented approaches in educational settings are acceptable, as are studies of learning in communities of practice, communities of interest, or groups defined in other ways. Papers should state the authors' position concerning how learning takes place by virtue of the community setting (editors prefer papers in which community is intrinsic to the learning studied). Although there is a preference for contributions that are grounded in empirical evidence, strong theoretical papers will also be considered. Methodologies from diverse research traditions are acceptable, provided that the quality of work is convincing to researchers within the given tradition and the presentation is comprehensible to readers outside of the tradition.

The following questions are offered as examples of relevant topics. Studies that address other questions related to learning communities are also welcome.

- How can theory and practice inform design for learning communities? What aspects of learning in communities can be designed for, and which are primarily emergent? How can these designed and emergent aspects mutually reinforce each other?
- What affordances does a given technology offer for social aspects of learning, and how do these affordances compare to alternative technologies? How can instructional scenarios or collaborative strategies best realize the advantages of the technology?
- How can technology-mediated learning environments be designed to support

heterogeneous members and their various trajectories of participation? For example, how can a learning environment support transitions from apprenticeship to expertise? How can "lurkers" not only learn, but also become assets to the community? What are the learning needs of multidisciplinary teams? What considerations arise in international community settings?

- What tensions between individual needs and the needs of the community exist in learning communities? How can these tensions be leveraged to drive learning in communities, and how can technology amplify this potential while mitigating the problems of conflicting needs?
- What is the relationship between self-identity and group identity in learning communities, and how do these identities motivate participation that leads to learning? How is change in identity itself a form of learning? How then should identity be reflected in technology-mediated environments?
- Which research and analysis methods are adequate for studying technology-enhanced learning in communities? Can experimental methods address learning that takes place over long time periods and many individuals in communities that are self-governed? Are ethnomethodological approaches viable alternatives? Do we need other methods? Do we need to invent new ones?

SHOWCASE ON RESEARCH CENTERS

Centre for Learning Enhancement And Research

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Director: Professor Carmel McNaught

The Centre for Learning Enhancement And Research (CLEAR) is an academic teaching and learning unit at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). We are a small unit (three professors, five general staff and six research staff) but we cover a wide range of services. All of our activities are based on research, carried out in the Hong Kong context. This is a much more persuasive approach than uncritically adopting ideas and practices from elsewhere.

The key strategies used in CLEAR for learning enhancement at CUHK are:

- A range of 'formal' professional development sessions for teaching assistants and 'new' teachers. Professional development for teaching and learning is a policy requirement of the University;
- Production of electronic courseware, booklets and books about effective teaching at CUHK. Two examples that are on the open web are *Effective lectures and presentations* at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/lecture.htm and *Effective tutorials and interactive teaching* at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/tutorial.htm ;
- Ad hoc events in departments, faculties, and at a University-wide level;
- Support for individual teachers by request;
- Liaison and collaborative projects with other CUHK units such as the ITSC (we jointly provide an eLearning Service across CUHK – see http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/elearning) and the Library (we have projects on intellectual property and on eBooks);
- The Improving Postgraduate Programme for all postgraduate students – see http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/library/booklet/iplcontents.htm ;
- Curriculum review and development at department and faculty level in areas such as case-based learning, eLearning and assessment;
- Support for the work of the Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning, including programme reviews;
- A range of evaluation services; and
- A number of funded research projects which overlap with and inform the strategies listed above.

Please browse around our website at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear and feel free to contact us.

Carmel McNaught

Director of CLEAR & Professor of Learning Enhancement

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Centre for the Advancement of Information Technology in Education (CAITE)

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)

Director: Professor Lee Fong-Lok

Founded in April 2005, the Centre for the Advancement of Information Technology in Education (CAITE) is one of the research centres developed by the Hong Kong Institute of Educational Research of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). CAITE works closely with the Faculty of Education of CUHK and it strives to:

- conduct quality research studies in the field of Information Technology in Education;
- to disseminate the findings to the educational community;
- to promote the effective use of IT in Education in Hong Kong, the Greater China Region and the profession worldwide.

CAITE has been contributing to the field of IT in Education in four main areas:

1. Research Studies

A number of educational research studies have been conducted by CAITE. The projects involved are listed as below:

- Learning Villages (LV) (http://www.learningvillages.com)
- Farmtasia (http://www.farmtasia.com/)
- Tong Pak Fu and Chou Heung - The Probability Fantasy (http://www.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/~mhp/)
- "WebQuest" Online Resources Databank (http://course.fed.cuhk.edu.hk/community/webquest/)
- DISCOL - Distance Collaborative Learning (http://www.fed.cuhk.edu.hk/~discol/)

2. Teachers' Professional Development

A substantial number of professional development courses and activities for in-service and pre-service Hong Kong teachers have been offered over the past years, including: "The Master of Arts Programme in I.T. in Education", "The Advanced Postgraduate Diploma of Education (IT in Education) Programme" and other IT in Education courses for postgraduate students in the Education Faculty.

3. International and Local Collaboration

We have been actively taking part in various international activities and have established extensive connection with overseas organizations, including: Global Chinese Society of Computers in Education, Asia-Pacific Society for Computers in Education, South China Normal University in Guangzhou and Beijing Capital Normal University in Beijing.

4. Major Academic Activities

Promoting the effective use of "WebQuest" in teaching and learning is one of the key tasks of CAITE. Several activities have been carried out online and offline to ensure students in Hong Kong are able learn effectively through meaningful and challenging tasks with the use of web-based inquiry approach.

More information on CAITE can be found at http://caite.fed.cuhk.edu.hk/

SHOWCASE ON ICCE2004 BEST PAPER AWARDS

As a special recognition of researchers' achievement, one of ICCE2004 best papers award recipients is showcased in this issue of APSCE newsletter—

Keys to Access: Accessibility conformance in Vocational Education and Training by Reece Lamshed, Marsha Berry, and Laurie Armstrong

Many thanks to MARSHA BERRY, Senior Lecturer of School of Creative Media of RMIT University, Australia for her write-up.

Threads that run through my research career are education, discourse analysis and performance, how people communicate, and creative processes. My research career commenced with narrative theory, discourse analysis and language acquisition. My passion for theatre and the role of reception converged with my research interests so I investigated theatre discourses in the real world using ethnographic techniques. Rather than me being devoted to a narrow field, I have been broadly interested in creative industries and communication and saw the opportunity to transfer my analytical,

interpretive and creative skills from print and stage to new media.

Currently, I lecture in content design and development, narrative forms and interaction design in interactive media. I supervise postgraduate students at Masters and PhD level in new and interactive media and I have encouraged my students to present their research at conferences and enter proposals for funding. IT and new media have been the focus of my research over the past six years. I received the Best Paper award in the International Conference on Computers in Education 2004, organized by the Asia Pacific Society for Computers in Education. My areas of expertise include narrative forms, performance and in new media. I have published papers in computers and education on user experience and HCI, including accessibility. My commissioned research and development includes a usability wizard for online developers and an animation resource for secondary teachers.

My research approach draws on ethnography, ethnomethodology, phenomenology and ethnographic action research. This means that reflexivity and subject positions are recurring motifs in my work. Research questions and theories to explain phenomena are grounded in observed experiences and triangulated through surveys, interviews and focus groups.

My current research project is entitled *Mobile Computing* and is partially funded by the HP Mobile Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative – 2004 Higher Education. The project is exploring the use of mobile computing, wireless networks and how access to these can facilitate the design process and enhance student experience. I had a key role in helping frame the initial proposal and writing the side of the study, which is to explore the use of Tablet PCs. I am lead researcher for this project team and was responsible for developing the research design from the original successful brief. Research is currently being conducted using multimedia students as subjects and we are using action ethnographic research as our methodology. The aim of this study trial is to explore new methods for applying mobile technologies within both formal and *ad hoc* study groups. Student work is occurring both in and outside of the classroom. Interaction between students is moderated but supported by a learning program that introduces students to mobile collaboration technologies. Mobile and ubiquitous computing are critical areas for areas for research, as convergence is becoming an increasingly important and pervasive phenomenon.

NEWS ABOUT APSCE MEMBERS

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to two of our members on their recent promotion. Best wishes and much success in their endeavors.

Dr. Kinshuk joined Athabasca University, Canada as Professor in August 2006. He is currently the Director of School of Computing and Information Systems. Prior to this, he was attached to the German National Research Centre for Information Technology as Postgraduate Fellow, and at Massey University, New Zealand as Associate Professor of Information Systems and Director of Advanced Learning Technology Research Centre.

Dr. Wong Su Luan was promoted to Senior Lecturer in early March 2006 at Universiti Putra Malaysia. She has been with Universiti Putra Malaysia since 1997 and is currently attached to the Department of Science and Technical Education.

Dissemination of news of its members and news for its members has been the goals of APSCE's newsletters. Personal news about community members (such as job changes, promotions, etc), research developments (e.g., new centers, books, software), and recent academic activities are more than welcome to be emailed directly to Fu-Yun Yu (Chair, Newsletter Subcommittee). For your piece to be included in the next issue, an electronic copy of the file must be emailed to Fu-Yun Yu 10 days prior to the scheduled publication date of next issue (February 10 of 2007) at fuyun@mail.ncku.edu.tw

FORTHCOMING ICT-RELATED CONFERENCES

MoLTA 2007, International Conference on Mobile Learning Technologies and Applications

Conference Chair
David Parsons (Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand)

This conference aims to bring together international researchers and practitioners in the area of mobile learning and supporting technologies, applications and pedagogical approaches. Massey University will be organizing this conference on February 19, 2007. Please visit the official website for more information http://molta.massey.ac.nz/

WBE 2007, 6th IASTED International Conference on Web-based Education

WBE 2007 aims to provide scholars, faculty, researchers, and administrators in all web-based educational areas with an excellent opportunity to convene with colleagues from approximately 50 countries and discuss innovative ideas, results, and outcomes of research in this new and exciting field. This conference will take place in Chamonix, France on March 14-16, 2007. For more information, please access this website
http://www.iasted.org/conferences/home-557.html

PCI 2007, 11th Panhellenic Conference on Informatics

Conference Co-Chairs:
Th. Papatheodorou (University of Patras)
D. Christodoulakis (University of Patras)

The Greek Computer Society and the Computer Engineering & Informatics Department of University of Patras are organizing this conference at Patras, Greece, on 17-20 May 2007. More information can be accessed at http://pci2007.upatras.gr/index.php

ICOOL 2007, 3rd International Conference on Open and Online Learning

Conference Co-Chairs
Professor D.D Abdul Razak (Vice Chancellor, Universiti Sains, Malaysia)
Professor I. Fagoonee (Vice Chancellor, University of Mauritius)
Professor A. Senteni (rector VCILT, University of Mauritius)
Professor R. M. Idrus (Universiti Sains Malaysia)

The main focus of ICOOL 2007 is to bring about a shift in current mindsets, to transform learners from simple interactive customers into reflexive and creative practitioners. This conference will be held in Penang, Malaysia from 11-14 June 2007. More information about this workshop can be found at http://icool.uom.ac.mu/2007/user/index.php

CSCL 2007, Computer Supported Collaborative Learning Conference

Conference chairs:
Cindy Hmelo-Silver (Rutgers University, USA)
Angela O'Donnell (Rutgers University, USA)

CSCL 2007 will be held at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey from 16-21July, 2007. The theme of the conference—Of Mice, Minds, and Society, promotes exploration of the interrelations among technology, individual cognition, and social cognition. The goal of the conference is to sharpen community perspectives on how these threads of CSCL are interwoven and how they interactively contribute to an understanding of the nature of learning in technology-supported environments. For more details, please visit
http://www.isls.org/cscl2007/index.html

SITE 2007, Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education International Conference

This annual conference to be held in San Antonio, Texas USA offers opportunities to share ideas and expertise on all topics related to the use of information technology in teacher education and instruction about information technology for all disciplines in preservice, inservice, and graduate teacher education as well as faculty and staff development. This conference will be held on March 26-30, 2007. More information about this conference can be found at http://www.aace.org/conf/site/default.htm

ED-MEDIA 2007, Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications

This annual conference serves as a multi-disciplinary forum for the discussion and exchange of information on the research, development, and applications on all topics related to multimedia, hypermedia, telecommunications and distance education. ED-MEDIA will be held in Vancouver, Canada on June 25-June 29, 2007. More information on this conference can be obtained at http://www.aace.org/CONF/EDMEDIA/

APSCE HQs has set up a public mailing list (http://mail.apsce.net/mailman/listinfo/bulletin/) Members who have news that are of high interests to members of the Society can take advantage of this newly added feature on APSCE's website.