

# ICASIT

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

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[www.icasit.org](http://www.icasit.org)

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- **Jiwan Giri**
- **Cory Nishi**
- **Akintunde Lawal**

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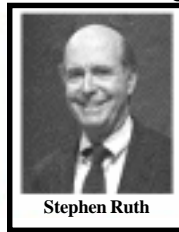
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Check out the ICASIT  
Web site to learn more  
about ICASIT projects.

## What's New at ICASIT?

In our last newsletter we were able to report almost a dozen new partnerships, on campus and beyond. Those partnerships—with George Washington University, the National War College, the World Bank, and many more—continue to flourish and increase. But our major progress during the last few months has been on the international scene. As part of a continuing program sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in New York, we have recently added four new projects in developing nations. In each case we set up a technology solution that makes it possible for a center in a developing nation to gain or improve connectivity with a partner institution in the US..... The primary partners this time are the demography departments at Princeton University and University of Michigan. Project sites are in Cuba, Columbia, South Africa and Nepal..... We have just completed our eleventh Knowledge Management Roundtable meeting. KMRT now includes over 130 active partners: businesses, organizations, federal and state agencies and very active involvement by the US military departments..... We have a lot of new people to welcome to the ICASIT team and we also are looking for some new employees—undergrad or grad students who are willing to take some technical and research projects and run with them...please refer people to me or to David Melia, ICASIT manager.



Stephen Ruth

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## ICASIT Partners with GW on Technology Forecast

ICASIT manager Professor Steve Ruth, and George Washington University Professor William Halal recently announced a partnership whereby ICASIT and the GW Business School will jointly enhance GW's widely known technology forecast. The current version, called "**The GW Forecast**," will be changed, says Halal, "to something that reflects the joint effort that we are sharing. I favor G2, for the two Georges involved, as the new name, but that will be decided later." Among the global topics that will be presented in the forecast are Electronic Commerce, public policy issues like electronic

voting and UCITA and a variety of perspectives on the Digital Divide. ICASIT personnel working on the project are manager David Melia and Jiwan Giri. □

## More International Projects for ICASIT

ICASIT has recently set up programs for introducing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) assistance to demography centers in Cuba, Columbia and Nepal. Under a grant to ICASIT from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation ICASIT has already initiated over thirty ICT projects in developing nations, improving connectivity to Mellon-supported US universities, like Princeton, Johns Hopkins, University of North Carolina, University of Washington, University of Pennsylvania and others. ICASIT's director, Professor Steve Ruth, met recently with Drs. Jose Romero and Miriam Rodriguez, who manage demography centers at the University of Havana. "We developed a good understanding," says Ruth, "and I'm sure that after I visit the sites in January, it will be possible to set up several connectivity projects linking Havana U. with Princeton's demography center. Dr. Marta Tienda, manager of the Princeton center, has facilitated the interchange.

In Bogata, ICASIT arranged for ICT improvements at CCRP, a demography center associated with the University of the Andes with the help of center director Dr. Alcides Estrada. CCRP is also linked to the Princeton center. A continuing project linking several study sites from Acornhoek, a satellite campus of Witswatersand University in South Africa to US counterparts is now being reviewed for additional ICASIT support.

The Nepal project aims to assist the Population Ecology Research Laboratory, located in Rampur, near the capital city of Katmandu. ICASIT's Jiwan Giri, a PhD student in GMU's School of Information Technology and Engineering, is working with Nepalese specialists and Dr. William Axinn of the University of Michigan's Population Studies Center to establish a system that will ultimately permit Internet-based Distance Learning between US universities and the University of Nepal. Giri sees the project as having several possible outcomes. "First we can assist them in getting maximum advantage from their local Internet Service Provider in Katmandu. Longer term perhaps we can move to satellite-based transmission to allow the needed bandwidth for on-line learning." Giri, who is from Nepal, is hopeful about the project. "There is definitely a cadre of skilled people and I'm sure this will eventually work." □

### ICASIT Students' Publications

During the past five months three articles coauthored by ICASIT staff members were accepted for presentation and publication. The first, a paper co-authored by Bhaskar Choudhury entitled "[Assessing the Yield of IT Projects in Developing Nations: Aggregated Models Are Not Sufficient](#)" was accepted for the PICMET conference in Portland, Oregon this summer. The paper described approaches to measurement of technology diffusion in developing nations. Min Shi co-authored "Distance Learning in Developing Countries: Is Anyone Measuring Cost-Benefits?" which has been published in *TechKnowLogia*, Volume 3, Issue 3, 2001, pp 35-38. Jiwani Giri's paper "The Distance Learning Playing Field: Do We Need Different Hashmarks?" has been accepted for the Fall 2001 issue of *Technology Source*, an on-line refereed journal. □

The articles may be viewed at [www.icasit.org/coauthor.htm](http://www.icasit.org/coauthor.htm)

### Ruth Presents Seminars in Vienna

Stephen Ruth, ICASIT director, and Dr. Ted Tschudy, a human behavior consultant, delivered a series of seminars on management of dispersed teams at the World Conference on Systemic Management, held May 1-6 in Vienna, Austria. Ruth also presented a paper, called "Teamwork in Cyberspace" at the conference. Ruth and Tschudy also coauthored a paper on this subject, "[Exploring the Middle Ground: A Course on Teaming in Cyberspace.](#)" □

### Melia Named to Board of Visitors

David Melia, Manager of ICASIT, has been selected by the George Mason University Board of Visitors to serve as the Student Representative for the 2001-2002 term. The 16 member Board of Visitors (BOV) is composed of community and business leaders appointed by the Governor of Virginia and is responsible for setting the goals and objectives of George Mason University. Each year, the BOV selects a Student Representative and a Student Alternate to serve as nonvoting members and bring student perspective, feedback and concerns to the Board.

"I look forward to serving the student body and the entire George Mason University community" states Melia, "being selected was quite an honor." Among issues Melia hopes to address during his term are the development of new facilities and resources to accommodate the growth of GMU and improving student services such as parking and customer service. In addition to serving as ICASIT Manager,

Melia is a second-year graduate student pursuing a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree, graduating in May 2002. □

### ICASIT's KM Site Mentioned in HBS Survey

This summer HBS Working Knowledge listed ICASIT's Knowledge Management Web site as one to watch. Associated with the Harvard Business School, HBS Working Knowledge, an online weekly, provides business information on management topics and features interviews with industry leaders, book recommendations and Web site reviews. Of ICASIT's site, the review said, "features include a nice glossary of KM terms, links to case studies, industry events, and an extensive list of online resources and articles. Think of ICASIT not as a destination but as the portal that gets you to where you want to go." □

### Knowledge Management Roundtable Grows

The School of Public Policy hosted the tenth and eleventh events in the Washington D.C. region's Knowledge Management Roundtable (KM RT) series at GMU's Arlington Campus August 16 and November 15. With these events, eleven meetings have been held since initiation of the KM RT three years ago, and attendance now averages 52 participants. More than 290 practitioners representing over 130 organizations are now involved in the KM RT program. 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.

CIT's goal is to increase the Commonwealth's economic competitiveness and quality of life by advancing the development of technology in Virginia and by creating and retaining technology-based jobs and businesses. As part of its efforts to achieve these results, CIT has provided grants to ICASIT to help initiate a shared KM culture among interested organizations in Virginia. Subsequently, the two convened the first KM Roundtable in March 1999, and since that meeting a KM RT event has been organized every quarter.

The August meeting presented a panel of five KM experts representing industry, the federal government, and academia; the panel addressed the present state of KM practice and what we might look for in the future. The November meeting featured two leading KM practitioners and researchers who provided an overview of their recent work on how much our organizations invest in KM and how can we measure the return on that investment in a talk entitled "Show Me the Money: A Practical Framework for KM Metrics." □

Reports on this and other KM RT events may be viewed at [www.icasit.org/km/kmrt](http://www.icasit.org/km/kmrt)

### Snapshots

### ICASIT Welcomes Three New Members

#### Dr. Nancy Shaw

Nancy C. Shaw joined George Mason University in Fall 2000 as an Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems. Dr. Shaw earned a B.B.A. in Marketing and an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Kentucky and a M.Sc. in Management and a Ph.D. in Information Systems from the National University of Singapore. She completed additional post-doc work in Artificial Intelligence at the Japan-Singapore AI Institute.

#### Paige Risser

Paige Risser, a student in George Mason University's MFA program in creative writing, is a writer for the School of Public Policy, covering its people, publications and events. Before going back to school, she worked in communications for the American Red Cross and the Peace Corps, and served as a Peace Corps health volunteer in Paraguay. Paige holds a BA in journalism from Indiana University and someday hopes to compete in the EcoChallenge.

#### Akintunde Lawal

Akintunde is currently a senior pursuing a degree in Management Information Systems. He enjoys web development and design and is currently the Webmaster for George Mason University Operations. He's glad to be the newest member of the ICASIT team and hopes to learn a lot during his one year stint at ICASIT.

### ICASIT Says Goodbye To...

#### Min Shi

Min Shi has left ICASIT to study for a PhD in Technology Management at Rutgers University. Min was active in several technology tasks at ICASIT and also published an article on diffusion of distance learning in developing nations. (see Students' Publications story) He will be missed.

~ Editors ~

Cory Nishi & Akintunde Lawal