allow me to highlight and celebrate some of the activities that might otherwise pass by quietly and unnoticed, but that have had such a great impact on who we are and what we do. Some of these acts may sound mundane, but they aren’t. They are what make the ISLT community a group that has not only sustained, but also strengthened as it has grown.

Every day, as I walk around the Stone Building, I am confronted with evidence of students helping each other. For example, many of our students and faculty meet regularly, as research groups. They’re not all focused on the same project or topic, but rather they meet to help each other. They give their time to provide formative feedback, assist with data collection and analysis, and edit papers. Our students help each other build technology and language skills. They share resources, and watch each other practice giving important presentations. They provide each other rides to events, and share meals. They set up presentation rooms, fetch coffee, and provide moral support for each other when taking exams and defending dissertations. They do all of this in the spirit of community.

Only a small percentage of our alumni remain here in Tallahassee, but geographic proximity is not necessary for contributing to the ISLT community. Many of our alumni have supported internships for our students. They have mentored both active students and recent graduates as they search for a job. In this role, they have reviewed resumes, made introductions, conducted mock interviews, and shared opportunities with our group. Also, our alumni have generously donated to our student support fund, helping our current students attend conferences and supporting other student professional development activities. I would be remiss if I did not mention the alumni who volunteer directly with the program, serving on the Alumni Advisory Council and its subcommittees that support us in areas like program recruitment, fundraising, and maintaining our alumni network.

Many new students have shared that their reason for choosing ISLT was their early interactions with members of our community – from Mary Kate, who so warmly and efficiently helps everyone navigate the application process, to the faculty, students, and alumni who have emailed and met with them. When the new school year starts, our local constituents welcome our incoming campus students and visiting scholars, and help them settle in to their new lives in Tallahassee. Similarly, our online students, TAs, and instructors always extend the virtual welcome wagon to newcomers in our online program.

As a researcher who studies communities and networks, I know that groups like ours – largely transient in our physical location, geographically dispersed, and representing diverse personal backgrounds and interests, yet united in and committed to our shared overall mission and thus also to each other – are the exception rather than the norm in a university setting. As I close this year’s column, let me invite you all to take a moment to think about what ISLT means to you, and what you like most about being a part of the ISLT family. If you’ve been an active part of our community in the last year, I sincerely thank you for your involvement. And if you’ve not, I encourage you to reach out to some part of our network. I know you all have a lot to offer, and you’ll find that everyone else has a lot to share.
Selected Faculty News & Accomplishments

Dr. Aubteen Darabi

Publications And Presentations


Continuing Grant

**Co-Principal Investigator.** USAID Science, Technology, Research and Innovation for Development Program (STRIDE), in collaboration with the Research Triangle Institute to realign the Philippines’ higher education curriculum and improve the research capacity and qualifications of the faculty to respond to the job market demands for qualified graduates of science and technology, funded for $1.2 million.

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Dr. Vanessa Dennen

Publications and Presentations


Invited Speaker

- **Dennen, V.** (2014). *Meeting online learners' needs through situated cognition*. Invited presentation at Simpósio Internacional de Educação a Distância e Encontro de Pesquisadores em Educação a Distância, Universidade Federal de São Carlos, Sao Carlos, Brazil.

- **Dennen, V. P.** (2015). *Analytics for collaborative learning: Examining knowledge activities in online environments*. Invited presentation at Learning and Knowledge Analytics in Open Education, Shanghai, China.

Awards and Honors

- Excellence in Online Teaching Award, Office of Distance Learning, Florida State University (2014).

- Innovative Use of Instructional Technology Award, Office of Distance Learning, Florida State University (2014).

**Dr. Dennen** also became co-Editor-in-chief of *The Internet and Higher Education*, a journal with a 2014 impact factor of 2.463 and ranked #10 (out of 224 journals) in the Education and Educational Research category.
Dr. Allan Jeong

Publications and Presentations

- Jeong, A. C. (2014). Quantitative analysis of interaction patterns in online distance education. In Olaf Zawacki-Richter, & Terry Anderson (Eds.), Online Distance Education - Towards a Research Agenda (Issues in Distance Education) (pp. 403-420). University of Washington Press.


Dr. Fengfeng Ke

Publications and Presentations


- Xu, X., & Ke, F. (Accepted). Designing a virtual-reality-based, game-like math learning environment. American Journal of Distance Education.


Dr. James Klein

Publications and Presentations


- Bong, J., Dai, Z., & Klein, J. D. (2014, November). The influence of a cooperative learning strategy and learners' motivational characteristics in a Chinese college classroom. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology, Jacksonville, FL.
Dr. James Klein (continued)


**Awards and Honors**
- Selected as an AECT History Maker in November 2014 – An association-wide endeavor to preserve AECT’s history by creating a searchable archive of video interviews with leaders of the Educational Communications and Technology field.
- Nominated for Distinguished Professor Teaching Award—Florida State University

Dr. Valerie Shute

**Publications and Presentations**

**Software Development**

**Awards and Honors**
- FSU Graduate Faulty Mentor Award. FSU award and honorarium (2015).
- FSU Innovators Award for licenses and commercialization of Physics Playground (2015).

**Grants**
- Shute, V. J. (PI). *Stealth assessment of integrated cognitive and noncognitive constructs*. Funded via contract from ACT. One year award (8/31/15 – 8/1/16, total award: $100,000.00.
- Shute, V. J. (PI). *Measuring art history knowledge and systems thinking in the Patronage Game*. Funded via contract from Texas A&M University. Summer award (5/15/15 – 8/30/15, total award: $15,000.00.
- Shute, V. J. (PI). *Game-based assessment of problem solving skill*. Funded via contract from the Institute of Play (GlassLab). One year award (1/15/14 - 12/31/14; 6-month no-cost extension through 6/1/15; # RF02405/034454), total award: $111,928.25.
Alumni Advisory Council Updates

The Instructional Systems and Learning Technologies Alumni Advisory Council (AAC) has been quite active this last year…and we’re also excited about what is happening this coming year!

The Work of 2014-15

We realized after the April 2014 conference that the AAC was at a cross-roads and decided to take a year to conduct a true strategic plan – for a five-year span – to develop a comprehensive set of solutions to support the program and our alumni. Many thanks to our Strategic Action Committee members for their commitment to the process and the results they have achieved: Darren Brooks, Judy Converso, Sue Ebbers, Gwynn Grandy, Chris Iansiti, Jim Klein, David Levels, Bob Reiser, Cathy Tencza, Lisa Wubbena, and Zhongrui Yao. Our report will be sent out in late September as an alumni e-communication.

Alumni Gatherings are an important way to foster ties with fellow alumni in the area. We’re happy to report that we now have three solid ongoing Gatherings in Atlanta, Tallahassee, and Jacksonville, and our goal this year is to establish more Gatherings in Orlando, Miami, Tampa and Washington, D.C. Many thanks to Chris Keeney, Kathy Ingram and Anchalee Ngamponrchai for their hard work!

And if you’re interested in hosting a Gathering in your location – let me know (ebbers@changebydesign.us).

Our Mentorship program, chaired by Gabrielle Gabrielli, has provided alumni support to numerous students this past year. It is one of the ways we have asked alumni to give back to the program, by providing tangible student support in their last semester and as they transition to the next step on their career path.

We strongly believe that mentorship and job preparation support is a key contributor to career success, and thank Gabrielle, who is stepping down from leading the committee, and her great team (MaryAnn Blind, Gwynn Grandy, and Bryan Dickey) for their leadership and great results.

Interested in being a mentor? It’s not difficult! Contact alum Rachel Lewis at rachel_lewis2@hotmail.com.

Without students, there is no program, meaning that student recruitment is key. Many thanks to Rob Lengacher, who, along with Jim Klein and Mary Kate McKee, make a significant push to get the word out at Florida State…complete with new program marketing brochures and a presentation slide deck for talking points! Rob had to cycle off due to work obligations, but we appreciate so much his high energy and the results he achieved.

Interested in corresponding with prospective students to answer their questions about our program? It won’t take more than a few minutes of your time. If so, contact alum Kim Barber, our new Recruitment chair, at kabarber@fsu.edu.

Part of the draw to our program is the financial support students can receive in the form of such things as assistantships and payment of conference registration fees. Jenny Wilhelm and graduate student Zhongrui (‘Ray’) Yao, in collaboration with Foundation fundraiser Mel Carty, have achieved phenomenal success this year by meeting – and exceeding – our $40,000 in 4 Years campaign. As of May 15, we have a total of $52,799 in cash and pledges to our program!

While Jenny will remain on Fundraising as an advisor and a support, the committee is now under the leadership of alums Doretta Gordon and Tena Vozenilek.

Interested in helping with this fundraising effort or donating to it? Contact them at dorettaeg@gmail.com or tenavoz@gmail.com.
Alumni Advisory Council Meeting (April 24, 2015)

AAC members met in the morning with students to support their career building efforts. Thanks to alumni Cathy Tencza and Lisa Wubenla, who created and implemented the concept. Students engaged as teams in mini-sims that helped students consolidate their skill sets.

Morning Mini-Sims

Eight alumni presented real-world cases in advance of the meeting, and students self-selected into the mini-sim in which they wanted to engage. After a briefing, student teams developed a series of clarifying questions they wanted to ask the alumni ‘client’. That second Q&A with alumni led the teams to identify next steps and recommendations, leading to a final meeting with alumni to present these. Post-sim, alumni provided students with constructive feedback. The experience was very well-received and will be repeated next April.

Afternoon AAC Annual Meeting

New and current AAC members and leadership met in the afternoon at Goodwood Plantation, a lovely off-campus facility. Jim Klein, Faculty Chair, and Sue Ebbers, AAC President, presented the strategic report and charged each attending member to self-select into one of seven committees and identify something specific that they would do over the next year to achieve our goals for the first year of our five-year strategic plan.

Our committee structure - with sub-committees – will be provided in the September report. Steering committee members include the chairs of the seven overarching committees, Chris Iansiti and Cathy Tencza, who serve as senior advisors, and Jim Klein and Sue Ebbers.

Marketing & Communications—Your Chance to Shine

In addition, we are hiring a professional communications and marketing consultant – Deanna Mims of MarketDone here in Tallahassee - to support our communication efforts. To help pay for her services for this year, we are seeking individuals who will contribute $350 to sponsor each of our 12 newsletters.

That sponsorship will include your logo and your customized information about you and your business. The first newsletter is going out in September 2015.

Please contact Sue Ebbers (ebbers@changebydesign.us) if you are interested in supporting this effort in return for marketing your services to our current (and growing!) alumni network of almost 800 individuals.

Photos courtesy of Jiyae Bong
Alumni Advisory Council Action Plan for 2015-16

Plans for Year 1 of our 5-year strategic plan are ambitious and include:

- Establishing more Alumni Gatherings, as well as 2-3 Alumni Virtual Mastermind Groups.
- **Fundraising** by decade graduated to determine which decade has the most pride for our program!
- **Recruiting** domestically and internationally.
- Develop and implement formalized plans and structures for mentorships, internships, graduate assistantships and job shadowing programs.
- Building an Alumni website and portal.
- Establishing the groundwork for a true Instructional Systems and Learning Technologies Alumni Association, as well as plan for our inaugural Alumni Association event – a 3-day cruise in September 2016 out of Cape Canaveral.
- Establishing the groundwork to potentially build both an EdD program and a 5-year track BA/MS track.
- Developing a marketing and communications plan and branding the Alumni Advisory Council and Alumni Association so that we have a cohesive approach in all of our efforts.
- Deliver a monthly newsletter to keep alumni informed of all that we’re doing, highlight alumni activities and continue to support our fundraising efforts.

For our plan to be successful, we must have more alumni involvement. There is room at the table for contributions of anything from 1-hour a month to 10 hours a month. If you are passionate about the program and want to contribute to its continued leadership and success, contact Sue Ebbers (ebbers@changebydesign.us) or Jim Klein (jklein@fsu.edu)

Alumni News & Accomplishments

Dr. Dee Andrews (Class of 1980, PhD) recently retired from the Department of Defense after 34 years in the civil service. He worked for all four military services during his time with DoD, and finished his career with nine years as a member of the Senior Executive Service. He was a Technical and Senior Scientist for twenty-three years with the Air Force Research Laboratory. His main research interests during his career were improving military instructional systems, especially via simulation-based training. He is a Fellow of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, the American Psychological Association, and the Royal Aeronautical Society of the United Kingdom, as well as a Certified Performance Technologist and Certified Professional Ergonomist. He will continue working as a consultant and adjunct professor and can be reached at andrewsdee@hotmail.com

Dr. Meagan Caridad Arrastia (Class of 2015, PhD) graduated and started a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Psychology & Counseling department at Valdosta State University.

Kevin Smith (Class of 2006, MS) was lead author of a report entitled Summer Reading Camp Self-Study Guide, which was featured in a newflash from the Institute of Education Sciences. More information here.
Alumni News & Accomplishments (cont.)

**CWO J. Chris Henderson, CPT** (Class of 2011, MS):

- Co-presented at the International Society for Performance Improvement Conference in San Antonio, TX (April 2015), on a topic called "Culture of Respect - Kindergarten 101". The topic explored the components of organizational culture and highlighted a US Coast Guard's analysis of assault, harassment, hazing, bullying, intimidation, retaliation, and discrimination in the service workplace.
- Accepted a commission in the US Coast Guard in June 2015 as a Chief Warrant Officer and now serves as a Coast Guard Auxiliary Operations Training Officer in Buffalo, NY. He previously served as a Performance Analyst for the Coast Guard Performance Technology Center in Yorktown, VA.

**Dr. Dongsik Kim** (Class of 1990, PhD) published the following papers:


Student News & Accomplishments

**Devin Bedgio** (Master’s Student) is in the process of forming the *Graduate and Professional Student Association* at FSU. The purpose of this organization is to facilitate networking, community service, and career building among all graduate students at FSU, something that no current student organization is doing.

**Jiyae Bong** (PhD Student) had several presentations in the past year, including (but not limited to):


Minho Joo (pictured left) and Jiyae (pictured right) also presented their mobile app (WeSmarter) at FSU DIGITECH, 2014. More information can be found [here](#).

**Fabrizio Fornara** (PhD Student) published and presented:


He also received the *Academic Leadership Award* from the FSU College of Education.
Student News & Accomplishments (cont.)

Shuang Hao (PhD Student) published and presented a number of papers in the past year, including (but not limited to):


Greg Moore (PhD Student) presented papers at conferences in Madrid, Spain and Pasadena, CA and was a co-author on several other publications:


A game he worked on as an undergraduate also saw a commercial release.

Bruce Screws (Master’s student) got a job as a visiting English professor in South Korea. He credits his enrollment in the ISLT Masters program with helping him to get the job.

2014 AECT/PacifiCorp Design and Competition Winners!

In November 2014, ISLT graduate students Alison L. Moore and Jiyae Bong (pictured to the right on the far left) were the winning finalist team in the AECT/PacifiCorp Design and Development Competition. Between April and November, they worked with a mentor, Dr. Suhana Chikatla (Auburn University Montgomery), and progressed through the competition’s three stages. The purpose of the PacifiCorp Competition is to provide an opportunity for graduate students in our field to engage in real-world practice of design, development, and performance-improvement problems.

2014 AECT/PacifiCorp Design and Development Competition finalists (Alison L. Moore and Jiyae Bong, far left)
ISLT Awards

On April 23, 2015, the ISLT Program held its annual awards ceremony to recognize outstanding students and alumni in our program.

Gagne/Briggs Outstanding Doctoral Student Award
Alison Moore

Gagne/Briggs Outstanding Masters Student Award
Sarah Hill

Liliana Muhlman Masoner Outstanding International Student Award
Gagne/Briggs Outstanding Service Award
Fabrizio Fornara

Ruby Diamond Future Professor Award
Jiyae Bong & Greg Moore

Gagne/Briggs Outstanding Alumnus Award
Dr. Jeeheon Ryu

Robert A. Reiser Outstanding Alumni Service Award
Dr. Suzanne J. Ebbers

Gagne/Briggs Outstanding Distance Learning Student Award
Edwin Owen Williams

Photos courtesy of Jiyae Bong
ISSA President’s Column

Fabrizio Fornara
ISSA President (14-15)

This year, I have had the privilege of leading the ISSA board. My teammates—Jiyae, Kevin, Zhongrui, Wei, Xinhao, Zhaihuan, and Devin—are a biased sample of the ISLT population, a non-random selection of the nicest and most brilliant people in our program. Our team is pretty “diverse,” as we represent almost every class in the Master’s and Ph.D. ISLT programs. I like our heterogeneity, as it really helps to add variety and perspective when it comes to organizing events.

At our first meeting, we decided to strengthen ISSA’s academic focus. We love social events, as there is nothing better than bonding over good food and drinks. We kept scheduling dinners, potlucks, and gatherings (pictured below) – which are always a lot of fun. But we also wanted to enrich the ISLT program with content that is only partially covered in the courses. With the help of Dr. Jeeheon Ryu, we identified a few topics that could be of interest to our classmates and scheduled two sessions that were to begin our – ambitiously labeled – “Professional Development Series.”

The first was on the AECT Internship and PacifiCorp Competition. Many students in our program were not aware of these two prestigious initiatives sponsored by AECT. The session was moderated by Dr. Ryu and presented via teleconference by ISLT alumnus Dr. Sanghoon Park and the current PacifiCorp prize holders, ISLT students Alison Moore and Jiyae Bong. This year, we once again have ISLT students competing to enter the PacifiCorp final, and I like to think that this session had something to do with that. Good luck guys!

For the second session in our series, we focused on the majority of our Ph.D. population: international students. This session on the U.S. job search for international students was organized and moderated by Dr. Ryu and presented via teleconference by four ISLT alumni: Dr. Haihong Hu, Dr. Sanghoon Park, Dr. Xiaoxia Huang, and Dr. E Shen—all successful professors at different American institutions. During the session, they walked us through the path that many of us will soon try to take.

Prof. Ken Armstrong, from the Program in Interdisciplinary Computing at FSU, lead the third presentation of the series, covering one of the emerging trends in the ID&T field: big data. Prof. Armstrong gave an entertaining speech on this appealing subject and eagerly answered our many questions. We are really happy with the outcomes of our professional development series thus far, and we are looking forward to extend it with more presentations in the future.

Another event that we organized for the first time in a while, and that we would like to regularly host in the future, is the ISLT students meeting. During the meeting, we shared information about ISLT courses, professional development opportunities, online resources, and conferences, among other topics. We also got to know each other a little better and met students that had recently started the program or were going to start it in the summer, sharing with them tips, tricks, and some good treats.

During the summer, we also ran a pilot for a new series that we would like to start this Fall. We watched and discussed “Waiting for Superman” (2010), a documentary on the public school system in the United States. We had snacks and drinks, just like the movies, and it was nice to share this experience with some of the beautiful minds in our program. We already have a list of interesting movies and documentaries that we would like to screen in the future.

Speaking of food, a special thanks to Dr. Val Shute, who once again kindly volunteered to host our traditional Spring potluck (pictured above). As always, we had a great time at her place. I would also like to thank our faculty liaison, Dr. Jim Klein, for his continuous support, and the always lovely and helpful Mary Kate. A special thanks also goes to everyone in the ISSA team for all the work that we have done and are doing together. And the biggest thanks goes to you, for supporting ISSA and helping us make the ISLT program the best educational experience since mom and dad.

I will see you at the next ISSA event.

Current ISSA Officers

President: Fabrizio Fornara
Vice President: Jiyae Bong
Treasurer: Zhaihuan Dai
Board members: Devin Bedgio, Wei Kelly, Kevin Smith, Zhongrui Yao
There are numerous ways to stay connected to the ISLT community. Here are a few convenient ways to stay in touch.

- ISLT Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/instructionalsystems](https://www.facebook.com/groups/instructionalsystems)
- ISLT Twitter: [https://twitter.com/ISLT_FSU](https://twitter.com/ISLT_FSU)
- ISLT LinkedIn: [https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=39669](https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=39669)
- ISLT Alumni listserv: [https://lists.fsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/inst-sys](https://lists.fsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/inst-sys)

Make sure to also update your contact information using the *FSU College of Education Alumni Update and News Form*, which can be found here: [http://form.jotformpro.com/form/22273844581962](http://form.jotformpro.com/form/22273844581962)

Finally, if you would like to share any news, updates, or accomplishments with the ISLT community or to update your address or job with us, please e-mail our Academic Program Specialist, Mary Kate McKee ([mmckee@campus.fsu.edu](mailto:mmckee@campus.fsu.edu)).