Game Changers

Digital Game-Based Learning Lab Holds Summer Institute

Fifteen Central Kentucky teachers are returning to school this fall as “game changers.” They participated in a four-day summer institute held by the Digital Game-based Learning Lab (DGBL), directed by Joan Mazur, Gerry Swan and Brent Seales (UK Viscen-ter). The institute provided an introduction to DGBL that focused on the central elements of gaming (play, challenge, curiosity, competitive cooperation, and achievement and reward).

“The institute faculty will follow up with the teachers this fall to help them develop a unit that integrates multiple types of games as instructional anchors to engage students intellectually in content learning,” Mazur said. “We want them to be known as innovators in their schools and with their peers so they can inform and support those with whom they work in choosing and using games. They will form the core members of a regional Professional Learning Community focused on game learning and assessment. In addition this PLC of “game changers” will also partner with the DGBL lab as a network of classroom re-

searchers engaged in game-based core content inquiry. Finally, for this group, we will work with them to create a professional development activity they can deliver in their schools.”

A highlight of the institute experience was a “playtest” designed and (continued on page 2)

Meet the Directors

The Kentucky P20 Innovation Lab has named two directors. Linda France will serve as Director of Next Generation Learning Partnerships and Eve Proffitt will take the role of Director of Education Innovation.

Eve Proffitt

Proffitt is entering her 38th year in education. She has spent 22 years with public schools, 10 years with the Kentucky School Boards Association, and six years in higher education, most recently as dean of education at Georgetown College. Proffitt has served on numerous state committees including the 1990 Education Reform Committee.

She is an active member of Phi Delta Kappa International, having served as Past International President and is currently serving on the Phi Delta Kappa Education Foundations Board.

Linda France

Linda France comes to UK from Asbury University, where she coordinated the educational leadership program. France was previously Deputy Commissioner at the Kentucky Department of Education Bureau of Learning and Results and prior to that was superintendent of schools in Jessamine County.

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implemented by Swan. Called “Hot Spots and Cool Places in Downtown Lexington,” the playtest required teams of 3 to walk around a six block area of downtown Lexington using digital thermometers to measure surface temperatures outdoors and inside buildings.

“As its name obviously implies, a playtest is an actual game implementation that requires participants to play out and test the game design,” Swan said. “A playtest includes the game design (the challenge), learning goals and data collection strategy, the actual play, and a data debriefing session.”

Swan designed the playtest using Google Maps as the “game board.” Participants were given a series of 7 challenges, such as finding the coolest and hottest indoor and outdoor surface temperatures in the six block area. The debriefing focused on the physics of heat and light (radiation, reflection, materials, etc.). The “Hot Spots and Cool Places in Downtown Lexington” playtest is available at www.otisonline.org > Gaming Workshop.

The institute, which ran from June 21-25, was held at the University of Kentucky Center for Visualization and Virtual Environments (Viscenter) in downtown Lexington. Participants were able to see and experience cutting edge interactive visualization technologies there. Other presenters included Leanna Prater, a doctoral student in Instructional Systems Design and a technology resource teacher for Fayette County Schools, who presented on gaming for elementary and middle school learners.

The DGBL Summer Institute was sponsored as a Professional Development option through the Central Kentucky Region 5 Educational Cooperative (CKEC) and was offered to Fayette County teachers as well.

The DGBL Lab is working to provide a number of additional services, including:

- a new online Digital Game-based Learning graduate course (EDC 543) offered in Spring 2011 by the College of Education;
- a series of Saturday workshops this fall on Game Design for middle school students in the Danville Independent School District;
- a Professional Learning Community online PD series on Game Design (a specific request from Summer Institute participants);
- a Catalyst Grant from the Hewlett Packard Corporation working with the Kentucky Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP) and the Learning Games Network in Boston MA (submitted 8/10/10);
- and P-20 website resources for using, choosing and evaluating games for learning and assessment.

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**Education Policy & Law Lab To Co-Host KASA Conference**

The Education Policy & Law Lab is planning forums on education issues and getting several other projects off the ground this fall.

**KASA Conference**

School administrators will be invited to the University of Kentucky campus June 9 & 10, 2011 for a conference on Education Policy and Law. It will be co-presented by the Education Policy & Law Lab and the Kentucky Association of School Administrators — the state’s unified professional organization representing all education leaders.

**Graduate Assistant Hired**

Amanda Dalton, an incoming student in Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation, has been hired as the lab’s graduate assistant.

**Advisory Council Forming**

Lab directors Wayne Lewis and Neal Hutchens will soon be putting together the lab’s advisory council, which will consist of representatives of education stakeholder groups.
Launch of "Motivation in Transition" project
Co-Directors, Ellen Usher, UK, and Meribeth Gaines, Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS), met with Fayette Schools elementary school directors to map out a motivation study to take place in FCPS beginning in fall 2010. Gaines presented the plan to the school cabinet leaders. The two-year study, entitled "Motivation in Transition," will involve following students across their transition from elementary to middle school to investigate factors related to changes in their academic motivation and achievement.

Appointment of Lab Manager
The lab has named Megan Thomas, doctoral student in school psychology, as Lab Manager. Megan will oversee lab communications, scheduling, outreach, partnerships, and research protocols.

Participation at American Psychological Association
Ellen Usher and three graduate student lab members, Megan Thomas, Raven Piercey, and Natasha Mamaril, presented recent motivation research at the annual conference of the American Psychological Association in San Diego, CA, from August 11-16. Thomas and Piercey have also been selected to participate in the prestigious Graduate Research Seminar of APA Division 15 (Educational Psychology).

Enhancing Personalized Learning
Usher and P20 colleague Justin Bathon recently attended "Innovate to Educate: A Symposium on (Re)Design for Personalized Learning." The meeting brought together members of the CCSSO NxGL Innovation Labs, national education administrators, innovative practitioners, and members of the technology and software industry to discuss next steps toward innovative change in education that will bring about personalized learning for all students.

Motivation & Learning Lab Hosts French Delegation
With the support of an internationalization grant from the College of Education, the Motivation and Learning Lab hosted a delegation of French university and local school officials in June. The delegation was given a guided visit of Northern Elementary School by former principal Meribeth Gaines and a guided visit of Berea College by Associate Provost for Enrollment Management, Joe Bagnoli (also a doctoral student in EPE). The team met with UK faculty, UK administrators, and local teachers and administrators. The visit culminated in the signing of a university-level Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Kentucky and the University of Grenoble. Usher and Pascal Bressoux, director of the Educational Sciences Laboratory in Grenoble, are ongoing research collaborators. With the help of Bruno Boddaert, director of international relations for greater-Grenoble schools, they hope to conduct innovative research in schools on both sides of the Atlantic while affording opportunities for Kentucky teachers to develop international partnerships with schools in France.

Welcoming a P20 intern from France
Julien Perrault, a student at the Lycée Astier technical school in Aubenas, France, will join the Motivation and Learning Lab and the Technology and Leadership Lab for two months this fall to assist with the development of P20 online materials. Usher traveled to France to sign an internship contract with Julien and his supervisor, Prof. Fabrice Foray. Julien is the first French intern from his school to receive an international placement in the U.S.
Christine Schnittka helped middle school students and K12 teachers this summer with science education through engineering design. She taught and organized the morning session for a STEM summer camp at Jessie Clark Middle School in Fayette County. Students learned about energy, force, motion, and heat transfer through building wind turbines, solar cars, and energy efficient housing.

Schnittka and Rebecca Krall participated in the Lexmark Teacher Institute and worked with teachers to learn new STEM curricula and create their own innovative STEM curricula.

Schnittka and Molly Fisher, co-directors of the lab, hired Jennifer Ferguson as the STEM Education Lab’s graduate assistant. Ferguson is a new doctoral student in math education.

Jennifer Wilhelm served on the NSF Presidential Academic Excellence in Math and Science Teaching selection committee.

Schnittka worked with elementary and middle-level education majors this summer to charter a student chapter of the National Science Teachers Association. The leadership team consists of five undergraduate students who will work this fall to recruit members, create fun and educational science activities for the community, and promote the mission of NSTA.

Jana Bouwma-Gearhart led a group of science education students in a course cross listed between C&I and Biology with emphasis on learning ecology-based pedagogical content knowledge.

The students visited Costa Rica this summer through the Secondary STEM Teacher Preparation Improvement Through A Global Environmental Sustainability Perspective program. This project focuses on transferring real scientific activities back into secondary classrooms.

Meet the Directors (continued from page 1)

France’s philosophy of reaching every child, every day was developed early in her career as an English teacher and middle school guidance counselor.

“As public education faces unprecedented challenges of global demands for improved knowledge and skills coupled with decreased funding and increased need for high quality instruction, the time for P20 partnerships and innovative thinking is now. The goal of supporting and ensuring success for every student has never been more important than it is today. "

“I consider it an honor and a privilege to work with colleagues across the university and across the state to research and bring to scale important initiatives that hold great promise to transform educational practice to accomplish these important goals."

It’s a sentiment shared by Proffitt.

"I’m looking forward to collaborating with all Kentucky universities and school districts as we identify cutting edge innovations to support educators in reaching all students,“ Proffitt said. "This is an exciting endeavor which will allow for "outside the box" contributions to challenges facing educators as we move forward with 21st century skills and empowering students with a love of learning."
HOMEFRONT
Honoring Our Military through Education: Flexible Recruitment of New Teachers

A College of Education program associated with the College & Career Readiness Lab is partnering with the university’s Veterans Resource Center (VRC) to assist active duty and military veterans beginning or continuing with their college education and introduce them to careers in education.

The initiative, “Honoring Our Military through Education: Flexible Recruitment of New Teachers,” known as “HOMEFRONT,” focuses on the recruitment of new teachers through federally funded programs such as Troops to Teachers, Yellow Ribbon Program, and post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits. Working in cooperation with the VRC, military personnel interested in a career track in the continuation or completion of an undergraduate educational program or those interested in graduate education programs are supported through a college transition effort. Additionally, education program requirements are reviewed to identify courses that may be transformed into distance learning and/or online options to provide increased access to military personnel housed at Fort Knox or Fort Campbell.

Jeanette Groth has established links on the Curriculum & Instruction website for veterans. Check out the new “Veterans” link for the MIC program, which features Mike Hefling, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and MIC alum (May 2010). [http://education.uky.edu/EDC/content/veteran-testimonial-mic](http://education.uky.edu/EDC/content/veteran-testimonial-mic).

A brochure describing the HOMEFRONT initiative and highlighting many of the college’s programs was distributed at a recent cookout/resource fair welcoming military veterans to the UK campus. Details of a College of Education Veterans Reception hosted by UK President and First Lady Lee and Patsy Todd will be in the next newsletter.

HOMEFRONT partners are Laurie Henry, Jeannette Groth, and Joan Mazur, UK College of Education, and Tony Dotson, director of the UK Veterans Resource Center. Mazur will continue to serve as the college’s representative on the VRC Resource Team for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Graduate Assistant Joins Lab

Bethany Sharpe has been hired as the College & Career Readiness Lab’s graduate assistant. Sharpe is a former middle school teacher and new graduate student in the History Department in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Academic Readiness Program

The College & Career Readiness Lab provides training for teaching assistants in the Academic Readiness Program (ARP). ARP focuses on the implementation of a comprehensive set of interventions related to developmental education in mathematics, reading, and English for first-time, first-year, full-time students identified as “academically at-risk” at the college level.

The Teaching Assistants for the Fall 2010 Reading Labs are: Elizabeth New and Kyle Mullen (Anthropology Department), Jill Abney and Joanna Lile (History Department), along with Jason Koutsunis and Steven Taylor (Sociology Department).

Training for the Teaching Assistants who will facilitate the Reading Labs (UK100) for the Fall 2010 semester was conducted during the week of August 9-12 by Denise Probst and Bethany Sharpe. The training focused on time management, study skills, content area reading strategies, vocabulary development, critical reading and thinking, as well as pedagogy for student-centered instruction.

The lab recently partnered with Carol Hanley, associate director of the Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment, UK College of Agriculture, to look at issues related to Science Readiness at UK for incoming freshmen declaring a major in science. Hanley held a Science Readiness workshop in July with high school science teachers from central Kentucky and faculty representatives from the Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics Departments. (continued on page 6)
Conversations from this workshop and other planning meetings will be used to jumpstart this important work.

ARP partners include: Laurie Henry and Denise Probst, UK College of Education; Carol Hanley, UK College of Agriculture; Mike Mullen, Associate Provost, and Randolph Hollingsworth, Assistant Provost, UK Office of Undergraduate Education

**PluggedIn-KY**

PluggedIn-KY is an innovative, technology contextualized GED program that emphasizes the integration of 21st Century skills through problem-based, job embedded learning activities. This 6-month adult education program included attainment of the GED, Career Readiness Certificate, and one or more Microsoft Digital Literacy Certificates. Students who successfully completed this program earned 19 college credits through KCTCS and certification as a Computer Support Assistant.

PluggedIn-KY instructors who made this possible include: Dwayne Gibson and Bobbie Dixon, Computer Instructors; and Kathy Newman and Kit Hensley, GED Instructors.

The pilot class of PluggedIn-KY graduates included: Jerilyn Baker, Brandon Barnett, Jane Brock, Myrtle Buis, Tracy Cox, Danielle Gaines, Brent Gambrell, Deborah Leatherwood, and Tamara Middleton.

Plugged In-KY partners include: Laurie Henry, UK College of Education; Brenda Morris, Program Director for Harlan/Bell Adult Basic Education, Southeast Kentucky Community Technical College (SKCTC); Marilyn Lyons, Kentucky Adult Education, Council on Postsecondary Education.