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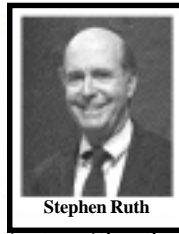MSN 3C6
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Check out the ICASIT Web site to learn more about ICASIT projects.

What's New at ICASIT?

We have had another busy semester. Our major concentration has been SPP's growing recognition as a Knowledge Management presence world wide. In addition to our masters progam in KM lead by Dr. Mark Addleson, the KM research site was given a five star rating by a UK group. Dr. Virgil Frizzel, who created and sustained our popular KM Round Tables is leaving but Jay Chaitzel and Clay Dean have already stepped in and have arranged the next KMRT at George Washington University on May 16th,.

Stephen Ruth

Both have excellent KM credentials and we're lucky to have them on the team. Our projects with other GMU units continue to be active. We recently completed a conflict management module with Dr. Dan Druckman of ICAR and have linkages with SOM, SITE and CAS as well. Our largest planned project is a possible multimillion dollar grant proposal with Virginia Commonwealth University centered around delivering telemedicine services to developing countries. Collaborators include Dr. Ron Merrill, director of VCU's MediTac group, Chuck Doarn of VCU Med School and Dr.Arnauld Niccogosian of SPP. Arnauld was formerly the Chief Medical Officer at NASA.

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NASA Hosts KM Roundtable

NASA hosted the Washington D.C. region's Knowledge Management Roundtable (KM RT) series at NASA Headquarters in Washington D.C. on February 6. Including this event, twelve meetings have been held since initiation of the KM RT three years ago. More than 360 practitioners representing about 170 organizations are now involved in the KM RT program.

KMRT is held in conjunction with ICASIT and Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology (CIT), the KM RT series seeks to broaden the application and advance the effectiveness of KM practice in organizations in the region.❏

ICASIT Site Receives Five Star Rating

ICASIT's web site recently received high praise from Emerald Management Reviews (www.emeraldinsight.com), an organization based in the United Kingdom that scans management and technology resources on a global scale. "ICASIT has a broadly focused effort on the more effective use of corporate knowledge and wisdom to improve collaboration, operations, and performance," states the citation describing the ICASIT web site.

Emerald Management Reviews judges sites based on style, structure, ease of use, quality of information, and usefulness to the practitioner. Every site receives a quality rating between one and five stars and is categorized with all the major aspects of management covered. "What's especially nice about this is that many of these sites we are compared with have full-time staffs to manage the content," says Stephen Ruth, Director of ICASIT. "We have always done it with a combination of skilled students like David Melia and Jiwan Giri, and updates to the databases are made by School of Public Policy graduate students."❏

ICASIT Students' Publications

During the past five months two articles authored by ICASIT staff member Jiwan Giri were accepted for presentation and publication. The first, a paper entitled "Digital Divide: Exploring National and International Approaches to Bridge the Digital Divide and Formulating a Strategic Model That Can Be Implemented in Developing Countries" was presented at a discussion session, ICT and Development for Computer Association of Nepal, IT Conference, January 26-27, 2002 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The paper will be included in Information and Communication Technology Review, IT Journal, Computer Association of Nepal. The second paper entitled "Patient Privacy and Security in Telemedicine Environment: Investigating Possible Privacy and Security Issues within Internet Based Telemedicine Information Systems from an International Perspective" was accepted for presentation at a Telemedicine Symposium organized by TICD: Telemedicine in Care Delivery, The International Society on Biotelemetry and The National Institute of Health, Rome, Italy. The conference will be held from June 12-16, 2002 in Pisa, Italy.❏

ICASIT

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR APPLIED STUDIES IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ICASIT and George Washington University Partner on Two New Projects

On February 27th, at a luncheon at George Washington University's faculty club, it was announced that GW's School of Business and Public Management, its School of Engineering Management and GMU's ICASIT are partnering on two projects that can lead to significant results. The meeting celebrated the founding of the GW's new Knowledge Management Institute. ICASIT's Director, Professor Steve Ruth, has been named to the Institute's Board of Governors in recognition of GMU's major role in Knowledge Management in the D.C. region.

Plans have been made for KM seminars, shared research and international curriculum development so that GW and GMU students, especially at PhD level, can broaden research agendas. Dr. Michael Stankowski of GW's Engineering Management program, and a co-founder of the Institute, said "the GW-GMU relationship is a win-win opportunity for KM researchers, since the two universities are major KM resources in our region." ICASIT's KM Roundtables will be integrated into the Institute's programs soon. Dr. Virgil Frizell, founder of the KMRT, has been responsible for their steady growth—over 170 regional firms now participate.

At the same meeting Dr. Bill Halal of GW's Business School described plans for the joint program between his school and GMU's School of Public Policy for extended deployment of a technology. This forecast that uses experts' assessments to judge the likelihood of significant events in science and technology. Previously called the GW Forecast, the service is being renamed "TechCast" and will be jointly managed by Halal and Ruth. GMU's School of Public Policy Dean Kingsley Haynes and GW's Business School Dean Susan Phillips have been enthusiastic supporters of this project. The two deans sponsored a seminar to launch the idea last year at GW's Ashburn Campus. Ruth and Halal expect to launch Techcast in spring. ICASIT's David Melia and Jiwan Giri have been providing technical support for the project.❑

Grant Enables ICASIT to Facilitate JSTOR in Developing Countries

As part of a continuing grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, ICASIT has been working to link universities in developing nations to JSTOR, a major research tool that Mellon Foundation introduced in 1995. JSTOR is widely used in developed nations, but only sparingly in developing countries. With an initial focus on core scholarly journals, the primary objectives of JSTOR are to:

1. Improve dramatically access to journal literature for faculty, students, and other scholars by linking bitmapped images of journal pages to a powerful search engine;
2. To mitigate some of the vexing economic problems of libraries by easing storage problems (thereby saving prospective capital costs involved in building more shelf space), and also by reducing operating costs associated with retrieving back issues and reshelving them; and
3. To address issues of conservation and preservation such as broken runs, mutilated pages, and long-term deterioration of paper copy. For more information about JSTOR visit JSTOR at www.JSTOR.org

ICASIT has helped to install JSTOR at Mahidol University, near Bangkok, Thailand and is currently working with University of Costa Rica, University of Havana, Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Columbia, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, and several other sites where ICASIT has ongoing projects (www.icasit.org/intlproj.html). Working with the assistant director of Mahidol University's demography center, Dr. Varachai Thongtai, Professor Ruth and then ICASIT manager Kim Hanson completed initial JSTOR planning as part of Hanson's Asia field trip in 1999. It required two more years for Mahidol's Internet bandwidth to rise to a level where JSTOR could be implemented effectively. Now, after a year of JSTOR use, Thongtai reported that utilization was exceptionally high university-wide. In a recent report to ICASIT Thongtai sent detailed usage statistics for JSTOR, clearly showing the tool's effectiveness as a long-term asset to researchers.❑

ICASIT Welcomes Three New Colleagues

Shyam Enjeti

Shyam Enjeti has joined ICASIT as a research associate. Shyam is working on his Master's degree in Telecommunications at George Mason University. He earned his Bachelors in Engineering Degree in Instrumentation and Electronics from Bangalore University, India.

Jay Chaitzel & Clay Dean

Jay Chaitzel and Clay Dean have joined ICASIT as Knowledge Management Consultants. Jay Chaitzel works as a KM Officer at NASA, Goddard, and Clay works for the Knowledge Management Support Office of the Chief Engineer Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

ICASIT Says Goodbye To...

David Melia

David Melia who has been the ICASIT Manager for two years, will be graduating with an MBA degree from GMU this semester. He is leaving ICASIT to pursue an MA degree in TV/Radio/Film at Syracuse University. David has headed a number of important projects and has been instrumental in the adaptation of various new technologies at ICASIT. He will be greatly missed at ICASIT, and all the members of ICASIT wish him well in his future endeavors.

Virgil Frizzel

Dr. Virgil Frizzel, who has led ICASIT's KMRT's for three years, has turned over that reponsibility to Jay Chaitzel and Clay Dean. Virgil founded the Knowledge Management Roundtable and he has been responsible for the success and steady growth of KMRT to over 170 participating firms in the region. He will be missed at ICASIT.

~ Editors ~
Cory Nishi & Shyam Enjeti