Digital Media Program Approved

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved a new program in Digital Media for IIT. Contemporary graphic communication employs a mix of communications technologies. Digital media students learn to lead the creation of a communications tapestry, weaving together people and technology through print, photography, videography, multimedia, and web design. When the students graduate, they can serve as technologically-savvy leaders for the digital media industry.

Through their study, Digital Media students gain competence in graphic-related technologies that support digitization of graphics and text. The curriculum utilizes digital-media-oriented information technology as it impacts the graphic workflow. Students also acquire a background in leading projects, working with teams, and overseeing project processes so that they may qualify for supervisory positions. Some graduates move immediately into positions of service support in businesses specializing in communication through print, internet, multimedia, and video. Positions with job titles that include customer service representative, estimator, planner, supervisor, and scheduler, are often part of a larger sales function within digital media firms. Some graduates move immediately into sales positions. The dynamic and changing field of digital media belongs to the graphic communications cluster of industries, which is ranked among the largest industries in the United States.

Computer InfoSys Program Accredited

In summer 2009, the CIS program was granted accreditation by the Computer Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (CAC-ABET) through 2011. CIS faculty members are commended for their efforts to make this a reality.

ABET accreditation provides assurance that a program meets quality standards established by the profession for which it prepares students. Information systems program standards are set collaboratively by information systems professionals representing industries, technical societies, and academia. ABET accredits postsecondary degree-granting programs. ABET does not accredit degrees, departments, colleges, or institutions.

ABET requires that programs provide evidence demonstrating the presence of (1) a curriculum that meets content breadth and depth standards for the academic content area, (2) competent and qualified faculty, and (3) adequately prepared students. In addition, the program must also demonstrate that it uses continuous improvement to evaluate and modify curriculum and courses on an ongoing basis. Through leadership provided by professor Robert Zant, CIS faculty members met bi-weekly for more than a year to collect, compile, and present evidence for the visiting ABET accreditation evaluators. The team of evaluators arrived in November 2008 to find a well-designed and executed program of study worthy of carrying the label of "ABET Accredited" Information Systems program of study.

Accreditation is important because it helps students and parents choose college programs based on quality. It helps employers who recruit graduates from accredited programs. Accreditation may also be used by some registration, licensure, and certification boards to screen applicants. Accreditation gives colleges and universities a structured way to compare, evaluate, and improve programs.

UH Designated Center For Academic Excellence In Information Assurance Education

The University of Houston is now designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education through 2014. This designation for University of Houston was earned through the efforts of College of Technology faculty with collaboration from the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM) and the Bauer College of Business. From the IIT department, Ed Crowley and Art Conklin spearheaded the application effort. From the Engineering Technology department, Deniz Gurkan, Driss Benhaddou, and Jane Yuan contributed. The CAE-IAE designation is sufficiently strategic to warrant notification to Governor Rick Perry and our Texas representatives to U.S. Congress.

The CAE-IAE designation was recognized at the awards ceremony dinner of the 13th Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education (CISSE). Ed Crowley represented the College of Technology at the event in Seattle.

Technology Project Management Masters Accredited

In June, the Global Accreditation Center for Project Management (GAC) conferred GAC accreditation to three IIT Master of Science in Technology Project Management degrees. The three degrees offer identical core curricula in Project Management, but are differentiated by specializations in Information Systems Security, Logistics, and a third flexible option designed to match student interests.

Accreditation by GAC recognizes a commitment to project management educational excellence on the part of IIT faculty and UH administration. Gary Richardson led the accreditation effort with industry needs.
Program Name Changes
The name of the Technology Leadership and Supervision program changed to Organization Leadership and Supervision. The name of the Information Systems Technology program changed to Computer Information Systems. The name changes were made after an objective study of similar programs and with advice from industry advisors. Thus, the name changes reflect the ILT department’s desire for program names to serve as contemporary statements of program intent and purpose.

PM Textbook Published
Faculty/Student Collaboration
Students enrolled in TEPM 6301 project management principles had been clamoring for a new and better textbook for years—and they will be granted their wish in Spring 2010 semester. The book is Project Management Theory and Practice by ILT’s Gary L. Richardson! The book is unique in that the content was framed with quite a bit of input and help from students. Even though Gary is the author, he quickly credits former students’ research efforts on the book topics as helping significantly to ensure that the material presented in the book is current.

The result is a textbook designed to provide a broad review of the art and science of project management. The first five major sections of the text elaborate and generally follow the Project Management Institute model known as the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK®) Guide. The text material explains the model processes in understandable terms that fit real world scenarios.

Beyond the core project management material the text contains discussion of the organizational environment that surrounds the project. Specifically, the concepts of enterprise maturity, multi-project management and governance are described and linked to the project processes.

With the help of the TEPM 6301 students, the material in the text is fully classroom tested and is proven appropriate for a wide variety of backgrounds. Chapter material early in the book is designed to level the audience and set all readers into the project environment. From that base the material builds outward into more complex topics.

What’s Going On With Digital Media?
Collaborative Project with Lone Star College—Kingwood

UH College of Technology Graphic Production Control II students and Lone Star College—Kingwood Digital Publishing III students have been cooperating in an annual collaborative project for more than a year.

The collaboration begins when Lone Star-Kingwood students and instructor Pam Clarke visit the ILT Digital Media Lab facilities early in the semester. During the visit, students are provided advice on common errors to avoid before submitting work for reproduction. In addition, Professor Jerry Waite and Ms. Carmen Carter provide information regarding UH opportunities for further education and transfer of their Lone Star—Kingwood credits.

Lone Star—Kingwood students create a full color postcard design suitable for four-color print reproduction (CMYK) and conventional offset lithographic printing. They electronically transfer their projects to UH Digital Media Lab Manager, Mr. Can Le. Mr. Le checks the files for flaws using a process called preflighting, and tells the students what changes are needed. When technically flawless, the project files are forwarded to the UH Image Transfer Lab where UH students, under the direction of Mr. Harold Halliday, oversee production of the postcards.

The Graphic Production Control II students participate in the project in two ways. They use variable data printing technology to prepare a personalized invitation for each Kingwood student to participate in the reproduction of his or her individual project at his or her specifically assigned date and time. Thus, each invitation design yields unique invitations containing the specific name and schedule data for each student. UH students then mentor Lone Star—Kingwood students who keep their production appointment to use appropriate production process methods and controls to print and finish 500 postcards using the Ryobi 3302HA two color offset printing press in the Image Transfer Lab.

Student feedback from the collaborative project shows that it is highly valued by all who participate. Faculty from both Lone Star – Kingwood and UH equally value the experience. It provides an opportunity for all involved to learn about complementary programs at neighboring institutions.

In the spring of 2009, student Kimberly Chee completed a particularly creative invitation that entices a recipient to open and read it. Pictured here are several Lone Star—Kingwood students observing as UH student Ms. Ruba Shaikh (right) works to print projects.

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ILT Happenings

After initiating and spearheading the creation of the PossIbIliTies Newsletter for the Information and Logistics Technology Department in 2004, Sharon Lund O’Neil edited a remarkable (in quantity and quality) nine issues! She’s passed the baton to Susan Miertschin—who, after only a single issue, is in awe of Sharon's staggering performance!

Dan Cassler passed six rigorous exam modules to earn Certification in Transportation & Logistics (CTL) from the American Society of Transportation & Logistics (AST&L) in August 2009. Dan says granddaughter Cara E—age 2—is the apple of his eye.

In June, Ed Crowley attended the 13th Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education (CISSSE) in Seattle. Time spent interacting with colloquium participants was productive, resulting in Ed being honored with an appointment to the organizing committee for the upcoming 2010 CISSSE to be held in Baltimore. The conference is part of an ongoing series of conferences with the goal of bringing together leaders from academia, government and industry to address a critical need for security and assurance of the national information and communications infrastructure.

David Ding participated in the Emerging POMS Scholar Program at the Annual Conference of the Production and Operation Society in Orlando, Fl. in May 2009.

Last November (2008), Ed Crowley attended Laura Chappell’s Security Summit ’08 in Dallas. The Summit provided two days of hands-on network analysis and forensics training. The training focused on network trouble shooting, investigation, and forensics with an emphasis on analyzing performance and security.

Harold Halliday traveled to Dallas during spring to receive 2 days of training on the Sheetfed Offset Training Simulator—SHOTS—which student use in the Image Transfer Lab. Students complete exercises on the simulator that require them to identify and correct printing problems that occur on the simulated printing press.

In August, Ed Crowley was selected as a mentor in the NSA/DHS Center of Excellence pre-review program.

Monika Zarzycka served as the Graphic Communications Week Chair for 2008 for IGAEA. She also attended the IGAEA National Conference in Richmond, KY in July 2009.

Victor Cheng was named Honorary Member of 2009 by the International Chinese Transportation Professionals Association, Texas Chapter (ICTPA-Texas).

Ed Crowley completed the course SANS Security 617 Wireless Ethical Hacking, Penetration Testing and Defenses. The course demonstrated how to identify threats that expose wireless technology, and how to build on knowledge of these threats to identify defensive techniques for protecting wirelessly accessible resources.

Susan Miertschin completed 15 graduate hours from University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston’s School of Health Information Sciences to earn the Graduate Certificate of Health Informatics in December 2008.

Jami Kovach, David Ding, & Sharon O’Neil received $1000 from the Houston Assembly of Delphian Chapters to buy a sound system for classroom 101 in the T-1 building to support multi-class podcasting/video production projects.

Victor Cheng and wife Sophia bought a home in Meyerland, TX, in summer 2009. Victor says they are planning the logistics necessary to incorporate two dogs into the household in order to make full use of the yard.

In May, Jami Kovach traveled to the Joseph M. Juran Center, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota in Minneapolis to serve as a reviewer for the Juran Fellowship Program.

Ed Crowley attended the course Certified Ethical Hacking offered through the Center for Information Security Research and Education at the UH College of Technology. The class provided a hands-on immersion experience where participants scanned, tested, hacked, and secured their own computer systems. Brian Walker, adjunct instructor in Computer Information Systems also participated.

May Lew reports that all it takes to motivate her to undertake a remodeling project is a hurricane named “Ike”.

Recently, Victor Cheng took students in LOGT 6318 on a field trip to the Houston manufacturing and distribution facilities of Lone Star Fastener.

Dan Cassler says, “The students were ‘fastenated’.”


Victor Cheng tried his hand at IT support by working with UH and CoT IT support to install ESRI’s ArcGIS Geographical Information System in the Logistics Lab of the Center for Transportation and Logistics Policy. Of the experience, Victor says “I’ll keep my day job.”

During the summer, Harold Halliday attended a Teacher's Update in Pittsburgh, hosted by the Printing Industries of America. The Update sessions focused on current printing technology and industry trends.

Ed Crowley, Cheryl Willis, and Susan Miertschin vote for Austin’s roadside barbecue as a favorite after taste-testing while attending the annual conference of ASEE.

Cheryl Willis sampled some of the hand-forged gourmet fare at Top Pot Doughnuts in Seattle after they were featured on HGTV. When asked about her favorite flavor, Cheryl replied, “Duh. Chocolate.”

Charlotte Plummer left UH to become a Special Education Teacher for Pasadena ISD. She finds the work gratifying saying, "I absolutely love every one of my kids!"

Over the summer, Harold Halliday helped harvest a small potato crop that was donated to local food banks in the Houston area. Between potato tending he visited family in Canada and Ireland.

On Memorial Day, Susan Miertschin learned what it’s like to capsize a kayak in the frigid waters of Michigan’s Au Sable River, while husband John and son Robert learned a similar lesson on Labor Day in Michigan’s Jordan River (son Joey does not have to capsize as he chooses to jump in regardless of water temperature).

Bret Detillier traveled to Boston, Vermont, Newport (RI) and Cape Cod during the summer. Bret says he has less than a year to visit North Dakota in order to achieve a personal goal of visiting 50 out of 50 of the United States of America by age 50.
ILT Staffing Updates

Bill Bradshaw joined ILT as Business Manager last spring. Bill has worked for Unisys Corporation, Hewlett Packard, Compaq Corporation and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The scope of prior positions included strategic planning, business and financial operations, and human resource functions. He brings a Master’s degree in Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University and an undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech in Industrial Engineering.

Dr. Jerry Waite was promoted by the University of Houston to Full Professor. In September, Bret Detillier was appointed CIS Program Coordinator.

Shantavia Settles joined the department as Office Assistant II.

In September, 2008, Elizabeth Wetzel joined ILT as Managing Director of the Center for Logistics and Transportation Policy. She taught logistics and maritime business courses at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY, and was faculty head of the Student Logistics Exchange Program with Hogeschool Rotterdam. She also brings experience consulting with major global chemical companies engaged in process reengineering, as well as 14 years of experience with Lykes Lines Shipping Company, the last six of which was as VP and Treasurer. Elizabeth’s academic preparation includes a BA in English and an MBA in finance and accounting both from Tulane University.

Dr. Robert Zant was appointed Faculty Director for the Center for Information Security Research and Education (CISRE) with Ed Crowley continuing as Technical Director.

ILT Faculty Granted Research Awards

Research is essential as UH progresses towards the goal of being designated a tier-one University. In support of this goal, ILT faculty members conduct research in diverse areas including production operations, organizational leadership, technology enhanced education, and the logistics of perishable inventory. Texas currently is home to three tier-one designated schools: The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, and Rice University. Note that California has nine top-tier schools and New York has seven.

Recent ILT grant awards include the following:

Ding, Xin (David) (PI). (2009-2010). Delivering OM Class through Multimedia on the Internet, University of Houston Educational Technology Institute.

Information and Logistics Technology Institute
Technology/University Outreach Faculty Development Grant (Award amount: $4,000).


Kovach, Jamison V.; Ding, Xin (David); and O’Neil, Sharon Lund. (April, 2009). Support of Innovative Teaching Initiatives: A Sound System for Classroom Events, with additional colleagues (co-PIs), funded by Houston Assembly of Delphian Chapters Scholarship Foundation Fund, (Award amount: $1,000).


Kovach, Jamison V. (PI) and O’Neil, Sharon Lund. (Summer 2009) Impact of Perishable Products’ Inventory Policies on Retailer’s Profits, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship for mentoring the undergraduate student. SURF Scholarship recipient: Melissa McWhirter, Senior in Supply Chain and Logistics Technology.

Ding, Xin (David); Kovach, Jamison; & O’Neil, Sharon Lund (PIs). (2009). Equipment, Software, and Personnel Support Services for a Collaborative Video Project, University of Houston Educational Technology/University Outreach Faculty Development Grant (Award amount: $11,500).

Zarzycka, Monika (PI). (Summer 2009) Improving the Learning Experience by Creating Interactive Lessons for the Web Design Course, University of Houston Educational Technology/University Outreach Faculty Development Grant (Award amount: $4,000).

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**Faculty Publications and Presentations**


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Center and Certificate News

The Center for Logistics and Transportation Policy, under the direction of Elizabeth Wetzel, has really prospered in AY 2008-09. The Center now offers more than 20 classes during each of three sessions. In addition, it is going to serve as the Coordinating arm for the educational segments of the Journal of Commerce’s 2010 Breakbulk Conference, to be held here in Houston. The Supply Chain Council, owners of the SCOR mode holds all of its regional training sessions and meetings at the Center and has selected it as the first Supply Chain Council designated Center for Excellence.

The Center for Information Security Research and Education (CISRE) is adding, in January 2010, a new certification program to its existing three certification programs for Information Systems Security Professionals, Security System Administrators, and Security Risk Analysts. The new certification in Digital Forensics will prepare certificate holders for positions in government and private industry. The program covers such topics as legal aspects, professional conduct and codes of ethics, evidence recovery, chain of custody, data recovery protocols, cryptographic analysis, complete forensic analysis of digital evidence, and reporting. Digital Forensics certificate holders will be well prepared to pursue additional industry certifications such as the AccessData Certified Examiner (ACE)” certification.

Spring 2010 Course Schedule News

ITEC 3325 Survey of Information Technology Applications will be taught for the first time in Spring 2010 by Brian Walker. Mr. Walker is an experienced computing professional in UH’s IT Security group. The course is designed to provide a high level overview of the integrated technologies that comprise modern information systems in support of organizational processes. Some of the technologies covered are databases, desktop applications, business intelligence applications, and data management applications (warehousing, analyzing, mining, and visualization). The prerequisite for ITEC 3325 is ITEC 1301 Introduction to Computer Application Technology. While ITEC 3325 may not be used by CIS majors for their degree program, it is part of the Computer Application Technology minor.

www.tech.uh.edu/ilt
Annual Denver Operation Stimulus Conference Attended By Supply Chain And Logistics Students

Supply Chain and Logistics students attended the Annual Denver Operation Stimulus Conference held in Denver, Colorado through the Denver Transportation Club. The three-day conference happens annually in January or February, with supply chain and logistics students from all over the country attending. This past spring, 12 universities from across the nation, including the University of Houston, participated in a five-person group case study competition. Each group of students prepares a presentation on opportunities to improve the logistics and operations dealing with a current supply chain issue within a fictional company. During the presentation, each student team is challenged with a number of realistic developments that pertain to the case study and the student team’s presented analysis. Each team is given a brief interval to incorporate the developments into their analysis and present their response. Three teams are selected as winners.

Student Melissa McWhirter reports that the conference provides numerous opportunities for students attending such as lectures by industry experts about relevant and timely topics and professional networking and interviewing opportunities with select companies. She says that students who attend have the opportunity to engage with supply chain professionals and expand their knowledge about the supply chain and logistics industry.

On the third day of the conference, participants may elect to go skiing with the members of the Denver Transportation Club. Last year, Operation Stimulus journeyed to Winter Park Resort for this event. Melissa reports that the UH students had a great time, and no bones were broken, which is great because most of the UH students were first-time skiers.

Student attendees describe the Denver conference as a wonderful opportunity. Not only does the conference offer a real-world in-depth look at supply chain and logistics through case studies and lectures, but it also provide a chance for students to network with professionals and students from other universities across the nation. The experience is truly unique.

Student News

In April, 2009, the Fall 2008 Graphic Production Control II students were honored at an awards banquet hosted by Printing Industries of the Gulf Coast at The Aquarium in downtown Houston. Students received the Best in Category award for their reproduction of the Fall 2008 Possibilities Newsletter, and an Award of Excellence for their reproduction of COT scratch pads. Their instructor Mr. Harold Halliday is very proud of the work produced by the students, and the awards, and a plaque are on display in the Image Transfer Lab.

SIDO — Supply Chain Industry and Distribution Organization

SIDO’s officers for the 2009-10 school year are
- Melissa McWhirter — President,
- Madhavi Baviskar — Vice-President,
- Bradley Barnard — Treasurer,
- Stacy Medley — Secretary.

Faculty sponsor for SIDO, Dan Cassler said that students, industry sponsors and faculty participating in the SIDO Spring Golf outing had a great time and helped fund scholarships and student trips to competitions. The SIDO annual banquet was well attended with UH Adjunct Professor Corey Vickers serving as guest speaker.

Kenneth Stinson, a former President of SIDO and an active member, won a $1000 dollar scholarship from the National Defense Transportation Association.

AIP — Association of IT Professionals

AIP’s officers for the 2009-10 school year are
- Laura Daniele — President,
- Ronny Brehm — Vice-President,
- Anthony Morello — Treasurer,
- David Norelid and Shahnoza Domlibeck — Co-Secretaries
- Chris McGuire — Special Projects (Appointed).

Faculty sponsors for AITP are CIS faculty members Bret Detillier and Dr. Nada Khatib.

Job Garcia and Anthony Morello were each awarded $500 dollar scholarships from the Houston AITP Professional Chapter.

IGAEA-UH — International Graphic Arts Education Association at University of Houston

IGAEA-UH’s officers for the 2009-10 school year are
- Colby Kibbe — President,
- Matthew Salazar - Vice President,
- Chenlong He - 2nd Vice President,
- Bryan Theriot – Treasurer,
- Katie Kornahrens – Secretary.

Faculty sponsors for IGAEAUH are Dr. Jerry Waite and Monika Zarzycka.
ILT Department Faculty & Staff

Michael L. Gibson, DBA, Professor & Chair, Technology Project Mgmt.
Binay Anand, PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor, Technology Project Mgmt.
Tracy Jo Barnwell, PhD, Lecturer & Program Manager, Technical Communications
Bill Bradshaw, MPA, Dept. Business Manager
Dan Cassler, MA, Prog. Mgr. & Visit. Assist. Prof., Supply Chain & Logistics Technology
Liang-Chieh (Victor) Cheng, PhD, Asst. Prof., Supply Chain & Logistics Technology
W. Arthur Conklin, PhD, Assistant Professor, Computer Information Systems
Ed Crowley, MS, Instructional Assoc. Prof., Computer Information Systems
Bret Detillier, MBA, Instructional Asst. Prof., Computer Information Systems
Xin (David) Ding, PhD, Assistant Professor, Supply Chain & Logistics Technology
Jerry S. Evans, PhD, Instructional Asst. Prof., Technology Project Management
Natalia Fafanova, MS, Instruct. Asst. Prof., Computer Information Systems
Harold Halliday, BS, Press Operator II, Digital Media
Nada Khatib, PhD, Instructional Asst. Prof., Computer Information Systems
Jamison Kovach, PhD, Assist. Professor, Organizational Leadership & Supervision
Can Le, Digital Media Lab Supervisor, Digital Media
May Lew, BST, Office Coordinator
Susan Miertschin, MEd, Associate Prof., Computer Information Systems
Sharon Lund O’Neil, PhD, Professor, Organizational Leadership & Supervision
Jerry Pyka, MS, Dir. of Programs & Lecturer, Organizational Leadership & Supervision
Gary Richardson, PhD, Visit. Assoc. Prof. & Program Manager, Tech. Project Mgmt.
Shantavia Settles, Office Assistant
Vikram Tiwari, PhD, Assistant Professor, Supply Chain & Logistics Technology
Lawrence Wagoner, BS, Lecturer, Organizational Leadership & Supervision
Jerry Waite, EdD, Professor, Digital Media
Elizabeth Wetzel, MBA, Managing Director, Center for Logistics & Transportation Policy
Cheryl L. Willis, PhD, Associate Professor, Computer Information Systems
Robert Zant, PhD, Faculty Director CISRE
Monika Zarzycka, MS, Instructional Assistant Professor, Graphic Digital Media

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ILT Dept. Programs/Affiliates
DIGM: Digital Media
ISTE: Computer Information Systems
SCLT: Supply Chain & Logistics Technology
TELS: Organizational Leadership & Supervision
TEPM: Technology Project Management
CISRE: Center for Information Security, Research, and Education
CLTP: Center for Logistics & Transportation Policy