“Cougars for Kids”— Off and Running

Even though Cougars for Kids is only in its first semester, already more than 200 students and faculty have signed up for the program. The UH-endorsed program is aimed at supporting volunteer services in local hospitals. With its focus on helping children who are ill, Cougars for Kids provides a formalized process for UH students and faculty to contribute their time to support a great cause.

Jerry S. Evans, creator and director of the program, is excited about the project—and he has good reason to be. Dr. Evans’ dedicated hard work to launch the project is getting enthusiastic response. People across campus are

UH Undergraduate Research Day

Randall Koctar, a Technology Leadership and Supervision (TELS) student, was one of 60 participants selected across the UH campus to present a research project at the 2007 UH Undergraduate Research Day in October 2007.

Randall’s project was the outgrowth of doing an evaluation to raise production levels for a client of his current employer. With assistance from his UH mentor, Jamison Kovach, and project director, Jerry Pyka, Randall was successful in linking his work assignment to his senior project. He used tools he learned from TELS classes and lean production seminars offered by the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) in our College of Technology.

TPM Masters in Clinical Research

A masters degree in Clinical Research recently was approved as a new area of emphasis for the Technology Project Management (TEPM) graduate program. The emphasis for the TEPM Clinical Research (CLIR) program includes providing formal graduate-level training for future clinical research coordinators.

Last fall, the first graduate-level course, CLIR 6320: Fundamentals of Clinical Trials, was launched and taught by the program’s director, Amalia Issa. During the spring semester 2008, CLIR 6340: Research Ethics and Regulatory Issues was offered. For more information about CLIR, send an email to clinres@UH.edu or contact a graduate program advisor, 713-743-4100, ASC@UH.edu.
Information and logistics technology Department

ILT Happenings . . .

Welcome to Robert Zant who recently moved from Illinois to the great state of Texas! Michael Gibson performed signing duties for Dean William Fitzgibbon for an articulation agreement with San Jacinto Community College for degree programs in the College’s ILT and Human Development & Consumer Science Departments. He also attended an ABET Conference in Incline, NV, October 29-31, in preparation for an ABET accreditation visit for our Information Systems Technology program.

Congratulations to Amalia Isa who was featured as an international “Expert in Personalized Medicine” in the September issue of the National Review of Medicine (a publication for physicians). Lawrence Wagner recently co-hosted a visit from an artist he met in Haroon who was exhibiting his engravings and prints (along with another artist and ex-marine with whom Larry served in Viet Nam) at the Museum of East Texas in Lufkin.

First-time grandpa, Dan Cassler, says his new granddaughter is the apple of his eye; and just as she should be, she is growing like a weed. Also in the baby department, proud uncle Victor Cheng recently visited his sister, Amy, and new nephew, Alex, in Oklahoma City. Not to be outdone by Dan and Victor, Stacey McCroskey has increased her family by one: new baby Simon—Congratulations!

Congratulations to Charlotte Panner who, in December, completed her bachelor’s degree in Human Sciences from Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio. Natalia Folanova is now a certified Spanish speaker having successfully completed an “Instant Spanish—Just Add Structure” course last November. Tracy Jo Barnwell recently started a monthly reading series for local writers on KTRU 91.7 FM.

In October, Art Conklin attended a DOD/DBS Software Assurance meeting in McLean, VA. On a personal note, Art and his wife say their large quiet house is much smaller and noisier now that their step son, Tim, and his two children have moved in with them—and it all happened in just “one little move”. In the GRTC Image Transfer Lab, Harold Halliday (press operator) and Ella O’Neal (layout designer) continue to produce the Visual Communications Journal. Ella also takes many of the photos for our ILT Dept. Newsletter. The Newsletter name, Possibilities, was the brain child of Jerry Pyka and was voted as the preferred masthead by the ILT faculty.

David Ding has been invited to serve on an advisory board to judge a national student video contest sponsored by John Wiley & Sons. David also attended the Decision Sciences Institute Conf. (new faculty consortium and grantsmanship workshops in Phoenix, AZ). Bret Dettliere and Nada Kathib are the new faculty sponsors for the UH student chapter of ATIP (Assn. of Information Systems Professionals). Also, Bret is assistant to the director of the new Congers for Kids program. The Congers for Kids creator and director, Jerry S. Evans, however, credits his wife, Gil, as his “No.1 assistant” (sorry Bret).

Both Cliff Deen and his wife, Sheri, have been teaching TEDP Clinical Research graduate classes on campus and at the Texas Medical Center. Ed Crowley is working on the development of an information systems security certification program.

In addition to attending a “Go for the Gold Conference” at UH, Jeff Sumrall is the panelist at an Emerging Technologies Conference at MIT. The Boston event brought together business leaders, venture capitalists, senior technologists, and an extraordinary group of the top 35 innovators under the age of 35—the “TR35”.

In September, Monika Zarzycka attended the Graphics Expo & Teacher’s Conf. in Chicago, and, more recently, made a road trip to Miami. While May Lew would never agree to “being an expert” for the ILT Dept., she definitely qualifies for the title. Jerry Waite says that 2007 was the best year of his life—finally get his three children off his auto insurance policy!

We miss Susan Miertschin who is teaching on-line from Traverse City, MI. Susan has taken several on-line classes and reports the format is effective, but challenging. In her free time, she is enjoying all that Northern Michigan has to offer—snowshoeing, skiing, and hiking with her family. Also, Susan is the co-Principal Investigator with Cheryl L. Willis on a National Science Foundation grant. In October, Cheryl attended an ABET conference in Incline, NV.

Vikram Tiwari and his family are enjoying their first year, and “warm” winter, in Houston. Vikram says they don’t miss the freezing cold of Chicago, but they do miss the snow—and for sure they don’t want to see “snow” on their new 52” LCD TV. Speaking of snow, Jami Kovach and her husband, Steve, embraced snowy Chicago while visiting family over the Christmas break. Sharon Land O’Neil, and her husband, Roger, took advantage of the good skiing conditions in Utah. Gary Richardson and his wife, Shanna, said the Christmas break in Colorado was great until they were chased out of the mountains by a California storm and six feet of snow! Gary is now working on his summer’s “Bucket List” Watch for it in our next newsletter.

Congratulations to Joy Lloyd for being singled out by the editors of GulfShips magazine for distinction in her fields as one of eight women executives being named “5007’s Leading Women in Golf Transportation.” Joy’s busy fall schedule of local meetings and national boards also has included attendance at the DOT/DOE transportation cluster meeting in Chicago, the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals in Philadelphia, the National Industrial Transportation League, and the American Society of Transportation & Logistics board in Atlanta.

Information and logistics technology department

ILT Students Compete in Denver

In January, six members of SIDO, the student organization associated with the Supply Chain and Logistics Technology (SCLT) program, competed in the 27th annual Transportation Forum sponsored by the Denver Transportation Club in Denver, CO.

In addition to competing against other universities in the case-study competition, the students, along with their SCLT faculty sponsor, Dan Cassler, attended breakout sessions on environmental topics such as green warehousing and other supply chain and logistics issues. The students also were able to network with representatives from Wal-Mart, DHL, FedEx, and various other national companies. The experience was enjoyed by all and the students represented UH very well.

For more information about SIDO and the SCLT program, contact Dan Cassler, 713-743-1330, danell@UH.edu.

Six Sigma Training

Several Six Sigma quality management seminars, training, and certification programs have been held during the fall semester 2007 and several more will be forthcoming. The Six Sigma programs, offered through the Texas Manufacturing Excellence Center (TMAC) in the College of Technology are coordinated by Jamison Kovach, an ILT faculty member certified in Six Sigma Black Belt training.

Six Sigma is a structure problem-solving methodology used to improve products, processes, and services by eliminating quality problems before they occur, saving valuable corporate resources, and improving bottom-line performance. The basic tenants of Six Sigma DMARC (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, and Control) methodology include the use of scientific tools and data-driven decision-making skills to guide quality improvement efforts toward perfection.

One Six Sigma program, planned and moderated by Jamison Kovach with assistance from Jerry Pyka, was held December 5, 2007 at the Texas Medical Center. The program featured a Six Sigma Executive Overview by A. Blanton Godfrey, former CEO of the Juran Institute and current Dean of the College of Textiles at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. A Six Sigma Case Study was presented by Alan Sims, EMS Director of Montgomery County Hospital District in Conroe.

The public is invited to participate in the Six Sigma programs. The seminars teach participants to define and diagnose real problems. They learn to understand processes and to solve them using hands-on activities. The activities highlight fundamental quality improvement methods related to all industries. For more information about Six Sigma programs and certificates, go to http://www.UH sixsigma.com or http://www.ILTsixsigma.com/ Certificate-Program.html.

Students usually complete their internships in the Houston area organizations.

Six Sigma seminar participants experiencing a hands-on activity

The College wishes to thank these companies, and all UH partners, for supporting our programs. Any organization, especially those in the Houston area, are urged to contact us about potential partnership opportunities for expanding the skills and real-world experience of our students—enhancing their contribution to the work force.

For more information about the Six Sigma program or internships, contact Nada Kathib, 713-743-1067, ndkathib@UH.edu or Robert Zant, 713-743-4201, rfzant@central.UH.edu.

Six Sigma intern participants experiencing a hands-on activity

Internships Valued by ITE Students

As part of the Information Systems Technology (ISTE) degree program in the ILT Dept., students must complete a business, industry-, or government-related internship to apply what they have learned in the classroom. Most students usually complete their internships in Houston-area organizations.

Presently, Yaser Alghamdi and Saaid Ummi, two ITE students supervised by Nada Kathib, are gaining valuable work experience and meeting many business challenges while interning at Printing Industries of the Gulf Coast Region, Nationwide Taxi, and Hal Inc.

Six Sigma training participants networking
PMP 100% Pass Rate

Congratulations to the students in last fall’s Project Management Professional (PMP) certification-prep course who sat for the PMP exam—every person passed it! It is significant to note that the 100 percent pass rate is not just a distinction for the current class. It represents a perfect record for our PMP certification-prep students since 2004!

In addition to passing the rigorous PMP exam which covers a specified Project Management Body of Knowledge (known as PMBOK skills), individuals who hold the prestigious PMP certificate must document several thousand hours of project management experience. The PMP certificate is issued by the Project Management Institute (PMI).

Many students who take our PMP certification-prep courses also pursue a Technology Project Management (TEPM) masters degree. The 36-credit-hour masters degree program capitalizes on the PMBOK skills and gives individuals with diverse backgrounds the flexibility of several concentration options. Those who complete a TEPM masters degree and achieve the prestigious PMP designation speak highly of how the UH program has enhanced their work effectiveness and career opportunities. For more information, contact Gary Richardson, 713-743-4018, gri@uh.edu or a graduate program advisor, 713-743-4100, ROD@uh.edu.

GRTC Image Transfer Lab

The Image Transfer Lab is an integral part of the Graphic Communications Technology (GRTC) program, helps bridge the gap between the designer who creates the graphics to be reproduced and the technician who reproduces what the designer has created. The Lab gives students an understanding of the detail and complexities involved in the offset lithographic reproduction process.

Students in the Image Transfer Lab learn how to operate the Ryobi 3200 offset printing press by printing a variety of projects beginning with simple two-color notepads. They print their own eight-page booklet using printing plates created in a concurrent class. Students also develop their skills and gain experience working on several real-world, four-color printing projects for the College, including the production of this Newsletter. Using the Ryobi 3200 two-color offset press, students have the capability of printing two colors with one pass of the paper. Students learn very quickly to maintain quality registration when multiple paper passes are needed to complete a project.

The GRTC program is supported by, and works closely with, printing industry professionals to prepare our graduates for responsible, well-paid positions in graphics, the third largest industry in the United States. For more information, contact Harold Halliday, 713-743-1027, hli@uh.edu or Jerry Waite, 713-432-4099, jwaite@uh.edu.

Information and Logistics Technology Faculty Publications and Presentations


Issa, Amalia M. “Clinical Applications of Pharmacogenomics to Adverse Drug Reactions,” Ezgi Clinical Pharmacology, in press.


New Logistics Center Offering Certificates

The Center for Logistics and Transportation Policy (CLTP) was approved by UH in November 2007 and already is offering seminars to the public to help today's workers meet the increasingly complex challenges of present and future workforce training, policy issues, and applied research. The CLTP's director, Joy Lloyd, says the new logistics lab for workforce training and student instruction is aimed at enhancing the learning experience of those interested in the many facets of domestic and international logistics. Certificate programs include basic logistics (32 classroom hours) held during both the spring and fall semesters.

In addition to certificate programs and other seminars such as the CLTP-sponsored logistics security seminar held on the UH campus last fall, the Center also sponsored logistics security seminar held on the campus last fall, the Center also sponsored logistics

Faculty Grants

Ding, Xin (David). “Barriers to Telecommuting – An Empirical Study of Organization and Industry Levels,” funded by UH New Faculty Research Program, $6,000. 2007.


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Dan Casler, MA, Prog. Mgr., and Visit. Prof., Supply Chain & Logistics Technology.
Liang Chih (Victor) Cheng, PhD, Assoc. Prof., Supply Chain & Logistics Technology.
W. Art Conklin, PhD, Assistant Professor, Information Systems Technology.
Joy Lloyd, MBA, Director, Center for Logistics and Transportation Policy.
Stacey McCroskey, PhD, Visit. Assist. Prof., Information Systems Technology.
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ILT Programs/Alumni
ILT: Information & Logistics Technology
CLTS: Supply Chain & Logistics Technology
TDL: Technology Leadership & Supervision
TPM: Technology Project Management
SCLT: Center for Information Security, Research, and Education
CLF: Center for Logistics & Transportation Policy

“Cougars for Kids” — Off and Running
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Joining this united volunteer effort because they realize the importance of a formal program for UH “give back” to our local community.

Presently, five Houston hospitals are participating in the Cougars for Kids program: Texas Children’s Hospital, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Shriners’ Hospital, Memorial Hermann Children’s Hospital, and The Methodist Hospital.

From the feedback received, Cougars for Kids volunteers already are making a difference in the lives of hospitalized children in Houston.

The Cougars for Kids program is open to anyone in the UH community who wants to have a rewarding and exhilarating opportunity to brighten the lives of children in local hospitals. Orientation sessions at the hospitals are ongoing and volunteers can select the hospital, choose the type of volunteer work they would like to do, and request a flexible schedule based on the frequency, day of week, and time frame that best suits their needs.

The UH Volunteer Application and UH Medical Release forms are posted at the UH College of Technology web site, http://www.tech.uh.edu. For more information, contact cougarsforkids@yahoo.com.