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IMPORTANT DATES

May 14: Last Day of Classes
May 15-21: Final Exams
May 22: COE Commencement
May 28: Summer Classes Begin
July 4: Independence Day TU Closed
August 26: Fall Classes Begin
September 2: Labor Day TU Closed

WELCOME

There is much to be proud of in our programs this semester! In this issue of our Instructional Technology Newsletter we would like to congratulate the students and faculty that make our ISTC programs great. Take an inside look at our departments trip to SITE 2019, our department chair's trip to Pakistan, and the great work our alumni are doing in the area. We are also very happy to be welcoming Dr. Cai to the Educational Technology department as an Assistant Professor. Check out her feature on page 4!
The 30th Annual Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education conference took place in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Educational Technology department and Instructional Technology graduate programs were well represented at the conference with 11 presentations by faculty, recent grads, and students. All of the presentations can be found on pages 9 & 10 in recent scholarship.

Doctoral student, Oge Ozo-Onyali (pictured above) won an Outstanding Poster Presentation award for her poster entitled, "Integrated Behavior Model as a Framework for Teacher Technology Integration."

Doctoral alumna and current TU Director of Special Education, Dr. Andrea Parrish (pictured left), presented on ways special educators can use virtual reality in teaching students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Towson University's College of Education co-hosted a reception at this year's SITE Conference with Iowa State University and Michigan State University. Pictured right are TU students and faculty with ISU faculty.
In March, I had the opportunity to attend the 2019 SITE conference in Las Vegas, NV. The encouragement of the faculty and other students in our program was critical in giving me the confidence to submit my first conference proposal. My accepted proposal allowed me to build on my research and analysis of work done in our Towson coursework by gaining experience with conference presentation. By participating in a round-table at SITE, I was able to receive feedback on my ideas from a global audience of educators.

SITE is not only an opportunity to present, but it is an opportunity to learn. Throughout the four days of the conference, I personally saw presentations by over 40 different researchers and practitioners that matched my own interests. I was able to read papers, ask questions, and network. Through special interest groups (SIGs), I hope that I will be able to better follow the trends and publications in my field as I continue to grow. The opportunity to hear directly from journal editors about what they are looking for when selecting papers to publish was also critical to my own growth as I begin to think about submissions to academic journals.

One of the things that I love about Towson is our close-knit graduate community. Never is that more in evidence then when we are far from home. Students and faculty supported each other throughout the conference by checking in, attending each others workshops, discussing presentations, and sharing encouragements over all the great food that Las Vegas had to offer.

Early this year, I made my first conference submission and was accepted to present a poster on my paper at the SITE 2019 conference. The paper I had submitted was one that I had written for a class assignment in the fall. I was not only thrilled to be presenting at an academic conference, but was excited to be sharing that experience with two of my classmates and my professors. It was awesome to have the opportunity to discuss my work with other practitioners in the field and I received tons of useful feedback that would be helpful as I develop my research topic and design. SITE 2019 was a great learning experience for me, as I was also able to attend several sessions that focused on teaching and learning with technology, and learn about the latest research and ideas that connected to my research interests and academic work. I had the opportunity to network with individuals from different countries and brainstormed with some of them on a possible collaborative study on teacher technology integration.

The highpoint of the conference was winning the outstanding poster award for my paper, “Integrated Behavior Model as a Framework for Teacher Technology Integration,” which focused on using concepts of the theory of planned behavior, reasoned action, and socio-cognitive theory to study new teacher technology integration. I feel more confident and better prepared to make submissions to other notable conferences and journals in Educational Technology.
Dr. Vicky Cai will be joining our department as an Assistant Professor in the Fall of 2019. Dr. Cai has a Ph.D in Educational Administration and Supervision from University of Virginia and a Master's degree in Educational Technology. Upon completion of her degree, she worked as an instructional designer first at College of Continuing Studies at University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, then the Information Technology Division at Minnesota State University.

Before joining Towson, Dr. Cai was an assistant professor and graduate coordinator for the Educational Technology program at Minnesota State University. Dr. Cai has teaching and research experience in instructional design, online collaborative learning, and feedback design. We are thrilled to have Dr. Cai join us next semester!

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

Are you looking for an efficient and effective way to improve your skills in utilizing technologies in classroom instruction? Are you interested in learning about the newest trends and emerging technologies in K-12 education? If so, our post-baccalaureate certificate in Educational Technology may be a great option for you! The program is designed for K-12 educators to integrate technology into the classroom and students may apply at any time!

Our flexible program features hands-on learning, an innovative and state of the art Ed Tech center, and engaged and accessible faculty! The following four classes must be completed to obtain the certificate (12 credits), which can also be applied toward earning a Master’s degree in Instructional Technology in the future:

- ISTC 541: Foundations in Instructional Technology
- ISTC 667: Instructional Development
- ISTC 674: Special Topics in Instructional Technologies
- ISTC 731: Theory and Practice for Integrating Digital Resources into Learning and Teaching

To learn more about all of our PBCs visit our website https://www.towson.edu/coe/departments/edtech/grad/technology-certificate/ or email the program director, Liyan Song at lsong@towson.edu.
Dr. Mahnaz Moallem, chair of the Department of Educational Technology and Literacy, traveled to Pakistan this past December. She assisted in running a software program training at the University of Education in Lahore with her colleagues from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. This intense, week-long workshop was held for teachers from the remote regions of Punjab so that they would be able to incorporate STEM learning materials into their curriculum. The workshop targeted teachers from schools located in rural, low-income areas that were lacking educational resources.

The software program, Squeak Etoys, utilizes problem-based learning where students apply their understanding of science and mathematics to create various simulations. Geared toward sixth, seventh, and eight grade students, the learning modules focused on water resources, pollution, and management since that is one of the major issues facing the area. This software allows students to channel their creativity and innovation through a hands-on approach in order to address real world concerns. Additionally, the teachers learned about applying student-centered instruction in the classroom where group work and collaboration are encouraged.

Moallem and her colleagues plan to stay in touch with the teachers and to continue teaching them through Edmodo, an online educational platform. It is exciting to see STEM methods being incorporated into education internationally!
Dr. Lisa Twiss graduated from our Instructional Technology Doctoral Program in 2017. While pursuing her degree, she became a lecturer in the Educational Technology department and has been with us ever since! Although she is in classrooms every day, Dr. Twiss branches her teaching endeavors outside of the classroom. Currently, she runs the Mother’s Club Buddy Program. The Buddy Program brings students from Loyola Blakefield and community organization SAFE together to participate in hands-on after school and weekend educational experiences.

Dr. Twiss shared a recent gathering she led (pictured below). Students participated in a “Maker Activity” based on the story of Caine’s Arcade. One summer, 9 – year-old Caine Monroy spent his time creating an elaborate arcade inside his dad’s auto shop. He used cardboard and household items to re-imagine a traditional arcade and inspired students in the Buddy Program to do the same. Armed with supplies like pipe cleaners, balloons, toilet paper, cardboard, and bouncy balls, students worked together to make carnival and arcade inspired games. Dr. Twiss commented that she was more than impressed by the students “maker” abilities when their final products resulted in dart, bowling, and basketball games.

To learn more about SAFE and the Buddy Program, visit the website here: https://www.safealternative.org/safe-center
Dr. La Tonya Dyer graduated in the winter and was honored with speaking at commencement. Her dissertation is entitled "Professional Development for Online Faculty: Supporting Conceptual Change through Conceptual Conflicts activities." You can view her graduation speech here.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

In February, Master's student Cynthia Ford (pictured right) received the 2019 Innovative Educator Scholarship presented by the Maryland Society for Educational Technology. Congrats, Cynthia!

Doctoral student Shannon Tucker was appointed to the Editorial Review Board for the International Journal of Innovative Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. Shannon also presented an Eye-Tracking Master Class at UB’s User Research lab.

Doctoral alumna Stefani Pautz started her new job as the Project Director of Learning Experience Design at Digital Promise.

Doctoral alumna, Lisa Twiss, and Associate Professor, Dr. Shargel, received the 2019 OAI Innovation in Teaching Award. You can watch a video on their work here.

Doctoral student Natalie Shaheen (pictured left) spoke (in partnership with the National Federation of the Blind) at the 2019 Advancing Informal STEM Learning Meeting about opportunities for blind students to develop their spatial abilities.

In March, Doctoral alumna La Tonya Dyer received a Graduate Student Research Award for her dissertation. You can view her abstract here.

In March, Doctoral alumna Liz Berquist (pictured right) served as the Keynote Speaker for Delaware's Annual Inclusion Conference. She spoke about solutions for equitable access in the educational system.

In May, Department Chair Dr. Moallem will serve as a featured speaker at the 2019 Common Ground Conference in Ocean City, MD. Her speech will be on rethinking assessment in the age of immersive learning environment.


# UPCOMING COURSES

## SUMMER 2019

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<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>ISTC601: SCHOOL LIBRARY ADMIN</td>
<td>TUESDAY 4:30PM</td>
<td>GLICK</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISTC702: EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
<td>CAPLES</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISTC755: ADULT LEARNING THEORIES</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
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## FALL 2019

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<tr>
<td>ISTC541: FOUNDATIONS IN INSTRUCTIONAL TECH</td>
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<td>ISTC651: INFORMATION LITERACY AND ACCESS</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
<td>ROBINSON</td>
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<td>ISTC667: INSTRUCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
<td>CAI</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISTC685: RESEARCH IN INSTRUCTIONAL TECH</td>
<td>MONDAY 5PM</td>
<td>McNary</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISTC707: LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS IN A DIGITAL AGE</td>
<td>THURSDAY 4:30PM</td>
<td>SONG</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISTC 729: DIGITAL GAME BASED LEARNING</td>
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<td>LI</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISTC731: INTEGRATING DIGITAL RESOURCES IN LEARNING AND TEACHING</td>
<td>TUESDAY 4:30PM</td>
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<td>EDUC791: ADVANCED QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY 5PM</td>
<td>SHARGEL</td>
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*Please note that the schedule is subject to change and students should refer to the online schedule of classes for the most current info.*