New Employees

We are pleased to announce that Sivakumar Mohandass has been appointed as a Geographic Information Science (GIS) Application Developer with the Office of Mediated Education. Shiva will initially be devoted to an ecological forecasting research project, for which he will design and develop geospatial databases for hydrological, geophysical, biological, and sociological systems of the Central Plains. He will work closely with the GIS Applications Development Manager and numerous research faculty members across campus from his office in the GISSAL lab in Seaton Hall.

After receiving undergraduate degrees in India and Australia, Shiva earned an M.S. in Entomology and a Graduate Certificate in GIS from Kansas State University in 2005. Prior to joining OME in August, Shiva had just completed a summer internship with ESRI, the company that makes GIS software used at K-State. He also has previous work experience as an ecological modeler with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries in Brisbane, Australia. In addition, Shiva has published scientific articles in the fields of ecology and entomology.

We are happy to have Shiva on our team. Please help us in welcoming him as a full-time addition to the Office of Mediated Education.

On the Grow . . .

New Division Programs, Activities, Professional Development, Presentations, Awards, & Meetings

The International Conference on the Future of Agriculture: Science, Stewardship, and Sustainability was held in Sacramento, CA on August 7-9, 2006. Two hundred forty-two participants from 24 states and 10 foreign countries participated in the three-day conference. Over 100 oral presentations and 50 poster presentations were held. Special guest speakers included A. J. Yates, Undersecretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and Rick Roush, University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program.

TELENET 2 Delivers Poetry

The Kansas Poets Shoptalk program with Kansas Poet Laureate Dr. Jonathan Holden kicked off the Fall season with guest poet Steven Hinds and host Dr. Gerald Reec. TELENET 2 linked 11 sites with approximately 30 participants for poetry reading and discussion. The program was well received with many positive remarks.

The next session is October 10, 7:30-8:20 p.m.

Do you have a photo or story to share about the Division history. Please send photos and story ideas to Melinda Sinn for inclusion in the DCE Connections Newsletter as we celebrate our 40th anniversary.
New Division Programs, Activities, Professional Development, Presentations, Awards, & Meetings

DCE Awards

Judging by the number of distance education degree programs Kansas State University offers—and the national awards those programs have garnered—K-State is having a big impact on the field of online education.

K-State, through the Division of Continuing Education, is third in number of distance education degree programs offered by the 215 members of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). K-State is also first in total number of national awards of excellence for distance learning among all universities. Accolades aren’t the goal, however.

“We’re extremely proud of our great track record and the recognition we’ve earned from national distance education organizations,” said Elizabeth Stevens, associate vice provost for information technology partnerships and associate dean of continuing education. “However, none of this recognition would mean anything unless we made a difference in people’s lives. We hear from our students all the time that we have helped them finish their college education, earn a new degree, or get the certification they need to stay on the job. This is where the real satisfaction is for us.”

Stevens said that since 2001, K-State has won seven national distance learning awards from the four major associations for university continuing education and distance learning: the Association for Continuing Higher Education, the American Distance Education Consortium, the University Continuing Education Association, and the National University Telecommunications Network.

The institution with the next highest number of national awards is the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with three. Stevens emphasized that constant innovation and responsiveness to learners’ needs are what made these achievements possible.

“We constantly upgrade our technology and engineer our systems to meet learners’ needs,” Stevens said. “And almost every innovation we originally created for distance education is now used all over the Manhattan and Salina campuses, because even traditional students today expect to use the Internet as a component of their education. We’ve known for a long time that the lines between ‘distance’ students and ‘traditional’ students are blurring. We believe we’ve positioned ourselves well for whatever the future holds.”

Of the 215 NASULGC institutions, K-State’s 21 distance education degree programs is a number surpassed only by the 28 offered by the University of Florida and the 25 offered by the University of Illinois.

“The K-State faculty can reach beyond the physical borders of the university with distance learning technologies,” Stevens said. “Our distance students take courses on their lunch hours and after they’ve put the kids to bed. They must work to the same high academic standards that other students do, they just do it on their own time and in their own way. We have students in all 50 states and at least 10 other countries, so we believe we’re doing things that help our students achieve their goals.”
Division Celebrates 40 years in 2006

The Division of Continuing Education was created by the Kansas Board of Regents in 1966. Prior to the creation of the Division of Continuing Education, K-State was coordinating conferences and teaching extension classes and guided study courses through the K-State Extension and Continuing Education Department.

During the remaining months of 2006 the Division will be celebrating our 40th anniversary as the current Division that it is today. To help us celebrate this milestone we encourage everyone to dig around in your files and memory banks and share stories and photos with the rest of the Division. You may send photos and story ideas to Melinda Sinn in the Public Information Office.

A Historical Look at A Division Program

Intersession

Looking back through Division of Continuing Education history, K-State celebrated its 30th anniversary of offering Intersession courses in 2001. Intersession courses were first coordinated in January 1971 through DCE and offered to students by K-State departments and colleges.

Through the years, Intersession has allowed students to take short-term courses in topics not always available during the regular semester. They have allowed students to accelerate their degree programs, to try courses in subjects in other areas outside their majors, and to participate in travel courses. Intersession was originally held twice a year for the two to three weeks in January and May.

Today Intersession is offered in December/January, in May, and in August. Each Intersession offers approximately 25 courses with enrollment of as many as 600 students.

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On the Grow . . .

Employee Recognition

Students in the Office of Mediated Education

Dusty Burwell

Room #: Annex first floor
Responsibilities in OME: Web application development on Axio and other projects
Hometown: Manhattan, KS
Major: Computer Science
Year at K-State: Senior
Hobbies: Computers, auto repair/restoration, movies, music

Matt Cholick

Room #: Annex
Responsibilities in OME: Student Application Developer
Hometown: Brookings, SD
Major: Computer Science
Year at K-State: Senior

Victor Holt

Room #: Annex
Responsibilities in OME: Student Developer
Hometown: Manhattan, KS
Major: Computer Science
Year at K-State: Senior
Hobbies: 3D Programming, reading books, playing games

Daniel Rucker

Room #: Annex
Responsibilities in OME: Web Application Development, such as Axio and EIS
Hometown: Wichita, KS
Major: Computer Science
Year at K-State: 5th year senior
Hobbies: Writing software like my card game, playing World of Warcraft

www.dce.ksu.edu/intranet/pio/newsletter
Happenings . . .

Division Birthdays

October 6  Sharon Brookshire, Continuing Learning
October 7  Janice Nikkel, Continuing Learning
October 18  Jeff Mills, Program Development and Marketing
October 18  Cally Bitterlin, Duplicating/Mail Center
October 22  Kristen Klucas, Public Information Office
October 28  Debbie Hagenmaier, Continuing Learning

*Please send birthdays to pioinbox@gw.ksu.edu.

DCE Calendar . . .

OCTOBER 2006

2 ------- Real-time PCR Workshop ----------------------------------------------------------- Manhattan, KS
3-12----- Real-time PCR Workshop ------------------------------------------------------------- Manhattan, KS
5 ------- CPSI Conference Series ------------------------------------------------------------- Manhattan, KS
6 ------- 13th Annual Bridge Design Workshop ----------------------------------------------- Manhattan, KS
9-20----- VetBytes - Patton Seminar (Diagnostic Shipping) --------------------------------- Manhattan, KS
16-18 --- National Plant Diagnostic Network Data Collection Phase 2 Meeting ---------- Excelsior Springs, MO
16-18 --- NC Administrative Officers Conference ------------------------------------------- Manhattan, KS
19 ------ Educational Student Symposium ------------------------------------------------- Manhattan, KS
19-22 --- National Leadership Conference on Student Government ------------------------ St. Louis, MO
21 ------ Kansas Association of the Education of Your Children (KAECY) ---------------- Manhattan, KS
24 ------- Traffic Assistance Services for Kansas (TASK) - Design of Roundabouts --- Wichita, KS

*Please send calendar items to pioinbox@gw.ksu.edu.

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