

Faculty Activity Report: 2007-2008

Department of Integrated Science & Technology

Teaching Activities

Courses Taught

| Number | Section | Semester | Credits | Students | Team (<i>lead</i>) |
|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---|
| ISAT 340 | 0001 | Fall | 3 | 14 | Benton, Teate |
| ISAT 348 | 0001 | Fall | 3 | 13 | n/a |
| ISAT 252 | 0001 | Spring | 3 | 19 | Benton , Cushman, Marchal, Teate |
| ISAT 252 | 0002 | Spring | 3 | 20 | (same) |
| ISAT 348 | 0001 | Spring | 3 | 12 | n/a |

Student Projects

- **Reader** on Shea Munion's honor's thesis; provided assistance on technical development of the project, **Book Cheetah** during the Spring
- **Advised** a successful student submission to **NCUR**—Cameron Keith submitted and presented her paper "Students Attitudes and Behaviors on Filesharing"

Curriculum Development and Instructional Improvement Activities

- Piloted and tested use of the **Basecamp** online project management system for use as a learning management system in lieu of Blackboard
- Continued to develop **online video lectures** for ISAT 252
- Incorporated a **SmartBoard** into 1-on-1 student tutoring sessions in my office
- Continued development of a **peer grading** technique for exams in ISAT 252

Advising

- **Advised** juniors developing senior project proposals for ISAT 491 during Spring
 - **Thomas Fadoul**—online peer evaluation tool
 - **Michael McMahon**—database implementation for Least of These International
 - **Kyle Heiman**—development of an online roommate matching system
 - **Tony Hakes**—same as Kyle

Teaching-Related Professional Development

- Participated in the following professional development seminars offered through CFI:
 - Let Go...of the Professor-Centered Classroom, Maryellen Weimer, 11/16/2007
 - Insert "Skill Bites" into Your Course to Enhance Discipline Specific Development, Nancy Harris and Renee Herrell, 2/28/2008
- Had **TAPs** (Teaching Analysis Poll) performed in my ISAT 252 sections both in Fall and Spring

Professional Service Activities

Teams and Committees

- Departmental
 - Curriculum & Instruction—IKM representative
 - IS Team—member
 - Recruitment Committee—headed ISAT Video Contest
 - Assessment Committee—member, doing analysis for portfolio management system
 - Integration Committee—chaired 2nd semester; successfully developed Integration Goals and Objectives
 - SCOTS Team—member, participated in Mennonite Technology Adoption project and also in rewriting of objectives under ISAT Goals F and H
 - ISAT Golf Challenge—developed online registration forms
 - Foundations Committee—helped put together a binder of ISAT 252 resources
- College
 - Digital Measures Course Evaluation System—represented ISAT Department
 - CISAT International—helped do analysis and redesign for CISAT-I's website
 - Presenter for the CHOICES events during the Spring
- University
 - Became a TAP Consultant through CFI—performed seven TAPs this year
 - Began development of Japan Study Abroad program

Administrative Activities

- ISAT Department Webmaster
- Minute-taker at ISAT faculty meetings

Professional Reviewing

- Reviewed a paper for the journal *Computers & Education*
- Reviewed two papers for the AMCIS 2008 conference

Professional Consulting

- Website Clients
 - Beacon Reverse—a reverse mortgage company; I set up a portal for their business partners, and implemented a redesign of their main web presence
 - Greenwald & Associates—implemented a content management system (CMS) and trained staff on its use
 - Avalon Consulting, Inc.—did website maintenance including the development of a custom management interface for updating site content
 - Public Performance Management & Reporting Network—did a major website analysis that resulted in PPMRN being able to renew their \$300K+/year funding through the Sloan Foundation; also implemented the online community website indicated by the report

- SplashKit—created a template for individual musician websites; implemented websites for three different musicians

Other Service Activities

- Participated in:
 - ISAT Golf Challenge
 - ISAT Honor Society—Faculty softball game

Scholarship and Professional Development Activities

Conference Papers

- Presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) in March 2008

Grant Proposals

- Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Website: primary author, \$10,210.72, successful
- SEC-OED-2008-2001089—Science on a Sphere Environmental Literacy Grant; wrote the assessment plan; approx. \$300,000; unsuccessful
- JMU SAGE (Study Abroad General Education) Grant—sole author, \$1500, successful

Student Involvement in Research

This year I hired Kenny Chiang, Dane Arpino, Ben Stokes, and will collaborate with Thomas Fadoul in the ongoing development of systems to help enhance learning through the appropriation of Web 2.0 technologies.

Other Scholarly Activities

- Purchased a web server and spent time learning how to manage a Linux based environment.
- Investigated and developed professional competencies in the following:
 - The Dojo Toolkit—a new javascript framework that promises the ability to develop accessible and standards compliant interactive web applications
 - Ruby On Rails—a server side web application framework written for the Ruby programming language
 - Django—a server side web application framework written for the Python programming language
 - Subversion—a modern version control system
 - Trac—a web-based project management system that serves as a front-end for Subversion
- Was awarded \$1000 from CISAT International to set up Japan Study Abroad Program
- Was awarded \$800 International Development Grant from the Office of International Programs to set up Japan Study Abroad Program
- Participated in Q&A session run by Steve Frysinger on the tenure process in ISAT

- Began building a research program including faculty in GCOM focused on studying collaborative peer evaluation in online public speaking assignments

General Comments

Morgan's Most Outstanding Activities for 2007-2008

This was my second full year as a faculty member in ISAT. I feel very good about what I accomplished this year. Individually I'm not sure that any of my accomplishments would count as "outstanding," but taken as a whole, I do feel like my efforts are making an outstanding contribution to the students, to the department, and to the university as a whole. Here is a list that highlights several themes and the holistic nature of my contributions:

- Theme #1: Focus on Learner-Centered Teaching:
 - Participation on college-level committee to revamp course evaluations
 - Becoming a JMU TAP consultant, performing TAPs, and having TAPs performed on me
 - Development of a research team that includes students and also faculty and departments from across the university to develop cutting edge, web-based learning management tools
 - Development of new teaching methods via web-based lectures, new learning management tools (Basecamp), and peer grading methodologies
 - Participation in CFI workshops to reflect upon and deepen my own practice
- Theme #2: Commitment to Excellence in Web-based Presence and Technology
 - Consulting for clients within the department (faculty and teams), at the college level (CISAT-I), at the state level (Dept of Historic Resources), and external to JMU
 - Keeping myself current in web technologies by spending significant energy following the latest blogs and finding ways to incorporate learning new technologies into my teaching via courses like ISAT 348 (alphabet soup of what I learned this year: Dojo, SVN, Trac, Flex, Python, Ruby on Rails, Django, Apache)
 - Employing my skills to further departmental goals through projects like the ISAT Video Contest, and the ISAT Golf Challenge
 - Building and strengthening my network of contacts throughout the university of people involved in the delivery of IT services
- Theme #3: Efforts Toward Furthering Integration within ISAT
 - Led the Integration Committee in developing a program level goal and objectives explicitly defining and addressing the concept of "integration"

What Morgan Feels We've Accomplished as a Department in 2007-2008

To be honest, I'm not sure what to write in this section. I can point to a number of accomplishments:

- ABET Accreditation
- Establishment of an Integration goal and objective as well as revision of other ISAT program level goals

- Overhaul of the GS program
- Taught first classes to students in the IA program
- Earned the right to teach math courses “our way” and otherwise demonstrated the vitality of our program (see ABET)
- I don’t know if this is accurate since I’ve been here such a short time, but I feel like ISAT is finally earning recognition as a legitimate entity within the JMU community. Given the legacy of ISAT as Dr. Carrier’s pet program, and the preferential treatment the department is perceived to have gotten, I think it’s becoming very clear now that we can keep this going on our own, that we have a truly vital and energetic community of faculty, staff, and students committed to solving real problems in the world.

Departmental Priorities for Improvement in 2008-2009

I’m worried about human resources. We lost a number of people this year: Joe Blandino, David Lawrence, Ron Kander. In the next couple of years we can expect to lose others. In the IKM area Polly Cushman is looking to retire when she finishes her tenure as Department Head, and Joe Marchal may do the same (although he’s never said so to me explicitly) when he finishes with CISAT International and getting the IA program going. I think a new hire in the IKM area should happen as soon as possible. I can’t speak for other areas, but my hunch is that we should have a five year plan in place for replacing people who have and are going to be leaving.

I’ve been very encouraged by the discussion that has emerged around the perception of a deficiency in chemistry content in the curriculum. The “matrix” of chemistry skills/knowledge and the places in the curriculum where it is addressed forms a good blueprint for how we should treat *all* of the skills in our classes. I’d like to see us develop a database that maps out the various unit-level skills and objectives from all of our courses and allows students (and others) to visualize how **integrated** our curriculum actually is.

Suggested August 2008 Summit Topics

Continue the discussion of what we as a department would like to see come out of the CISAT reorg. Also I would like to hear a discussion of the pros and cons of a name change for the department to facilitate a more equitable marketing of all of our degree programs, not just ISAT.

Alignment of Morgan’s Activities with Departmental Goals

Increase the Number and Diversity of students in ISAT degree programs

- Was a member of the Recruitment Committee
- Proposed, organized, and led the ISAT Video Contest
- Was recruited by Dr. Benson to be a member of the CHOICES event team that presented STEM information to students accepted to JMU
- Presented at the open houses for students with undeclared majors

Continue to develop and implement a comprehensive curriculum assessment process

- Was a member of the Assessment Committee, and was an active part of developing the strategy to do portfolio-based assessment
- Participated in the Foundations Committee's effort to accumulate a canonical set of course materials for ISAT 252
- Led the Integration Committee during second semester to create a program level Goal and Objectives designed ultimately to ensure that ISAT is living up to the word "Integrated" in its name

Support and Recognize Excellence in Teaching and Education Research

- Participated in the writing of a grant proposal which would have furthered the content and pedagogical methodologies for doing Science on a Sphere
- Initiated a cross-departmental team of researchers exploring the concept of peer-evaluation
- Became a TAP consultant, performed TAPs, was the recipient of TAPs, and encouraged colleagues to do the same

Continue to Support and Grow the ISAT Master's Program

- Became a member of the graduate faculty
- Agreed to develop the data mining content for the ISAT Master's Program in Malta

Develop and Maintain Appropriate Organizational Structures

- Became the departmental webmaster and took on duties which recently had been fulfilled by one of the ADHs

Secure and Maintain Necessary Financial and Physical Resources

- Successfully brought over \$10,000 into the department as part of a project to help out the Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Successfully won a \$1500 grant from the GenEd program to develop a study abroad program in Japan; also brought in a combined \$1800 from CISAT-I and OIP to develop the same program

Support and Recognize Research, Scholarship, and Service Activities

- Participated in the planning of the ISAT Golf Challenge by developing the website that handled online registration; also participated in the tournament