Research in IT: a SIGITE Publication, Vol. 6 No. 1

Notes and Announcements

Article

Peng Li, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

Editorial Board

ACM Notice to Contributing Authors

Note from the SIGITE Chair, Han Reichgelt

As Chair of SIGITE, it is my great pleasure to write a few words of introduction to our revised newsletter, now entitled *Research in IT*.

SIGITE decided to change the name of the newsletter for two reasons. The first reason was pragmatic. Although the newsletter has always been a rigorously reviewed publication, its name suggested otherwise to tenure and promotion committees around the country. The hope is that the name change will signal more explicitly the nature of the publication and hence encourage more members of the SIGITE community and beyond to submit their work.

The second reason lies in my strong belief that if IT is to survive as the vibrant academic discipline that it is today, it needs to start establishing its own research agenda. While SIGITE should not, and I am sure will not, lose sight of the importance of educational research to its mission, it should also take the lead in providing researchers with an avenue to publish non-educational research. Many of us have of course found other venues to publish such research in. However, I believe strongly that by providing a single platform to publish research papers that now appear in a slew of different journals SIGITE will provide enormous additional value to its membership.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to one of the unsung heroes of SIGITE and the editor of *Research in IT*, Rob Friedman. Without Rob's sustained push, this publication would not have been possible. All of SIGITE, as well as the wider IT community, owe Rob a depth of gratitude for this effort to further our SIG.

Han Reichgelt

Chair, SIGITE

Editor's Note, Rob Friedman

For those of you who stuck it out to the bitter end last October in Cincinnati, Han Reichgelt's announcement that we are now referring to our semi-annual publication as *Research in IT* is no surprise. As he explains above, this title change is the first step toward invigorating our membership's contribution to analytical and theory-based research, while we continue our mission of providing case studies of effective teaching in IT, and other papers that are of interest to the SIGITE community. In light of this continuity, we begin *Research in IT* at volume 6, issue 1. But we also begin a new era. Since the end of October 2008, we have been busy building an open source information exchange system, which we fully intended to roll out for our inaugural issue. Like most software projects, however, we find ourselves short on time, and with each bug that comes to the surface, others bubble up. Soon, though, the SIGITE Bulletin will contain a link to a dynamic new Web site, SIGITE Research in IT, where you'll be encouraged to participate by contributing archival research, experimentation results and white papers related to IT, in addition to the education-related papers so relevant to our teaching and professional practice. By serving as a prospective author, an interested reviewer, and hopefully, a thankful reader of papers that undergo continuous improvement through open and universal peer review, the IT community of educators, researchers, practitioners and students will determine which of these papers move into the *Research in IT* archives.

Right now, Peng Li presents a case study of virtualization technology he and his colleagues at East Caroline University have been using both on campus and for their e-learning lab sections. Each year, the technology gets a little more robust, and not surprisingly, each year, the students report back that their experience has been a little better than the groups that preceded them. Peng describes why and how that's the case in the article below.

Looking ahead, please watch for the SIGITE 2009 call for papers, which will be distributed via the SIGITE listserv and appear on the SIGITE Web site. We will also be looking for abstract and paper reviewers; instructions for volunteers will be disseminated to all who request them. Also later this year, SIGITE members will vote in a new slate of officers. The name Han Reichgelt will not appear on the ballot, and many of us who

have gotten to know him over his years of SIGITE leadership will miss his astute insight, his quick wit and his sure-footed direction when it comes to IT education, collegiality and disciplinary growth. We also know, and it bears repeating, that this SIG's success is a direct result of the positive energy, deep thought and joyful camaraderie that define Han. I'm sure I speak for us all when I say, Han, thank you for your leadership and tireless efforts. You have our best wishes for your future success.

Note from the SIGITE 2009 General Conference Chair, Don Gantz

SIGITE 09 will be held at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia on October 22-24. SIGITE is the Annual Conference for institutions offering Bachelor and Associate degrees in Information Technology. Presentations concerning IT education and technical areas are scheduled Thursday afternoon October 22 through noon on Saturday October 24. In addition, specialty workshops will be offered in connection with the Conference.

The Applied Information Technology Department at Mason has over 900 BS students in its IT Major which began in 2002. The Mason BS in IT prepares graduates to apply information technology to support business processes. Besides core technical competencies, the degree emphasizes problem solving, writing and communication skills and preparation for advanced study. The Department introduced a new MS in Applied IT degree in Fall 2008 to provide a federal sector oriented graduate option specifically for its BS in IT graduates.

SIGITE 09 encourages paper submissions that describe specific degree designs and elements of their successful execution. Implementations of capstone courses, internship programs or other synthesis experiences provide good topics. The Program Committee encourages papers concerning the technical pillars of IT: Networking, Web Systems, Programming, Information Management and Human-Computer Interaction. SIGITE 09 intends to extend complimentary registrations to a few first-time attendees who have submitted particularly interesting papers.

Calls For Papers

SIGITE *Research in IT*: *It's not too early* to consider contributing an article to the next edition of the SIGITE *Research in IT*, to be published in June 2009. We welcome archival and experimental research articles, case studies, industry and academic observations and literature reviews related to information technology education. Prospective authors can send articles to the editor (friedman@njit.edu) no later than May 30, 2009, but they are urged to consider collaborating with their IT peers by contributing working papers to the forthcoming online information exchange system. Position announcements, notice of professional advancement and other news items relevant to SIGITE members' interests are welcome.