

# ITDE

Instructional Technology and  
Distance Education

Friends of ITDE  
Newsletter

NSU Fischler School of  
Education and  
Human Services

February 2008

## Meet the Staff

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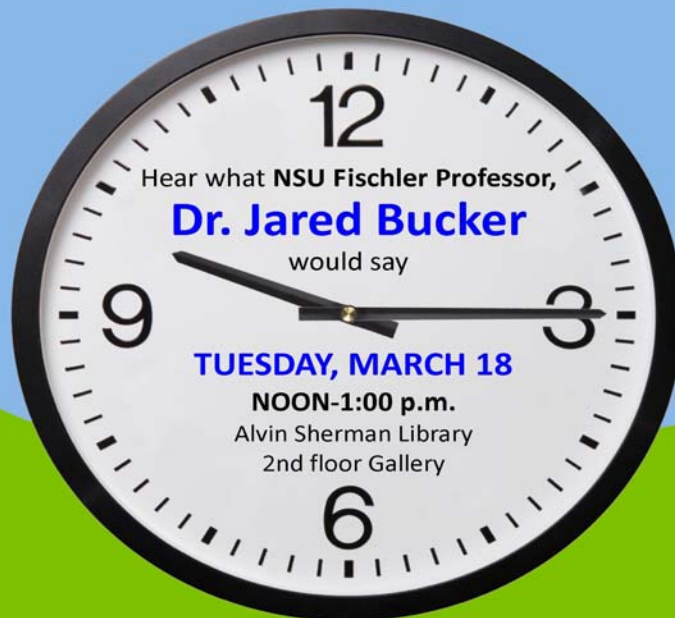
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Todd Curless, Ph.D.

Michael Simonson, Ph.D.

## ITDE Program Professor Presents: The Last Lecture Series

*If you only had 30 minutes left ...  
WHAT would you say?*



### *The Last Lecture Series*

Come hear Dr. Bucker describe what he has found to be most important in life and the experiences and people that have shaped him.

*\*Complimentary lunch provided*

Please RSVP to (954)262.7253

For more information, contact Robin Cooper at [robicoop@nova.edu](mailto:robicoop@nova.edu)  
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## ITDE at the AECT conference – October 2007



Dr. Todd Curless at AECT



Drs. Marsha Burmeister and  
Al Mizell at AECT

## ITDE Faculty

**A. Jared Bucker**  
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Andrew Jared Bucker teaches courses in instructional technology, instructional media, and online education. He received his Ph.D. in Educational and Psychological Studies in 2001 from the University of Miami, where he also obtained his Microsoft Systems Engineering Certification. A native of Quebec, Jared maintains a residence in Montreal.

**Todd Curless**  
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Todd Curless teaches courses in instructional design and development, instructional systems, and theories of teaching and learning. He has considerable experience in the design and development of instructional materials for training applications in industry and government.

### "Helping Close the Digital Divide for Financially-Disadvantaged Seniors"

#### ITDE Program Professor Dr. Al Mizell and Cecil Sugarman, NSU/SeniorComp

Look around your SeniorNet classes. Who do you see? Most of these students are fairly affluent, middle class, retired seniors. Although there are some exceptions, SeniorNet seems to be helping the group of seniors who can afford to buy their own computers and pay a monthly charge for an ISP. Now and then, we help a financially disadvantaged senior who tells us that he or she can't afford the membership and class fee. With SeniorNet's help, we arrange for their membership and free tuition for a few of our classes.

Over the last few years, we've begun being concerned about the rest of those seniors—those who can't afford their own computers but still want to become part of the information age. They have pride and motivation but lack the needed financial resources. What can we do for them?

After talking about it for more than a year, Cecil Sugarman, one of our senior volunteers pursued a foundation grant. We (Al and Cecil) then wrote a formal funding proposal for a small pilot program and submitted it to Nova Southeastern University, our SeniorNet host and sponsor, and had it approved to submit to the funding agency.

To make a short story even shorter, we received a \$10,000 one-year grant from the Mandel Foundation of Ohio to run a pilot project. We named it SeniorComp to stress its emphasis on the assembly and ownership of the computer while maintaining its link with SeniorNet. When we found that we did not have sufficient funds to obtain the computers, 17-inch monitors, and printers that we wanted each

student to have, Dell Computer provided us with several thousand dollars in addition so we could get the right computers and software to make the project successful. As a result, eight to ten financially-disadvantaged (i.e., those with less than \$18,000 annual income) seniors with interest, motivation, a secure location, and a telephone, were provided with a computer, monitor, and printer. During an initial computer assembly class, they were shown how to partially disassemble and then reassemble their own computer. Although they only removed and reinstalled a few major parts, they did begin to acquire a hands-on understanding of the internal workings of a computer in the process and also allayed some of their fears and concerns about damaging the computer while learning how to use it.



Following the initial three-week orientation, the students took their computers home with them and connected them to their own phone lines so they could practice their new skills at home between classes. The grant then paid their fees to attend four SeniorNet class. These classes began with the first SeniorNet “Getting Started” course. That was followed by “Introduction to Works,” “Introduction to the Internet,” and one more class that met the needs of that particular group (e.g., “Intermediate Internet,” “Word Processing,” “Graphics,” “Genealogy,” or “Digital Photography”). Following the end of the project, the students were encouraged to become coaches. This would allow them to then take additional classes without any charge.

The students were helped to feel ownership in the project because they were asked to pay approximately 10% of the computer cost when they were accepted (that is, approximately \$50). This was considered to be a leasing fee for the first year; ownership of the computers was then turned over to the students at the end of the year. Having a “leasing fee” helped insure that the computer remained available for an alternate applicant in case the current student dropped out of the program during the year. However, to date, no students have dropped out. We have now completed our fourth group of senior citizens. Of the 41 seniors, only two out of the 41 did not complete all four of the courses. Thus, we have had a 95% completion rate.



We assumed that those participating, following the interview and initial orientation would be so appreciative of the opportunity that they would remain active during the entire year. For the vast majority, this has been proven to be an accurate assumption. Since the project has continued to be successful, we plan to seek extended funding to enlarge the project. We also anticipate sharing the model with others in an effort to encourage them to seek similar grants, using this program as a model for success. Thus, we can help fulfill SeniorNet’s mission: “. . . to provide older adults education for and access to computer technologies to enhance their lives and enable them to share their knowledge and wisdom.”

#### Point of Information: Florida Distance Learning Association

ITDE folks are highly involved with distance learning so the USDLA and your state affiliate in distance learning are natural professional organizations for your interests. Speaking for the Florida Distance Learning Association (FDLA), we are trying to take our activities to a broader level so we can reach all areas of the state. FDLA is in good financial shape but we are in need of both members and leadership. A few of us, from the President on, are working hard to provide benefits for the members.

Right now, we need a few folks to volunteer for positions on the FDLA Board of Directors. Would you consider working with us? If so, please contact either the President, Risa Blair at [dr.risa@gmail.com](mailto:dr.risa@gmail.com) or the Secretary, Al Mizell at [mizell@nova.edu](mailto:mizell@nova.edu) or 800-986-3223; ext. 8642.



#### Friends of ITDE Lost and Found

Help us locate ITDE Alumni who have not updated their contact information, but would still like to hear from us! Let us know and we’ll send you an NSU alumni item to thank you.

## ITDE Faculty

**Anymir Orellana**  
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Anymir Orellana teaches courses in distance education and instructional technology. She also has a strong background in the fields of information systems, informatics, and computer sciences and engineering.

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Michael Simonson teaches courses in distance education technologies and management of instructional technology and distance education organizations. He is co-editor of the Quarterly Review of Distance Education and editor of Distance Learning magazine.

## FDLA Spring Workshop: Vodcasting

The FDLA's Spring Workshop will focus on media for **vodcasting**, a powerful and increasingly popular method for delivering instruction. Learn more about using Garage Band, Photo Story, Movie Maker, and I-Movie to create engaging content for your learners.

The workshop is scheduled for **April 26, 2008** in Hallandale Beach. Sound interesting? Let us notify you when program details are finalized--just send us an e-mail with the subject line "Vodcast Workshop" and you'll be among the first to know. The workshop will be limited to 40 participants.

## ITDE Cluster 2 Reunion

★ **Debra Maddox, Ed.D. '99**, would like to plan an ITDE Class Reunion in November at the AECT ([www.aect.org](http://www.aect.org)) Conference in Orlando. If you are interested in participating or would like to be part of the Planning Committee, please contact Casey Elise Zagaria at (800)-986-3223 x8474 or [elise@nova.edu](mailto:elise@nova.edu).

## Friends of ITDE News



★ **Dawn Brown - Cross, PT, Ed.D. '00**, has recently completed a 3-year term on the American Physical Therapy Association's Annual Conference Planning Committee and a 4-year term as the Director of Cultural Diversity for the Florida Physical Therapy Association. Dr. Brown-Cross recently became certified as a Lymphedema Therapist, and is currently an Associate Professor and the Curriculum Chair for the Entry-Level Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Nova Southeastern University.

★ **Jeanette Jones, Ed.D.** - is now a Lead Faculty in the Masters of Ed program for American Intercontinental University in their online campus. Dr. Jones also is a Registered Corporate Coach.

★ **Laura Popovich, Ed.D. '04**, was recently published in the September/October 2007 edition of *TechTrends*, the official publication for the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT). The project was titled, ***Poultry Disease Risk Management: Biosecurity Instructional CD-ROM*** and was selected as an example of outstanding instructional product or design in a running feature titled "Instructional Design Portfolio." Originally funded by the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association, the CD-ROM was created to provide training and support to manage the increasingly risky issue of disease prevention (Biosecurity) in poultry production. The learners were at numerous levels from breeder and hatchery employees to government and university animal health scientists. Dr. Popovich's contribution was at the instructional technology and design level.

## Contribute to the Friends of ITDE Newsletter

Do you have news, publications or best practices you would like to share? Email Casey at [elise@nova.edu](mailto:elise@nova.edu).