

## **SIGITE Spring 2004 Newsletter, Vol. 2 Number 1**

### **Editor's Note**

Welcome to the SIGITE Newsletter. This edition offers IT educators three articles outlining novel approaches to some of the teaching challenges we all face, while the fourth is concerned with accreditation of our programs. The Chairs of our committees update their activities, and news about members' promotions, awards and activities appears here as well. I am looking forward to expanding the scope of the SIGITE Newsletter to include book reviews, employment opportunities and conference announcements. If you are interested in contributing, please let us know.

Robert Friedman (friedman@njit.edu)

### **SIGITE 2004 in Salt Lake City**

We expect this to be our biggest conference ever. We have received a record number of excellent papers and have plans for workshops, discussion panels, vendor exhibits and keynote speakers which will bring you up to date on the latest in IT education. Accreditation for IT through ABET is well on its way and will be discussed at the conference. Another major accomplishment is the development of a model IT curriculum. This has been through several re-writes already and we will have a detailed report from the Curriculum Committee. We are planning several informal "birds-of-a-feather" meetings. If you would like to suggest and host a session please contact the committee through the website. The conference will be housed in the beautiful Salt Lake Marriott City Center Hotel. The hotel is near many city center tourist attractions, including world-famous Temple Square, and in 30 minutes or less you can drive into Rocky Mountain trails and parks. More details are available at <http://SIGITE2004.byu.edu>.

Register soon and take advantage of early-bird discounts.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Curriculum Committee, Barry M. Lunt, Ph.D.**

The curriculum committee has completed several important items:

- a one-sentence definition of IT;
- five broad goals for IT programs;
- eleven program objectives for IT programs;
- a rough draft of 6 of 13 chapters for an IT volume of the Computing Curriculum document, which includes eleven Knowledge Areas of IT curriculum.

The IT writing subcommittee is meeting one more time this June to complete the rough draft of the IT volume. This volume, along with a summary of all the preceding work, will be presented at a session of our annual SIGITE conference in Salt Lake City this October.

#### **Accreditation Committee**

Since CITC4 at Purdue, much progress has been made. ABET put the CAC General Criteria out for first reading and authorized pilot visits under the criteria during the 2004-2005 cycle. IT programs will be visited under the pilot. Thanks to Eydie Lawson and Han Reichgelt for their good works in representing us on the General Criteria Task Force.

Eydie, Doris Lidtke, and I presented a panel at SIGCSE in March 2004 entitled Information Technology Accreditation Activities. Also at SIGCSE, ACM-SIGITE, ACM-SIGCSE, and CSAB cosponsored a "sold-out" workshop on The ABET Accreditation Process for Computing Programs.

The IT Program Specific Criteria and Standards were reviewed by CSAB at our May 2004 Meeting. CSAB voted to forward the package to the CAC Board and it is possible that the program specific criteria to supplement the general criteria could be out for review during the next cycle.

On a personal note, I am excited to announce that I have been appointed to CAC and will be attending the upcoming meeting in July.

Barbara Price  
Georgia Southern University  
ACM ARD to CSAB

**Activities Committee**

SIGITE successfully held a seminar on accreditation this spring and is now looking forward to the 2004 conference in Salt Lake City. Please see Richard Help's report for details on this year's conference. These are the sites for future conferences that are currently being considered, 2005 North Carolina and 2006 Minnesota. The Activities Committee is investigating the possibility of holding a student paper contest. Please send any feedback or ideas to [conners@calumet.purdue.edu](mailto:conners@calumet.purdue.edu). Volunteers interested in working with 2 year degree programs are needed. If you are interested, please contact me at the above email address.

Susan Conners, Vice-Chair SIGITE

**SIGITE Member Updates**

Eydie Lawson, Chair of SIGITE and Associate Dean for the B.

Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences at Rochester Institute of Technology has been promoted to Full Professor. In June, 2003, Eydie Lawson was named "IT Woman of the Year" by the Upstate Section of the Association for Women in Computing.

Jim Leone, SIGITE Curriculum Committee member, has been promoted to Full Professor and has been appointed Chair of the Information Technology department at Rochester Institute of Technology

Evelyn Rozanski at RIT, a member of the SIGITE Curriculum Committee, has had a grant from the Xerox Foundation renewed for a second year. She has received \$20,000 each year to study "Eye Tracking to Enhance Usability Testing."

Dr. Karlene Sanborn of Friends University in Wichita KS, was promoted to Director of the Master of Management Information Systems program at the beginning of the 2003-04 academic year. The first order of business was to review the MMIS curriculum, compare current curriculum to ACM's recommendations, and make the appropriate changes. The process indicated the need for 3 new courses to replace ones that were outdated. Research Methods in MIS and Information Security Policy and Development courses were developed and included in the MMIS program. A course in Human Computer Interaction is currently in development.

RIT IT faculty member Dr. Nirmala Shenoy has received Cisco Systems unrestricted gift in the amount of \$75,000 in support of research entitled "Framework for Seamless Handoff and QoS Mapping

in Next Generation Wireless Networks."

Joy Starks has just received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Indiana University, Purdue University, Indianapolis (IUPUI). She also has two two new books out with Course Technology as part of the Cashman series:

Microsoft Publisher 2003, Complete Concepts and Techniques. ISBN # 0-619-20031-6

Java Programming 2nd ed, Comprehensive Concepts and Techniques ISBN # 0-7895-6833-0

The second was co authored with fellow SIGITE Member, Michael Mick from Purdue Calumet.

Jeff Stewart, Ph.D. (Eastern Regional Vice-Chair) has been named Chair of the Division of Information Technology at Macon State College effective July 1st. Dr. Stewart has served as the Interim Chair for the past academic year. He has had 2 referred articles published and has made 8 presentations in 2003-2004. Also, Dr. Stewart is a member of the Governing Board of the WebBSIT program which is a new online Information Technology Degree program sponsored by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and is a collaborative partnership between 5 institutions in the State of Georgia. Classes in this new program begin in the Fall of 2004.

#### **Other News**

##### **Program Development**

An IT program in the College of Applied Science at the University of Cincinnati has been developed. UC had several programs in computer technology and information technology. Recently, the University consolidated all these programs together as well as revised the content

of these program to reflect the suggested curriculum model by SIGITE. A total of 5 Bachelor degree programs have been merged into one. The program offers three primary tracks in Software Development, Networking and Web Development and five secondary tracks; the above three in addition to Digital media and Database. Students are offered the option to continue their old program or transfer to the new program. Several abstracts have been submitted to SIGITE conference in October to discuss and present both the content development and how we applied the guidelines currently being developed by SIGITE as well as the administrative issues that we faced and how we set up the transition process for students and faculty.

For more information, please contact Hazem Said at [Hazem.Said@uc.edu](mailto:Hazem.Said@uc.edu) or check out <http://it.cas.uc.edu>

### **Macon State College**

The Information Technology Program at Macon State College has been a catalyst in providing streaming video opportunities to local high schools which provide athletic events live via the internet. Dr. Jim Leonard is currently working with two local high schools which now stream athletic events for parents, alumni, and fans to watch live. Also, Dr. Leonard provides archive video for viewing anytime after the event. This great community service project not only allows students and faculty members at the local high schools to take part in the complete production of the event, but allows Dr. Leonard to bring the streaming video project into the college classroom for real life examples and scenarios for his students.

### **Article Introductions**

Spring 2004 articles are provided in pdf format for download, linked below. Here are brief descriptions of each.

### **Using Learning Objects to Enhance the Systems Administration Lab**

**Mark Stockman and Tom Wulf's article** shows the benefits of moving away from a traditional model for students, performing labs in a systems administration course and adopting a goal-focused approach. Their goal is to "increase the students, problem solving ability and comprehension of the material [by creating] multimedia learning objects for students to view if they cannot remember how to perform the tasks or if the instructions from the book are not understandable."

### **Comparison of Computing Programs at the Level of Intent**

**Vladan Jovanovic and Han Reichgelt's article** compares and contrasts accreditation criteria and curricular recommendations of four different computing programs, "specially Computer Science (CS), Information Systems (IS), Software Engineering (SE) and Information Technology (IT) [and present an] analysis at a level of program intentions in an effort to highlight the similarities and differences among programs in computing."

### **Teaching IT Hardware Concepts Using Computer Forensics as a Motivator**

**Megan S. Conklin article**"details experiences using computer forensics as a teaching tool to improve student performance and engagement in the 'Introductory Hardware and Systems Software' course at a small, liberal arts institution [by addressing] whether the same hardware concepts can be taught using computer forensics as a motivator as would be taught in a "traditional" information technology (IT) hardware class, and whether there are any additional benefits to doing so."

### **Utilizing Authentic, Real-World Projects in Information Technology Education**

**Jon A. Preston article** explains how " real-world projects are also applicable to Information Technology classes. Results from over 50 projects involving over 300 students and spanning seven years of courses are presented and analyzed; these projects range from traditional Windows projects to dynamic, data-driven web sites and cutting-edge projects involving PDA and TabletPC applications. Issues such as appropriate project scope, suggested milestones, reasonable project structure, and how to assign students to teams are discussed. A lightweight process is also provided to assist the reader in applying the recommendations with minimal effort."

#### **Editorial Board**

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