

Learning Technology Newsletter

Fall 2018 Issue

ListServ

You may have noticed that this newsletter has been sent to you via the new LTMS listserv. I would like to give you some background on this since it has taken a lot of work and been a long time coming.

This is not new technology. I have been working with Listserv's since about 1995. They have several benefits over the various new social media platforms, most notably they allow you to get information without logging in anywhere or doing anything. It just arrives in your mailbox. Further, I have requested that everyone be set to "daily digest" so you will never get more than one email per day (unless you want it).

Messages will go to all LTMS students and alumnae and I hope



to use the list to distribute the various job offers that come to me looking for YOU. Likewise, if you know of something that might be of interest to your fellow students or alums I

would encourage you to share it here. Nothing says "community" more than a community.

If you wish to email the list, simply send an email to HU-LTMS@LISTSERV.HARRISBURGU.EDU. I hope you will take advantage of the ability to communicate with your fellow LTMS students faculty and alums. In order to kick this off I will be forwarding an opportunity from Comcast in Philadelphia.

LTMS and PDE

It has been a buy year for the program. Currently we have 43 LTMS students in the program and have several interesting opportunities coming in the near future. The biggest news involves our interactions with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Here is the rundown.

ACT 48

Harrisburg University/LTMS has been authorized by the PDE to grant Act 48 Credits for those teachers who need to fulfill the ongoing professional development obligations.



There are plans to offer four weeklong intensives in Summer 2019 that may be of interest to you or to teachers in your schools:

- Chrome Books and the Google G Suite: This will be an introduction to the Chrome Book, and the uses of the G Suite, Googles software for the Education Market. Taught by a Google Certified Educator.
- Microsoft Tools for Educators: If your school is committed to the Microsoft platform, we will be offering a weeklong exploration of the various tools and capabilities in Office 365. This will also be taught by a certified educator.
- Raspberry Pi in the STEM Classroom: If you are not aware of the Raspberry Pi and its use in the classroom, you will be amazed at how this \$39 computer can be used to teach multiple topics across the curriculum in your school.
- Digital Security in the School: If you are a certified Instructional Technology Specialist you need to be aware of a variety of cybersecurity issues that become more important day by day. Industry leading sponsors in the security marketplace will share their expertise in this space.

I have one question for anyone interested in taking advantage of these opportunities. When would you like to see these sessions? Summer is a bit broad and would like to narrow it down to those weeks when people can attend. Please send your suggestions to RKordel@harisburgu.edu.

ITS recertification

I have spent several months working on the ITS recertification. This is a process that the PDE requires to be completed every 7 years for every ITS program in the state. While it is less than fun, it is complete and is currently under review by PDE. It did provide an opportunity to review the status of the ITS program and I am happy to report that our program is strong and our students are outstanding.

STEM Endorsement

Now that the ITS recertification is complete, I will be moving forward to add the STEM endorsement to our suite of course offerings. I have been told by the PDE that this endorsement is designed for students who may not be ready for full ITS certification, but who do wish to continue their professional education in a way that benefits their career and their professional standing.

The goal is to position the LTMS program as capable of providing professional education for Pennsylvania teachers at every level from post-baccalaureate through Master's level, in a way that addresses the needs of our teachers.

LMS Upgrade

Several months ago the TACC (Technology Across the Curriculum Committee) was tasked with the responsibility of evaluating alternatives to Moodle. A subcommittee was commissioned consisting of Lauren Edgell, Justin Detig and Phil Grim. That committee has come back with a recommendation and that recommendation will be brought before the Faculty of the Whole at our next meeting.

For those who might have thought that everything was fine with Moodle, several things occurred that precipitated the exploration. The University's cloud vendor elected to make a major data center change on the day before a semester started. Their change did not go smoothly, which meant our semester start had problems. Alex Pitzner noted during the kickoff meeting for this project that he did not feel comfortable saying that the current environment could be supported. Our environment was built for a much smaller school and currently consists of Moodle, Adobe Connect, TaskStream, and Turnitin. Each of these applications adds overhead and additional cost, and the opportunity for something to go wrong at the intersection of the various applications (as was seen by the Turnitin outage in the recent past).

The subcommittee looked deeply into leading LMS systems and settled on two finalists - Canvas and D2L. After a lot of demonstrations and assessments (documented in the TACC minutes for October posted on SharePoint) a final decision has been deferred until both systems have been piloted and the results compared. Pilots are scheduled for the spring semester.

I will let you know of the results as soon as they are available. In the meantime, although the migration is still months away, I would ask you to start thinking about how to create "Master" shells for each of the LTMS classes. This will make the start of each semester a little bit smoother.

4th LTMS goal

The 4th LTMS goal has formally been changed. The suggestion, discussed at length by LTMS faculty and the assessment team, involved moving from the previous goal of acting as a thought leader in the learning technologies field, to the management of knowledge. This seemed to capture more of what an instructional designer does on a day to day basis. The three sub goals for this objective are now:

- Capture knowledge
- Organize knowledge
- Distribute knowledge



I will be working with the assessment team to put this into our assessment cycle moving forward.

Learning & Development Philadelphia



The University has been a sponsor of the Learning & Development Philadelphia website for the past few years and will be continuing this relationship for 2019. The L&D website is

located at <https://www.ldphilly.com/>. The organization sponsors many interesting speakers and learning events and we have a standing offer of allowing them to use Harrisburg University space at the Philadelphia campus. The University's own Lauren Lewis is currently featured on the organization's homepage. Please check it out!