CCTE Hosts Interactive Technology Summer Camp

Written by Dominic Mentor, 2nd Year Doctoral Student

CCTE and CampInteractive are determined to introduce the creative power of computer technology [to students].”

The Communication, Computing and Technology in Education (CCTE) Program hosted a social outreach technology camp for middle and high school youth during August 2006. Four CCTE students availed themselves for this wonderful teaching and learning opportunity to put their skills and theories to practice. Dominic Mentor, Seung-Oh Paek, Dan Hoffman and Anthony Love-Rhodes worked on this project to offer digital and leadership skills to underprivileged inner city school kids while introducing them to the creative power and multimodal affordances of computer technology.

“...a technology institute such as Camp Interactive could actually work into the hands of the equity mission at TC, which is to improve education for poor and immigrant children of New York City.”

Anthony Love-Rhodes, CCTE Student and CampInteractive Volunteer

CampInteractive and CCTE are determined to introduce the creative power of computer technology, and aid them in capturing the inspiration of the outdoors. Thus, in the second phase of the summer program, students were hosted at CCTE to begin a two-week computer and web-development training program. Using CCTE’s state-of-the-art technology, combined with the graduate students’ experiential knowledge, these students received the opportunity to learn skills critical to their current school life as well as entering the computer digital world of the 21st Century.

The two to three week work project (July 31st-August 18th) was part of a ‘Stepping Back into Nature and Forward into Technology’ initiative started by the non-profit organization known as CampInteractive. Through the program with CampInteractive, inner city kids from various schools navigate two different adventures—into the wild and onto the Web—and emerge with a sense of innovation, teamwork and confidence that will vault them to the forefront of their generation. At the start of the summer, CampInteractive arranged for inner city students to trade the city streets for an outdoor adventure and with the help of camp and life stories creatively, and have their voices be heard and represented on the ubiquitous world of the vast web.

CampInteractive Students

Written by Dominic Mentor, 2nd Year Doctoral Student

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Inside This Issue:

Faculty/Student Spotlights 2

Professor Felicia Moore Highlight 3

New Student Orientation 3

Alumni Accomplishments 4

Upcoming Conferences 5

Homecoming 2006 Information 5

Important Dates 6
Dr. Ellen Meier, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dr. Ellen Meier plays the role of both Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Communication, Computing, and Technology (CCTE) Program and Co-Director of the Center for Technology and School Change (CTSC). The CTSC has the main goal of helping teachers integrate technology into their classrooms. In doing this it conducts research that addresses the issue of the teaching with technology in urban schools.

Meier began her career as an educator in a federal experimental school program in Minnesota. Over the years, with the help of the Center's professional developers, she has “shaped the Center's successful approach for integrating technology.” Dr. Meier also directs the CTSC's many evaluation and research grants. She holds an Ed.D. in Leadership and Organization from Teachers College, an M.A. in Educational Administration from the University of Minnesota, and a B.A. in English Education from the University of Iowa.

Dr. Meier has a main focus on school change and has helped create a public school as well as a center for applied research at the University of Minnesota. She has worked with a national network of school innovators and has also provided technical assistance for technology-related projects in schools. Her workshops, courses and research focus on management and evaluation concerns related to the integration of technology. She is also Co-Chair of the University of the State of New York Council on Technology Policy and Practice, a panel appointed by the Regents to examine technology use in public schools, libraries, museums and other similar state agencies.

To find out more about CTSC, visit its website at http://www.tc.columbia.edu/academic/ctsc. Meier can be reached through email at ebm15@columbia.edu.

Rachel Connolly, Science Education Student

Third year doctoral student, Rachel Connolly, is a highly involved and motivated student in the science education program. Holding a BS in Physics and Astronomy, Connolly was a physics teacher at Horace Mann High School in Riverdale, New York for five years before taking a position at the American Museum of Natural History as the Astrophysics Education Manager. She credits her transition from the classroom into informal education to “wanting to teach all ages and help science teachers in New York City.”

In her first year at TC, Connolly, along with other students who shared similar interests in astronomy, formed a research group entitled Informal Science Education Research Group in Astronomy (ISERGA) (www.iserga.org). Their first article, Tips from the Field, appeared in the January 2006 issue of the Science Teacher.

Connolly’s second year lead her to join upublic (www.upublic.net), a Columbia-based educational consulting group, as the Director of Science. Upublic was founded at TC by students from across a broad spectrum of academic and professional disciplines who were interested in implementing an interdisciplinary approach to solving real world problems in education. In July 2006, Rachel was part of the upublic team that traveled to Amman at the request of the Office of Her Majesty Queen Rania in order to conduct a survey of the Jordanian educational landscape. During their time there, the upublic team met with Her Majesty Queen Rania, Jordan’s Minister of Education, leaders in higher education, teachers and students, and a broad range of public and private stakeholders. (Upublic is currently compiling the data collected in the field which will support its preliminary recommendations to Her Majesty for possible next steps towards increasing the level of professionalism and preparedness of all new and current teachers within Jordan’s public school system.)

Currently, Rachel holds a NASA Graduate Student Research Fellowship through the Marshall Space Flight Center. Traditionally, these awards are given to graduate students in the fields of science, mathematics, and engineering related to NASA research and development. The program supports approximately 300 graduate students annually and Rachel is the first recipient in the area of Education.
Professor Felicia Moore, Science Education Program

Professor Felicia M. Moore has worked both collaboratively and independently in developing as a scholar in the area of science teacher education. She was awarded the 2006 Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) Faculty Diversity Fellowship at TC to advance her research on science teacher identity. Professor Moore also received the 2005 Dean’s Summer Grant for Research here at the College and was one of five awardees of the 2005 Equity and Ethics Scholarship from the National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST).

Moore received her doctorate in Science Education at Florida State University in May 2003. After her program, she took a postdoctoral fellowship in the Center for Curriculum Materials in Science at Michigan State University (June 2003-July 2005). During her first year as a faculty member at TC, she completed the second year of her postdoctoral fellowship. She continues to work with faculty, graduate students, and former postdoctoral fellows affiliated with the Center.

Professor Moore’s most recent research interests cover two primary areas: science teacher preparation and inservice teacher professional development. Professor Moore says, “working with elementary preservice teachers is both fun and challenging because I work with teachers to overcome their fear of science and at the same time challenge them to make science meaningful for themselves and their future students.” Professor Moore is working to make sure that they are prepared to teach science in urban elementary classrooms. She is also developing relationships with elementary schools in the city to allow preservice teachers opportunities to teach science before their student internships and to support inservice teachers in their teaching of science because many elementary schools have weak science education programs.

Another research interest is working in the Urban Science Education Center (USEC), which was initiated by a former colleague, Angela Calabrese Barton. In the USEC, one project, Go Wild in New York City, where Professor Moore is the principal investigator; she is working with teachers, graduate students, and environmental organizations on developing and implementing a curriculum focused on science in New York City. This project is important because it connects science in the city with meaningful lessons designed and implemented by NYC school teachers.

Professor Moore is a “southern girl.” She is a native of Selma, North Carolina and the second eldest of five children. “I’m active in the congregation that I attend in Newark, and I relax by watching television, making jewelry, and talking to family and friends on the phone.” Professor Moore says she really loves her job at TC: “I feel that my position is more than teaching. I really love my job, helping all students to grow professionally and personally. I’m doing exactly what I believe was meant for me to do.”

Professor Sheppard to give Talk

Professor Sheppard, faculty member and Program Coordinator of the Science Education Program, has been invited to give the first talk of the science education section of the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS) at its new location. (NYAS will be relocating from its present East 63rd Street home to the 40th floor of 7 World Trade Center effective September 25th 2006.) The talk is entitled “The History and Future of Science Education Reform in the USA.” The event will be held on Friday, October 13th from 6:00pm until 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. Details of the talk and directions will be posted outside the Science Education Program Office or call the Science Education Program Office at 212-678-8174.

Professor Keith Sheppard

Fast Fact

While the name Teachers College reflects a dedication to producing quality teachers, only about one-third of Teachers College students are preparing to become teachers.

Did you Know?

TC alumna Shirley Chisholm was the first African-American woman to hold a seat in Congress – and, in 1972, the first to run for President.

Did you Know?

Newly appointed President Susan Furman is a graduate of TC. She earned her doctorate in political economy at Teachers College in the 1970s.

Fast Fact

Teachers College is the largest and most comprehensive graduate and professional school of education in the United States and is consistently ranked among America's top educational institutions.
TC Graduate named Chair Professor

MST graduate, Chin-Chung Tsai, has recently been promoted as a Chair Professor at the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (NTUST). NTUST is a top-ten university in Taiwan. With receiving his doctoral degree at the age of 26, Tsai is able to add becoming the youngest chair professor in Taiwan today to his accomplishments. Chair Professor, almost the highest level of professorship in Taiwan, can negotiate better flexibility about research funding, teaching load, and salary. He began his position at the university in August 2006. A 2000 Ed.D graduate of the science education program, Tsai has also been awarded a "Top Ten Rising Star in Taiwan 2006" by the Taiwanese government. The award is given to potential persons in a variety of professions, such as law, medical fields, education, dance, music, politics, and social work. Each year, only ten individuals (under the age of 40) across all professions are awarded this prestigious title.

Dr. Passow gives Presentation at International Conference

Adjunct Professor of Science Education, Dr. Michael J. Passow, recently participated in the Seventh International Conference on School and Popular Meteorological and Oceanographic Education held July 3rd - 7th, in Boulder, Colorado. The focus of the conference was on education and outreach initiatives pertaining to weather, ocean and climate. Dr. Passow gave an oral presentation concerning “Earth2Class: Connecting Research Scientists and Teachers”, the program he leads at Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO). Earth2Class (E2C) is a science, math, and technology resource for K-12 teachers, students, the general public, and geoscientists. The program is a collaboration among researchers at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, curriculum and technology integration specialists from Teachers College and classroom teachers from New York, New Jersey, and elsewhere. It centers around “Saturday Workshops for Educators” held at the Lamont campus in Palisades, New York. He also presented a poster about “Meteorology and Oceanography Topics in the New York State Science Curriculum.” Dr. Passow is also the President-elect of the National Earth Science Teachers Association, and participated in the organization's National Science Foundation-sponsored Strategic Planning Workshop in Winter Park, Colorado, held July 16th - 18th.

MST Alumnae Excels

Dr. Eiki Satake, a 1988 TC graduate that earned an Ed.D in Mathematics Education under Drs. Vogeli, Smith, and Rosenbloom, has had several accomplishments. Dr. Satake has published more than 20 journal articles and books such as (1) “Bayesian Inference in Polling Technique”, Communication Research, volume 21, No3, June 1994,396-407, (2) Mathematics Anxiety and Achievement Among Japanese Elementary School Students”, Educational and Psychological Measurement, volume 55, No 6, December 1995, 1000-1007, (3)”Using an n by m Contingency Table to Determine Bayesian Probabilities: An Alternative Strategy, AMATYC Review, 1995 (4) “Research and Statistical Methods in Communication Sciences and Disorders” Delmar Thomson Learning, 2005, (5) “Research and Statistical Methods in Communication Disorders”, William and Wilkinson Lippincott Publisher, 1997. Also, he has presented more than 100 research paper presentations for national as well as international conferences including the International Institute of Statistics, Case Studies in Bayesian Statistics Workshop, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, etc. Dr. Satake also has a book contract with Plural Publisher (San Diego, California). The title of the book is Handbook of Statistical Methods in a Single Subject Research. He is currently an Associate Professor of Mathematics and Statistics (tenured) at Emerson College, in Boston, Massachusetts. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Framingham, Massachusetts.

Did you Know?

The Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory was established in 1949 in Palisades, New York, and is a leading research institution focusing on global climate change, earthquakes, volcanoes, nonrenewable resources, and environmental hazards.

“I truly enjoyed my TC days and received a tremendous amount of valuable lessons and guidance from Drs. Vogeli, Smith, and Rosenbloom. I am ever grateful!!”
Homecoming 2006

Monday, November 13, 2006
3pm - 9pm

TC Homecoming 2006

Celebrate TC's important mission and accomplishments at Homecoming 2006!

Featured Guest Speaker: President Susan Fuhrman

Alumni Reception: Reunite with classmates, professors and friends!

TC Showcase: Have the opportunity to see the groundbreaking research, projects and initiatives that Faculty and Students are spearheading today at Teachers College.

Music, refreshments, and great company.

For more information: Contact the Office of Alumni Relations 212-678-3215

Upcoming Conference Dates

January 3-6 Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE)
http://aste.chem.pitt.edu/

March 26-30 Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE)
http://www.acce.org/default.htm

March 29-April 1 National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)
http://www.nsta.org/conferences

April 9 - 13 American Educational Research Association (AERA)
http://www.aera.net

April 14-17 National Association of Research in Science Teaching (NARST)
http://www.narst.org/conference

October 10-13 National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
http://www.nctm.org/

TBA Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE)
http://www.smpte.org/

Did you know?
In 1899, Edward Lee Thorndike joined TC’s faculty. He is responsible for pioneering the field of educational psychology.

Did you know?
In 1939 Faculty member Frank Cyr convened a national conference on student transportation that spawned the “Yellow School Bus.”

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Department Welcomes Students

On September 6th, the Mathematics, Science, and Technology (MST) Department started the academic year off with a “Meet and Greet”. Over 70 students attended. Among those in attendance were faculty, staff, and both new and returning students. Held in Thompson Hall on the third floor, participants had the opportunity to mingle with old acquaintances and make new ones while enjoying refreshments. The event was co-sponsored by the MST department and the Office of Student Activities and Programs. MST welcomed over 100 students into its department this Fall.

Newsletter Submissions

The Mathematics, Science, and Technology Department is looking for submissions for its next Department Newsletter. Some items that may be included in the Newsletter are the following:

- Adjunct Spotlights / Accomplishments
- Upcoming Program Events / Announcements
- Student Spotlights / Accomplishments
- Alum Spotlights / Accomplishments

This Newsletter can only be successful with your help! If you have any submissions, please submit them to Kenny Nienhusser at nienhusser@tc.edu

Important Dates

October
13  Last day to deposit Ph.D. dissertation with the Office of Doctoral Studies and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences for the award of the October degree
18  Award of October Degrees/Certificates. No ceremony. Mid-term date.

November
1  Last day to file or to renew an application, in the Registrar’s Office, for Master’s degrees and certificates to be awarded in February. (After this date, application may be filed only until November 15 upon payment of $15 late fee.)
13  2nd Annual Equity Symposium at the new Cowin Center at Teachers College
23-26  Thanksgiving Holiday

December
4  Registration for the spring term for continuing students via web and touch-tone registration begins
22  Autumn Term 2006 ends
23  Termination of occupancy in Teachers College Residence halls for students not returning for Spring 2007 term