ICASIT Staff...

➢ **Jennifer Mattingly,** *Co-Manager*

➢ **Kimberly Stewart,** *Co-Manager*

➢ **Jeff Theobald**

➢ **Virgil Frizzell**

➢ **Imad Abi-Saleh**

➢ **Jenny Yang**

Visit ICASIT...

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OR

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

What's New at ICASIT?

We have just completed the busiest six months in our history , with developments on four fronts. Our Internet Connectivity Project, linking overseas centers researching population, nutrition and cell biology to their US university partners—such as Johns Hopkins, Princeton, and UNC—has been our most active. We have also added five new technology projects—in Morocco, Jordan, Palestine, South Africa and Uganda. I just returned from a trip to scope the Kampala and Durban sites, and my ICASIT colleagues are conducting field visits to our projects in Costa

Stephen Ruth

Rica, Mexico, China, Romania and Thailand before graduation week. Second, sponsored by Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology (CIT), ICASIT has become a very active partner with Northern Virginia businesses in setting up Knowledge Management (KM) "roundtables" to facilitate the increase in awareness of KM in the region. The first of these was in early March at CIT. We are grateful to CIT, AMS, CSC and the other initial sponsors, to Mr. Steve Denning, the World Bank's Chief Knowledge Officer, and Dr. Sami AlBanna of CSC, who gave valuable KM presentations. Third, we have established seven distance learning (DL) experiments university-wide at GMU under a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This research is aimed at getting better information on the real costs and benefits of DL. The literature on assessment of DL is becoming increasingly cautionary—especially about the quality of DL research, (examples can be found at collegeboard.org/press/html/990407.html and www.ihep.com/difference .pdf.) Fourth, we have a new project with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. ICASIT is assisting SPH in a large DL project in Africa in knowledge management, Internet deployment and pedagogical assessment.

We are really pleased to be collocated with GMU's Entrepreneurship Center. Our team and theirs work closely with local businesses including many Internet start-ups.

You can find out more about ICASIT on our web site or call me at (703) 993-1789.

Stephen Ruth
Professor, School of Management, GMU
Director of ICASIT
http://www.icasit.org ❑

ICASIT Expertise Applied at Mobil

As a part of its ongoing relationship with Mobil Corporation, ICASIT recently completed two technology-related projects for Mobil's Global Security Division. The first deliverable was a redesigned Intranet site that will allow Mobil employees to find internal security information more effectively. The second deliverable was a Lotus Notes database that will be used as an address book, accessible through the Web by all Global Security employees. Both projects were well received, and ICASIT looks forward to continuing its partnership with Mobil, providing them with low unit cost IT solutions for their business needs. ❑

Knowledge Management Conference a Success

Under a grant from CIT, ICASIT convened the first Knowledge Management Roundtable at CIT in early March. The meeting was attended by founding members from large and small private sector companies, as well as from the university, nonprofit, and government sectors. The 30 members assembled to hear about and discuss KM practices and to develop goals and a charter for future meetings. Mr. Stephen Denning, Chief Knowledge Officer at the World Bank, and Mr. Sami AlBanna, Chief Architect for the Corporate Knowledge Program at CSC, made the keynote presentations. A working group will finalize the charter and determine the timing and content of the next meeting, which will be held in early summer. ❑

ICASIT Goes To Romania

For more than five years ICASIT has made the Internet a reality for researchers at the Romanian Academy of Sciences in Bucharest, Romania. As part of her recent visit to Romania, ICASIT co-manager Jennifer Mattingly met with the acting director of the Romanian Academy Center for Advanced Research in Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, and Conceptual Modeling (abbreviated RACAI), Dan Tufis, and spoke to researchers at the Academy. Over 600 persons have taken this rigorous 3 day course, sponsored by grants to ICASIT from George Soros Foundation, Sun Microsystems and Andrew Mellon Foundation. ❑

ICASIT
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR APPLIED STUDIES IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ICASIT's Partership with Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

Professor Steve Ruth recently announced a new relationship for ICASIT— assisting Dr. Robert Kambic and five other researchers at the Hopkins SPH in a project that delivers a Masters in Public Health degree through distance learning to grad students in Kampala, Uganda and Durban, South Africa. Ruth just returned from two weeks at the project sites with his Hopkins colleagues. Says Ruth "It's an ideal project for us since we already operate in both countries—more importantly we have grants in knowledge management and distance learning assessment, two key parts of the project." The Hopkins team will be visiting ICASIT in June to make plans for the three year process.❏

Teaming in Cyberspace: Theory and Practice

ICASIT team members assisted in the development of a new course MIS 792 Leveraging Technology—Management of Dispersed Teams. The course, a graduate elective in the School of Management, required teams to become familiar with many of the tools and techniques used in industry. A feature of the course was active participation in a virtual conference on Knowledge Management set up by IBM and managed by Dr. Lisa Kimball, an Arlington-based specialist in on-line conferences. Dr. Steve Ruth taught the course, assisted in some modules by Dr. Joel Foreman of English Department and Dr. Ted Tschudy, an organizational consultant.❏

New ICASIT Team Members

ICASIT welcomes Mr. Imad Abi-Saleh and Ms. Jenny Yang. Imad is a second year MBA student at GMU with experience as a consultant for the Energy and Industry department of the World Bank. Jenny is a M.S. degree candidate in Information Systems at GMU. Before ICASIT, Jenny earned a B.S. in M.I.S. and M.S. in Finance. She worked for several banks in a broad range of positions such as system engineer, business analyst and investment banker. ❏

ICASIT Goes to the Open University

As part of ICASIT's ongoing distance learning research, co-manager Jennifer Mattingly visited the Open University (OU), one of the world's most successful implementors of distance learning. The Open University admitted its first student in 1971 and today is the largest university in the UK. Located approximately an hour north of London, in Milton Keynes, it offers courses throughout Europe and by means of partnership agreements with other institutions around the world. Over 22,000 learners are studying OU courses outside the UK.❏

ICASIT Guides School System Web Site Project

Fairfax High School students are using their computer science and graphic design skills to develop a City of Fairfax school system Web site. Guided by ICASIT's Jennifer Mattingly and two Fairfax High School teachers, students will create and maintain a website while learning important career skills such as project management, planning, teamwork, data backup procedures, system security, and the latest Web development technologies. The Web site will contain school system information for many stakeholders including students, parents, educators, and members of the community. Look for the Web site's unveiling in fall 1999.❏

High School Students Working at ICASIT

Four students from local high schools have been added to the ICASIT team. Chris Lockard (Woodson HS), Brandon Rinker (Fairfax HS), Philip Sequin (Fairfax HS), and Aaron Winters (Fairfax HS) joined ICASIT last fall and have proven to be a valuable resource. The students work with the rest of the ICASIT team by telecommuting from their homes. "ICASIT provides an ideal work arrangement for students who don't always have access to transportation and who have busy schedules", says Jennifer Mattingly, co-manager of ICASIT. They have worked on projects such as Web development and research. ❏

~ Editors ~
Jennifer Mattingly
Jeff Theobald   Jenny Yang

Snapnapshots

International Projects

Kim Stewart, ICASIT co-manager, will be visiting ICASIT projects in China and Thailand in mid-May. Both project sites involve cooperation between ICASIT and the University of North Carolina's Population Study Center.

Jeff Theobald, New ICASIT Manager

Professor Ruth recently announced that Jeff Theobald will be the manager of ICASIT for the '99-'00 academic year. Jeff takes over from Jennifer Mattingly and Kim Stewart.

ICASIT Departures

Kim Stewart, Jennifer Mattingly and Imad Abi-Saleh are graduating in May and have accepted jobs with local firms. Kim, with American Management Systems, Jennifer with PricewaterhouseCoopers and Imad with Andersen Consulting.

Looking for a Job?

ICASIT is interviewing candidates for special projects. Significant technology experience, especially on WWW-based research and HTML is desirable. Contact Professor Ruth via email (ruth@osf1.gmu.edu).

International Newspapers Online

A recent ICASIT project required developing a list of international newspapers online. It has been set up so that links to hundreds of papers, from Armenia to Zambia, are available in daily editions. The information can be found on the ICASIT Web site (www.icasit.org/news.htm).

We've Moved!

ICASIT has moved offices to the GMU Entrepreneurship Center (EC), 4031 University Drive, in Fairfax. The new facilities are shared with federal telecommuters and other Fairfax small businesses. EC has excellent equipment including state of the art facilities for offering telecourses.