

Editor's Note:

Welcome to the Summer 2007 issue of the EDTEConnect distance newsletter (our first newsletter issued for the summer semester). We hope you'll find information to inform, entertain, and intrigue. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions on how to make the newsletter more interesting. Please send feedback to dritchie@mail.sdsu.edu

Calendar

May 5 – Registration begins for summer
May 24 – Summer term begins
May 28 – No classes: Memorial Day
June 7 – Last day to register for summer EDTEC classes
June 12 – Last day to drop classes
July 4 – No classes: Independence Day
August 21 – Last day of summer term
August 10 – Fall registration is available
August 27 – First day of fall semester
September 3 – No classes: Labor Day
November 1 – Masters applications deadline for spring semester

EDTEConnect

*Distance Newsletter of the SDSU
Department of Educational Technology*

Volume 3, Issue 3

May 2007

Two new opportunities for distance students

New 'cutting edge' courses

Are you interested in the 'cutting edge' of educational technology? Are you looking for courses that are timely, relevant, and to the point? If so, we have four new offerings for you this summer: *Blogs, Wikis and Collaborative Learning, Designing and Managing Learning for the Global Audience, Advanced Digital Video, and 3-D Multi-user Learning Environments.*

"The field of educational technology is changing so fast that it's often difficult for a large university, with a cumbersome bureaucracy, to keep pace and update course offerings through the normal curriculum process" said De-

See 'Cutting edge' Page 2

The COMET Program

COMET, a new cohort program, designed especially for teachers, starts this coming fall semester.

The popularity of our distance program with K-12 teachers has enabled us to offer in-state tuition rates to program applicants who are California residents.

The program is a project-based curriculum where students create tools to use in the classroom. Students will learn how to:

- * Design a solid course, unit or lesson.
- * Integrate podcasts, GPS, blogs, wikis, Web-



Quests and multimedia into teaching.

* Create games and simulations that are both fun and instructionally effective.

* Design web pages to deliver information to students and their parents

* Evaluate educational programs & materials

* Use free online databases to create opportunities for inquiry.

* Evaluate distance education courses and develop

See 'Comet' Page 3

Summer 2007 distance courses announced

Registration for summer semester courses is now open at <http://www.ces.sdsu.edu/edtec.html>. For course updates, visit <http://edtec.sdsu.edu/distance/update.htm>. To see the list of courses being offered in future semesters, please visit <http://edtec.sdsu.edu/distance/offering.htm>.

Summer Certificate courses:
EDTEC 540—Educational Technology

EDTEC 541—Web-Based Multimedia

EDTEC 561—Advanced Web-Based Multimedia

EDTEC 570—Advanced Technologies for Teaching

EDTEC 700—Seminar in Educational Technology

Masters Degree;
In addition to the previous courses, the following courses are open to stu-

dents earning the Masters degree:

EDTEC 775—Directed Internship

EDTEC 798—Independent Study

The 795 and 798 courses are approved on an individual basis. Contact Dr. Marcie Bober bober@mail.sdsu.edu for further information.

Cutting edge: New 1-unit courses being offered for the first time this summer

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partment Chair Dr. Marcie Bober. "To help provide our students with the latest information, the Department began experimenting with 1-unit seminar courses on campus in 2005. Now we're ready to move some of these to online delivery."

The department will offer at least one EDTEC 700 course each semester. Students will be able to select one, two, or three of these summer courses to serve as electives for their Certificate in Instructional Technology, or up to six units for their Masters Degree.

You can read more about these offerings, including the course objectives, deliverables, and timeline, at <http://edweb.sdsu.edu/courses/edtec700/sum07.htm>. A brief description of each course follows:

EDTEC 700: Section 1. Blogs, Wikis and Collaborative Learning
Distance: July 28, 9am to 12:30pm & Aug 11, 12:30 to 4:30pm (Breeze session)

Learn how to use free, web-based tools as vehicles for knowledge construction and cooperative learning. The course is designed to be practical, current, interesting, empowering, and tough-provoking. When we're done, you'll have created a design for a collaborative learning environment on a topic of your choice. Topics and possibilities include simulated historical chronicles, multi-authored reference works, creative writing, branching stories, and role plays for conflict resolution.

EDTEC 700 Section 2: Advanced Digital Video
2 Saturdays: June 23 and July 14.
8:30am to 4:30pm.

Making movies isn't just a fun add-on for teachers. It actually can be a tool for engaging a wide spectrum of learners in content learning, en-

hancing higher level thinking like synthesis, reflection, and application. Learn to create and use media rich presentations as well as develop student activities for using digital video to engage students in content learning in ways other text rich media can't. Learn how to use still images, digital video, sound effects, audio voice dubs, special effects, multi-layered video tracks, and many more easy-to-use edits to your raw photos and digital artifacts. Some prior experience with digital video editing is required.

"To help provide our students with the latest information, the Department began experimenting with 1-unit seminar courses...now we're ready to move some of these online."

Department Chair Marcie Bober

EDTEC 700 Section 3: Designing and Managing Learning for the Global Audience
2 Fridays: June 1 and June 15.
2:00pm to 6:00pm
2 Saturdays: June 2 and June 16.
2:00 to 6:00pm

What does globalization mean for us as educational technologists, corporate trainers, instructional designers, higher-educational instructors, or K-12 teachers? In this course, you will have an opportunity to explore some of emerging issues in global teaching and training. This course attends specifically to the cultural differences we need to consider as we extend the global reach of an institution or organization. You'll examine theories, strategies, and models for adapting e-learning to other cultures, discuss best practices in global employee training, and explore cross-cultural design research.

EDTEC 700 Section 4: 3-D Multi-user Learning Environments
2 Saturdays: July 21 and August 4.
8:30am to 4:30pm.

What could you teach in a virtual 3-D world where the surroundings and learners can change their appearance at will? We'll look at simulations, role-plays, cross-cultural exchanges, 3-D Web-Quests and more while examining issues of identity and etiquette. Participants will create a lesson plan, a reflection piece, and a well-dressed avatar.

Much of the course exploration is within the interface of Second Life, a cross-platform, multi-user online environment. See <http://secondlife.com/corporate/sysreqs.php> for minimum system requirements.

A Conversion Experience for the Veteran's Administration

No, it's not *that* kind of conversion experience. This conversion is all about the transition from instructor-led classes to diverse, independent, and technology-rich systems, some including classes and some perhaps not.

The National Training and Education Office (NTEO) of the VA is seeking to advance learning and performance through approaches that leverage technology and deliver learning, information, and support closer to where the work gets done. NTEO is intrigued with the possibilities associated with blended learning.

To this end, NTEO has launched a project, *Moving from Knowledge in the Classroom to Knowledge Everywhere*, to enhance the professional development of education, elearning, and performance improvement professionals within

The Master's Page

COMET: A new distance Masters program for CA K-12 teachers

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your own.

* Create compelling videos and guide your students in video development.

Additional information on the program can be downloaded at <http://edtec.sdsu.edu/comet.htm>. Following are some questions and answers on the program.

What does COMET stand for?

Cohort Online Masters in Educational Technology

Is the COMET program only open to California residents?

The program is open to K-12 teachers from anywhere, however, examples and curriculum will refer to California standards and students outside California must pay out-of-state tuition. Those students should instead consider our general distance program.

Do I have to be teaching currently?

No, but if you are not planning on a teaching career you should look into our more general distance program which targets a broader audience-including those seeking careers in the corporate, government, non-profit, and military sectors.

What is the cost of the program?

The cost of the program for California residents is set by the state each academic year. For the first time, we have been authorized to offer our online program with in-state fees for California residents ONLY. Currently, the fee for up to 6

units per semester (Fall and Spring) is \$1,228; it's \$1,071 for the Summer session. See the latest fee schedule at <http://bfa.sdsu.edu/fm/co/sfs/>. Tuition for international and non-California residents would be an additional \$339 *per unit* based on 2007 non-resident fees which are subject to change. Our general distance program is offered through the College of Extended Studies for a total of \$273 per unit.

The fees do not include the cost of books, computer equipment, Internet service, or software. They do include online library database access, a university e-mail account, and space on the server to post web-based projects.

When is the deadline to apply?

The deadline for submitting the university application was May 1. However, students can sign up through 'Open University' this coming fall, and then begin to pay in-state fees in Spring 2008 if they are accepted and meet the university and department application deadline of November 1.

What are the admission requirements?

For detailed information, see: <http://edtec.sdsu.edu/apply.htm>.

Where can I find an application for the program?

You can apply online at: <http://www.csummentor.edu/>. More information about the application process is available at: <http://edtec.sdsu.edu/apply.htm>.

How many units are re-

quired?

Our Master's program is 30 units; in addition we require two prerequisite courses (EDTEC 540 and EDTEC 541), each worth 3 units.

How long is the program?

This program is designed for a cohort of students-which facilitates a sense of community and collaboration among the students. Each semester, including summers, you'll complete six units. You'll earn your degree in two years.

Will completing the program give me another teaching certification?

No. You will receive a Master of Arts in Education with an emphasis in Educational Technology. In most school districts this will qualify you for a salary increase.

Are students committed to moving at the same speed as the cohort for the entire program?

This program is designed to help students take advantage of the experiences of their peers; thus, moving forward as a cohort is critical. If you do not feel that you can commit to taking the prescribed courses in this program, we encourage you to look into our general distance program.

Will I need to commute to San Diego?

The program can be completed entirely online from any location with a broadband Internet connection. We will schedule some optional events sev-



eral times a year in which you can meet your peers and the faculty face to face.

What are the technology requirements?

For specific information, point your browser to: <http://edtec.sdsu.edu/distance/compreqs.htm>

Would this program be appropriate for adult school educator?

The principles and practices covered in this program are applicable for an adult school educator; however, we'll focus more extensively on K-12 standards.

What is the weekly time commitment?

In addition to the 60 to 90-minute synchronous sessions (for each class), most students find that they put in about 5+ hours per week for reading, e-mail and project-based assignments. Like any endeavor, what you gain will reflect your effort. Many of our students devote extra time because they find the skills to be immediately useful.

If I am admitted to the COMET program, am I committed to teaching in the K-12 setting throughout my course of study towards the Master's?

No; ultimately, your career choices are your own!

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Help Line

Toll free help line for
distance students is
1-866-316-8320.

Check [http://
edweb.sdsu.edu/iml/
student_help.php](http://edweb.sdsu.edu/iml/student_help.php) for

Need advise?

A new "General Advising" link is posted from the distance website (5th link on the navigation bar). You can get there directly at [http://
edtec.sdsu.edu/
distance/advising.htm](http://edtec.sdsu.edu/distance/advising.htm)

News and Events

EDTEC Headline News and Views, a calendar of events, our Department blog, and current and past issues of the Distance Newsletter are all linked from the website at [http://
edtec.sdsu.edu/
distance](http://edtec.sdsu.edu/distance). It's the 10th link on the navigation bar.



Department of
Educational
Technology

**Faculty focus:
Minjuan Wang, Ph.D.**

Minjuan Wang has been a faculty member in the Department since 2000. She was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor, and will be taking a sabbatical leave in China this fall.

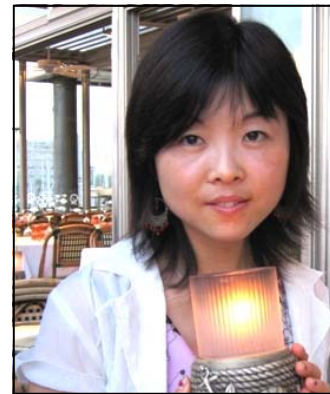
Her host institution in China is the E-Learning Lab and Network Education College of Shanghai Jiao Tong University ([http://
www.dlc.sjtu.edu.cn/](http://www.dlc.sjtu.edu.cn/)). She will be doing collaborative research with the Lab on the use of a cutting-edge mobile learning system in large blended classes with 2000 or more students. These classes often include online students from rural and underdeveloped areas of China. She will also conduct seminars on teaching and learning for the instructors of SJTU's Network Education College. Besides her own professional development, she hopes that her exchange with China can create opportunities for EDTEC students, taking classes, doing internship, or working in China.

Before leaving for China this fall, she will be teaching an EDTEC 700 seminar on Designing and Managing Learning for the Global Audience for both the campus and distance program. This course explores some of emerging issues in global teaching and training, and it attends specifically to the cultural differences we need to consider as we extend the global reach of an institution or organization. The course aligns with her longtime interest in social and cultural differences in learning, especially in terms of teaching online. Dr. Wang has recently published articles on designing engaging online courses for students of diverse backgrounds (*British Journal of Educational Technology*, and *China's Journal of Distance Education*).

For more information about the seminar, go to: [http://edweb.sdsu.edu/courses/edtec700/
global/index.htm](http://edweb.sdsu.edu/courses/edtec700/global/index.htm)

Minjuan will be able to put into practice her knowledge of cultural and technologic differences in diverse populations this summer when she teaches EDTEC 572 (Technologies for Course Delivery) on the island nation of Palau, and this fall as she is scheduled to teach EDTEC 470 (Technologies for Teaching) on three of the islands of Micronesia. Redesigning these two courses will provide many examples to share in her EDTEC 700 class this summer.

Born and raised in China, Minjuan always enjoys traveling and seeing the world. She takes great pleasure in communicating with



and helping people from different parts of the world, and also learning from them. She will have more to report when she returns to SDSU after her sabbatical.

VA Program Launched

Continued from Pg 2

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

San Diego State University's Department of Educational Technology is part of this VA effort. The project involved a study of readiness for the shift to workplace based learning and then, based on what we learned and best practices, the creation, tailoring, and delivery of an online course for 21 VA educators.

Here is what Allison Rossett, Lisa Schafer and Antonia Chan said about their class: "VA educators are clearly enthusiastic about the possibilities inherent in technology-based learning. They want and need to know more about technology-based learning, determining the right blend and when to use different approaches. What exists and what is reasonable to develop? How do we conduct lean analyses and what questions should we ask? Given the time constraints of employees, how do we engage and compel employees with online solutions? What guidance systems will help participants engage and learn from these experiences? How do we know if our solutions are successful?"

The emphasis of the course is introducing the VA educators to the vast array of teaching strategies and technologies and focusing on how those possibilities can be employed to improve performances, given the current time, staffing, and infrastructure constraints at the VA.