

CET REPORTER

FIT Fashion Institute of Technology
Center for Excellence in Teaching
The Office of Curriculum and Instruction

Center for Excellence in Teaching and the Teaching Institute

Second Life

By BETH HARRIS

Elaine Polvinin (Professor, Fashion Design at Buffalo State), Shenlei Winkler (fashion designer and entrepreneur) and Nyla (fashion designer and entrepreneur) joined us on November 30th and December 4th to talk about business, design and teaching in Second Life. And then on December 17th, we watched a virtual runway show produced by Prim and Proper (Shenlei's store in SL) and IBM.

On Thursday evening, December 13th, we had our first FIT meeting in Second Life. Steven Zucker (Graduate Studies), Hildy Gardner (Fashion Design) and I met at the Buffalo State Campus. Elaine showed us all the great work her students have been doing in fashion design. We plan to have monthly meetings in Second Life during the spring semester. Many SUNY



Beth Harris, History of Art, Shenlei Winkler, Fashion Designer and Gregg Chottner, IT, at the

campuses have islands in Second Life, and have expressed interest in collaborating with us.

If you are interested in learning more about Second Life, need help getting an account and an avatar (a virtual, graphic representation of yourself in a virtual world) or if you are interested in scheduling a demo for your department or school, please email beth_harris@fitnyc.edu or call X7-4656. For more, read the Second Life at FIT blog - www.fits1.wordpress.com.

New Events

By ELAINE MALDONADO

As we begin the new spring semester, I would like to share with you some of the events we are planning for the CET during Spring 2008. In addition to introductory and more advanced Angel training, skill-specific Angel workshops are also planned. These sessions will address topics such as using the Angel grade book and other assessment tools.

Tips for Teaching is scheduled for January 31 and again for later in the semester. This roundtable event focuses on helpful hints for managing the classroom, creating exciting lessons, fostering student creativity and promoting active learning.

Our coordinator and instructional designer, Jeffrey Riman, has exciting workshops planned that will help you integrate technology into your teaching in

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Teaching Institute Updates:

If you are interested in applying for funding through the TI, please note the following application deadline dates:

Spring 2008: February 11

April 11

For more information, contact Celia Baez, 7-4064, or pick up an application in Room B502. The guidelines can also be downloaded at: <http://www3.fitnyc.edu/cet/teachinginstitute.htm>

Please apply by April 11th for any faculty development activities you wish to participate in between the end of April through September 30, 2008.

Teaching Institute Recipients:

Last November, the following faculty members were awarded funding through the Teaching Institute:

Asli Gokhan-Kucuk, English & Sp.

Matthew Petrunia, English & Speech

Lucille Roussin, Graduate Studies

Congratulations to all our recipients!

Blackboard-to-Angel Update

By ELAINE MALDONADO

The FIT faculty who previously used Blackboard in their teaching are moving to Angel. Jeffrey Riman is training faculty with assistance from Bernie Kahn. 45 faculty trained between October and December 31, and thirty-three additional faculty were scheduled for January.

For faculty who plan to use Angel during the spring, 2008 semester, support workshops will

be conducted by the CET throughout the semester. Please check the CET's calendar at: www3.fitnyc.edu/cet for dates and times. In addition to introductory level 1 workshops, advanced level 2 workshops will be scheduled. Outlines for these workshops are posted on the Angel resource page.

If you are still using Blackboard in your classes, we encourage you to sign up for Angel training. FIT does not plan to support Blackboard

after June 30, 2008. If you would like to preview Angel, please go to the www3.fitnyc.edu/CET and click on the Angel resource page. If you have specific questions about your course, please contact the CET coordinator, Jeffrey Riman, at X4063.

For a schedule of Angel classes, including Level I and II, visit the CET website at: www3.fitnyc.edu/CET/calendar **Please Note: Registration is required for all Angel training classes**

Calling all FIT Faculty Members:

Do you have something you would like to contribute to the CET Reporter? If so, please contact Celia Baez at X 7-4064, or email Celia_Baez@fitnyc.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you.

What's New?

By JEFFREY RIMAN

During the winter break the CET went through a number of subtle but significant changes. Workstations were rearranged to make access easier for all visitors including those with special needs and the printers were relocated to reduce the noise level. All of the computers received software updates, bringing the entire facility to the most current revision of software. A new large format scanner was installed replacing an older and obsolete model and a new slide scanner was installed that is capable of scanning up to 50 35MM slides.

The CET evaluates new instructional software and related products before they are deployed in a classroom. If you are interested in a new or emerging instructional software product, please contact the CET.



Cell phones—how did we ever live without them? Now the question is—how can we live with them? Please be mindful of your fellow faculty member seeking a quiet work environment and keep cell phone usage to a minimum while in the CET.

Over the winter break, Jeffrey Riman, CET, was hard at work reconfiguring the printers and workstations. (See above, What's New?) His vision of a more effective work space was right on the mark. You requested quieter printers and Jeffrey delivered! Stop by and see the 'new and improved' CET.

We're also interested in ideas for new initiatives and innovative ways to further improve the services we deliver. We welcome your suggestions and ideas. Please keep them coming!

Lunar New Year: Year of the Rat

By CELIA BAEZ

Congratulations to FIT's Kam Mak, Illustration Department! This year, the United States Postal Service selected Mak to design stamps commemorating the Chinese Lunar New Year. The Chinese New Year is the most important celebration in the Chinese calendar. The Year of the Rat begins February 7, 2008 and ends January 25, 2009. Art director Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Maryland worked on the series with Kam which is part of a new stamp collection that will continue through 2019. An award winning artist, Kam left his native Hong Kong as a young boy and grew up in New York City's Chinatown. His early memories of traditional New Year food, flowers, lion dances, fireworks, hanging lanterns, and bright red envelopes with money tucked inside, are all elements of this time-honored holiday. Kam said, "When the USPS invited me to work with one of their art directors on designs for a new series of stamps celebrating the Lunar New

Year, I was honored!" However, instead of following conventional designs, such as animals depicted in the Chinese zodiac, Kam drew upon a symbol rooted in his Chinese tradition—the lantern, a widely recognized New Year symbol, and the brilliant red color symbolizing good fortune and joy. "I wanted these paintings to reveal the beautiful richness of my culture and to capture the spirit of the Lunar New Year," Mak added. "As an illustrator, I can't believe I have been given the opportunity by the USPS to create the Lunar New Year stamp series, a subject most endearing to me." Bravo Kam! The FIT community looks forward to seeing your beautiful stamps for years to come.



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ways that are innovative and pedagogically sound. Topics will include presentation techniques and ideas to enrich your curriculum and teaching. Also, be sure to stop by later in the semester if you'd like to review how to submit your grades!

Counseling's presentation on dealing with students in emotional or academic distress is scheduled for February. This should be an exceptionally valuable presentation and we encourage you to attend if it fits your schedule. In March, a cross-cultural event, is being planned for faculty and students. Many thanks to Madeleine Meyerson!

Please check our calendars and our website at www.3.fitnyc.edu/cet for the latest offerings and schedules.

"When we look at modern man, we have to face the fact that modern man suffers from a kind of poverty of the spirit, which stands in glaring contrast with a scientific and technological abundance. We've learned to fly the air as birds, we've learned to swim the seas as fish, yet we haven't learned to walk the Earth as brothers and sisters."

Martin Luther King (1929-1968)



Martin Luther King Day—January 21, 2008