



ICASIT

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR APPLIED STUDIES IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
School of Public Policy, George Mason University

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In This Issue...

- What's New at ICASIT?
- ICASIT Awarded \$600,000 Mellon Grant
- KM Roundtable Grows
- Dr. Phillip Joins ICASIT
- Distance Learning: Kampala to Bucharest
- Internet TIC Has Busy Year
- Internet TIC Convenes VIT 2000
- ICASIT Now in School of Public Policy
- ICASIT Celebrates 10 Years!

ICASIT Staff...

- David Melia, Manager
- Dr. Barbara Phillip
- Dr. Virgil Frizzell
- Bhaskar Choudhury
- Chris Lockard

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Check out the ICASIT Web site to learn more about ICASIT projects.

What's New at ICASIT?

This issue of the ICASIT Newsletter marks a new and very exciting phase of the Center's life. We are now a part of GMU's School of Public Policy (SPP). Dr. Kingsley Haynes, Dean of the SPP, has made it possible for ICASIT to be an integral part of the School's programs, in research, scholarship, teaching, community outreach and many other activities. During the six months ICASIT has been in SPP we received our largest ever foundation grant, from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and other awards—in aggregate over \$750,000 since June. One of the most welcome grants came from an Alexandria-based Internet design company, The Redmon Group. TRG's CEO, John Redmon, one of ICASIT's first employees, went on to found a successful company after completing his graduate studies at GMU. The grant will be used to fund other scholarships, such as the one that gave John his start. We're very grateful. ICASIT also celebrated its tenth birthday in May and President Merten, Provost Peter Stearns, Dean Haynes and other ICASIT clients and friends were on hand. For the future we have high ambitions—as always. We have several new alliances with campus groups—projects with the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, SPP's Program on Social and Organizational Learning, Computer Science, and more. For outreach we will be continuing to lead the Virginia Knowledge Management Round Tables—over 80 companies and agencies are now members. And overseas we are already managing projects in over 20 countries and will add several more in the coming months. Just last week we were informed by the director of a research institute in Cameroon that the system was up and running, connecting him to Oxford, Princeton and other sites with colleague centers. Please check in with Bhaskar, David or myself to learn more about us and possibly participate in ICASIT projects.



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ICASIT Awarded \$600,000 Mellon Grant

The latest grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, for \$600,000 over the next three and a half years, brings ICASIT's total funding from the foundation to more than \$2.6 million.

With this grant, ICASIT adds five new countries—Jordan, Vietnam, Guatemala, Cuba, and Ethiopia—to its roster of more than twenty developing nations worldwide that benefit from its connectivity projects. The new funding extends ICASIT's efforts to spread Internet connectivity to organizations that are central to the Mellon Foundation's programs in population and forced migration. Other Mellon-funded ICASIT efforts include solution-based studies of Internet linkages for technology centers in developing nations; return-on-investment studies of university-based distance learning; and international connectivity studies and implementation for centers in Africa, South America, and Asia. ☐

KM Roundtable Grows

Two years ago, Drs. Ruth and Frizzell of ICASIT, with support from Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology, initiated a Knowledge Management (KM) Roundtable. The Roundtable sought to broaden the application and advance the effectiveness of Knowledge Management practices in organizations. The community at large - private, university, nonprofit, and government - has been very supportive. KM Roundtable events have been held regularly at CIT, AMS, MITRE, CSC, and SAIC. At the most recent Roundtable event at CSC, Kent Greenes, CKO & Senior VP SAIC, presented, "*E-Knowledge: Learning Faster than the Speed of Change*". A report of the presentation may be viewed at www.icasit.org/km/. 85 people attended. With this event, six KM Roundtables have been held. Presently, 180 practitioners representing 80 organizations are involved in the KM Roundtable. Additional information on KM and the KM Roundtable can be viewed at www.icasit.org/km/. ☐

Dr. Phillip Joins ICASIT

Dr. Barbara Phillip has joined ICASIT as a researcher in international Knowledge Management. With a background in international development assistance, Dr. Phillip has worked with organizations like the World Bank, UNDP, JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and AED (Academy for Educational Development). Her research in the past three years has focused on issues related to the effective use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and knowledge networking in developing countries. Dr. Phillip works primarily as an independent researcher, consultant and occasional instructor. She is a native French speaker with regional expertise in Africa. ☐

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Distance Learning: Kampala to Bucharest

Professor Ruth recently completed a project with Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health as part of a grant to ICASIT and JHSPH from the Mellon Foundation. The project is to establish predictors for success in the deployment of Distance Learning in developing nations. The focus is the use of JHSPH's on-line Masters program in Public Health in a health center at Kampala, Uganda. JHSPH professors designed the modules and Dr. Ruth and ICASIT staff are developing evaluation methodologies that make it possible to assess results of the learning events. To prepare for the study, Ruth and ICASIT team members Kim Hansen, David Melia and Bhaskar Choudhury examined the results of a similar project in Bucharest, Romania, in 1997. ICASIT sent questionnaires to over 400 professors who took an Internet course developed in cooperation between George Mason University and the Romanian Academy of Science. The model data will be directly applicable in Uganda. Ruth estimates that there are at least 50 developing nations that can use the same approach. "Most of the time researchers don't even do this kind of analysis beforehand", says Ruth. "Our model will be helpful and should save a lot of false starts in distance learning projects, and probably has some application in developed nations too." □

Internet TIC Has Busy Year

In 1998, GMU joined UVA, VaTech, and CNU to form a unique consortium, the *Internet Technology Innovation Center* (Internet TIC). ICASIT is an integral part of this partnership. Funded with a 5-year, \$2 million grant from Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology, Internet TIC assists entrepreneurs develop and test e-business strategies; involves startup companies in prototyping Internet products and services; and works with established companies to improve their business practices and profitability by adopting new Internet-based technologies. Available statistics indicate an encouraging start. In the first year, 105 companies were assisted. 29 R&D projects funded privately at over \$1 million were undertaken. Over \$3 million in federally funded research was conducted. State and Federal proposals for \$5 million were submitted, and 24 professional development courses and e-commerce courses were taught. More information on Internet TIC can be viewed at www.InternetTIC.org □

Internet TIC Convenes VIT 2000

Last year Internet TIC sponsored Virginia Internet Technology (VIT) Week '99 in Blacksburg, VA. This year, September 19-21, Christopher Newport University hosted VIT 2000 in Williamsburg, VA. The conference focused on e-commerce related issues. Over the period of three days, 240 participants were exposed to a very high caliber of speakers and excellent presentations made by topical experts, industry and government leaders. Mike Daniels, Chairman of Network Solutions, Paul Misener, Vice President with Amazon.com, and Mark Warner, Managing Director of Columbia Capital, made keynote presentations. Featured speakers, Virginia Lieutenant Governor Hager and Secretary of Technology Upson, presented overviews on the importance of the Internet to Virginia's economy. Additional presentations encompassed issues in the areas of e-strategy, e-government, the future of networking, risk analysis, mergers & acquisitions, and initial public offerings. □

ICASIT Now in School of Public Policy

ICASIT has become one of the affiliated centers in George Mason University's School of Public Policy (SPP) with offices on the second floor of Finley Building. Dr. Stephen Ruth, ICASIT director, also a professor in the SPP, and the ICASIT staff have completed the move from spaces in the Enterprise Building, just off campus. "We are really enjoying the opportunities that SPP makes possible", says Ruth. "With a distinguished faculty, projects all over the world and the excitement of one hundred fifty Ph.D. students, SPP is an ideal spot for us to learn and contribute to existing GMU initiatives." □

ICASIT Celebrates 10 Years!

ICASIT celebrated its 10th anniversary at a luncheon on May 9, 2000. Nearly 60 colleagues, partners, and well-wishers were in attendance. Dr. Kingsley Haynes, Dean of the School of Public Policy was the speaker. President Alan Merten; Provost Peter Stearns; Ann Armstrong, president of the Center for Innovative Technology; and other ICASIT colleagues from academia and industry attended the celebration. ICASIT director, Steve Ruth, took the opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support. □

Snapshots

David Melia:

New ICASIT Manager

Professor Ruth recently appointed David Melia as the manager of ICASIT for the '00-'01 academic year. David takes over from Jeff Theobald. David earned his undergraduate degree in Communications and Government & Politics from George Mason University in 1998. His previous employment experience includes serving as Assistant for Planning and Logistics for the 1998 World Congress on Information Technology and Administrative Coordinator of the Council of Better Business Bureaus BBBOnline Privacy Program. He is currently an MBA student in the GMU School of Management.

Returning ICASIT Member

Bhaskar Choudhury re-joined ICASIT in August 2000 after spending two years as an Investment Research Analyst, specializing in the Information Technology sector, at Alchemy Capital Management, India. He is a PhD candidate in the School of Public Policy at George Mason University. His areas of research interest span the spectrum of the Internet. Bhaskar earned his MBA from GMU and an undergraduate degree in Marketing from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Bhaskar acquired competency in Lotus Notes and Network administration and support while working for ICASIT and the School of Management as he pursued his MBA.

ICASIT Departure

In August 2000, Jeff Theobald, ICASIT manager for the 1999-2000 year, graduated from the GMU School of Management MBA program. He currently works at American Management Systems on Web user interface design and estrategy consulting.

Looking for a Job?

ICASIT is recruiting candidates for special projects. Significant technology experience, especially on WWW-based research and HTML, is desirable. Contact Professor Ruth via email (ruth@gmu.edu).

~ Editors ~

Bhaskar Choudhury & David Melia