

MSIDT Networking News....

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Official Newsletter of the
MSIDT Alumni Association

September/October 2008

Monthly Spotlight

Spotlight on: Gabriela Ernsberger (Cohort #4)

Prior to completing the MSIDT Program, Gabriela held a Bachelor's in Computer Science and minor in Digital Arts from the University of California, Irvine.

Now, a successful tenure-track professor at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, Gabriela reflects on what helped most from the Program to lead her to where she is today. She states that it is **because** she attained a Master's degree in science that is related to education that she was able to secure her current position. Currently, Gabriela teaches courses for both Computer Information Systems and Computer Science departments. So far she has taught programming courses such as Java and computer introductory courses that include teaching how to use applications such as Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint, and a Flash programming course. She notes, "As a professor, I am involved in several pedagogical aspects of teaching in a community college. Curriculum development is one of the most frequently addressed. Last year I proposed a new course on Flash programming to the Curriculum committee, for which I had to prepare an outline of the course including objectives, contents, topics, and student learning outcomes. The course was accepted and is now part of the curriculum, soon to be included as a requirement for the Web Design certificate. Most considerations and ideas on how to prepare the course came from what I learned in a number of courses taken in the MSIDT program."

She also states that the Program helped her to become more confident about her teaching abilities and advises that current students "should not underestimate the benefits of constructivism in teaching. Take as many courses possible to learn the variety of methods on how a constructivist approach can enrich your teaching skills and the students' learning experience." Crediting Jim School as one of the MSIDT instructors that had a significant impact on her love for the program, she leaves us with this thought when asked if she considers herself a good instructor, "Teaching requires continuous improvement and the ability to learn from the students as well. It is not simply about knowing the material taught. I am always trying to understand students' needs and demands, and always trying to improve my teaching skills. Since there is no end to improvement, I don't think anyone can ever be called a good instructor, but I can definitely be happy when I present a good lecture or I give an interesting assignment that my students enjoy." She is a great example of another MSIDT success story!

Programs/University

News....

Don't forget about the 5th Annual Wine Tasting Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, October 4. All proceeds from the event will benefit CSUF student scholarships. For more information on the event, contact 714-CSU-ALUM

What's New in IDT???

Introducing Chrome

Under development for two years, Google recently marked their entry into the browser fray with Chrome, giving competition to Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Mozilla's Firefox, as well as the Opera and Safari browsing platforms. Google has set out to redefine how users consume information. Their hope is that Chrome will be more stable to allow more complex web applications. It is still a very new platform so there will be kinks that might require some re-work. It is best not to start using it until all the beta testing has been done and all the kinks are cleaned up. Be sure to remind your online learners to hold off on betting on it just yet!

Flash Security Warning

Adobe has issued a warning to users to be on the lookout for links on social networking sites that supposedly download Flash Player, but in reality download malware. Security vendor Kaspersky Lab "found yesterday a Twitter profile that linked to a video that, if clicked, pretended to download Flash Player but in reality installed ten varieties of malware that attempt to steal banking information", as reported by ITS. Adobe has updated Flash Player several times this year to resolve security issues. The current version of Flash Player as of this writing is 9.0.124.0. Be sure to let others know that they can easily check to ensure they are downloading a true Adobe program by downloading only from the site, or checking the properties before downloading any Adobe product from a networking site.

New Online Services

While still in the beta-testing phase, Microsoft announced a new Online Services initiative that will provide Exchange, SharePoint, Office Communications, Office Live Meeting, and Dynamics CRM, and other services on a subscription basis over the Internet. Later this year, Microsoft will establish reseller partners. ITS believes that pricing is expected to range from \$3 per seat per month for web-only access, to \$15 per seat for bundles. Microsoft partners such as ITS will be able to sign up clients as well as coordinate migrating data to the new service.

A Better Norton

With increasing complaints, Symantec announced a redesign that will focus on improved speed, lowered memory use, and faster installation times for the newest version of Norton AntiVirus and Norton Internet Security. As a result of antivirus products growing in size as features such as spyware and pest scanning were added by vendors in recent years, the redesign has been launched. The new product is said to use only about 7 MB of memory.

It is still recommended that you avoid Norton Internet Security. Although updates have been made and recent versions are thought to be better, the historically NIS has been known to cause strange behavior and problems. Another option might be [EndPoint Protection](#). This is Symantec's "corporate" antivirus product that offers central management and easy license renewals.

Stay in Touch...

Don't forget to stay in touch. If you change your e-mail address, have any interesting news, have something to share, or want to find out any program news, contact us! info@msidtaa.org