



## Graduate Student Assembly

Spring 2019

Newsletter

### Message from the President

Greetings fellow graduate students and AECT members! It is my pleasure to welcome you to the bi-annual Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) newsletter. Each year, we produce this newsletter to provide a glimpse of all of the ongoing projects and opportunities at work within the GSA and AECT broadly, and I'm excited to introduce these efforts to you. We begin this issue by revealing some of the exciting projects our membership has been hard at work on this year, including a few of our newly added initiatives such as the "Hot Topic" Webinar series, our Virtual Writing Group, a Microlearning module, and a GSA Research Showcase to be held at this year's convention. We also share with you some exciting events to look forward to at this year's conference, and spotlight Florida State's ISLT program. We then finish off the issue by taking a moment to celebrate some of our membership and their recent accomplishments.

I would also like to give a "shout-out" to our newly elected officers who will represent the GSA in 2019-2020, and congratulate them on their successful appointments. In addition to our formal officer roles, the GSA has also been privileged with the efforts and hard work of several volunteers. We are so grateful to our officers and volunteers, as it is their enthusiasm, willingness to serve, and leadership that make the GSA so great!

There are still many more initiatives to come! So, if you're interested in getting involved with the GSA, please don't hesitate to reach out, as we would be happy to have you! We have such a wonderful community of graduate students here in the GSA, and I look forward to sharing some of our community's accomplishments with you in this newsletter!

Enjoy!

**Nate Turcotte**, GSA President

*Ph.D. Candidate in Learning, Design, & Technology  
Penn State University*

### In This Issue

- On-Going GSA Projects
- Top 10 Highlights for AECT 2019
- Graduate Program Spotlight: FSU
- Shoutouts! GSA Member Accomplishments

### Newsletter Team

#### Editor/s:

Kiran Budhrani, UNCC

Sagun Giri, PSU

#### Contributors:

Beheshte "Behi" Abdi, NIU

Tugce Aldemir, PSU

Lauren Bagdy, FSU

Yam Chaivisit, OSU

Shams Duha, Purdue

Pauline Muljana, ODU

Kae Novak, UC Denver

Cecil Short, BYU

Nate Turcotte, PSU

Bret Staudt Willet, MSU

Follow Us!



## Snapshot on On-Going GSA Projects (Oct 2018 to Apr 2019)

**GSA Research  
Showcase  
@ AECT 2019**

**GSA Virtual  
Writing Sprints**

**GSA Webinars on  
“Hot Topics”**

**GSA Newsletter**

**Grow Together on  
Social Media**

**GSA Member  
Spotlight**

**Microlearning  
Initiative**

**GSA Social Media  
Spotlights**

**Designers for  
Learning (D4L)**

*If you would like to learn more or participate in any of these projects, please contact GSA President Nate Turcotte ([nturcotte22@gmail.com](mailto:nturcotte22@gmail.com)) or GSA Communications officer Kiran Budhrani ([kbudhran@uncc.edu](mailto:kbudhran@uncc.edu)).*

## On-Going GSA Projects (Oct 2018 to Apr 2019)

### GSA Research Showcase @ AECT2019 *By: Nate Turcotte*

Within our Graduate Student Assembly, there has been growing interest in having an event at the annual conference that showcases exemplary research related to graduate student work. After communicating with the conference planners, the GSA is excited to be offering the first ever (and hopefully annual) Graduate Student Research Showcase.

If you are a graduate student interested in sharing your research, be on the lookout for a Call for Proposals (CfP) in the coming weeks! Students who are accepted will then have the opportunity to share their research during the AECT poster session and gallery walk.

Accepted applicants will be given a certificate acknowledging their tremendous accomplishment as well! The CfP will be released soon, and it will specify the proposal requirements and criteria. Stay tuned!

### GSA Virtual Writing Sprints *By: Kae Novak*

**Snapshot:** The AECT Graduate Student Assembly invites people to meet for 90 minute writing sprints over Zoom and twitter to encourage writing, research, and practice in educational technology and instructional design. Everyone working in educational technology, instructional design, and online learning is invited.

**Importance:** AECT GSA Virtual Writing Sprints are inspired and informed by #shutupandwrite academic movement and @SUWTues activities over social media which wound up operations at the end of 2018. AECT GSA decided to adopt a [Pomodoro Method](#) where all AECT members can join in for 30 and 45 minute sprints over a VOIP platform. These writing sprints can help all AECT GSA members in focus their writing, editing, and providing a bit of community and accountability.

**Accomplished So Far:** This brand new initiative met in February to provide an opportunity for people to work on AECT conference proposals as well as Virtual Worlds Best Practices in Education and eLearning Consortium of Colorado which were all due that month. The AECT GSA Virtual Writing Sprints will begin again on April 15, 2019 and run for the rest of the Spring 2019 semester. Additional virtual writing sprints will be scheduled during the summer and fall of this year. Join at <http://bit.ly/monwrite> (<https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/994103086>)

**Hashtags:** #aectgsa, #shutupandwrite and #aect



## GSA Webinars on “Hot Topics” *By: Bret Staudt Willet, Pauline Muljana*

The GSA Webinars initiative is guided by co-team-leaders Bret Staudt Willet (Michigan State University) and Pauline Muljana (Old Dominion University). The goal of this initiative is to host a monthly webinar in partnership with other AECT divisions. We plan presentations that draw on expertise from across AECT's broad pool of scholars and should be of interest to graduate students, practitioners, and faculty alike. For example, our first webinar in February brought together experts from three different AECT divisions to hear a thorough description about how to serve as reviewers of AECT conference proposals—which also included numerous pearls of wisdom regarding how to actually write conference proposals in the first place. Our upcoming webinars include a March panel discussion about productive academic writing (vital information for grad student but of broad interest too), and a planned webinar in late April hearing from past AECT divisions presidents about how to get involved in AECT service and grow in leadership.

### February 2019 GSA Webinar: How to Review AECT International Convention Proposals

**Description:** Together with the 2019 conference planning committee, the Graduate Student Assembly invites you to join us on February 7th, 1:00 PM EST for a webinar on "How to Review AECT International Convention Proposals." This webinar will discuss the process for accessing proposals to review and the criteria used to evaluate and provided feedback for this upcoming convention in Las Vegas.

**Speakers:** Dr. Jill Stefaniak, Dr. Sylvia Rogers, and Dr. Andrew Tawfik

**Moderator:** Bret Staudt Willet, PhD Candidate from Michigan State University

**Recording:**  
<https://youtu.be/Mv5qOXWv0G0>

### March 2019 GSA Webinar: How to Become an Effective & Efficient Academic Writer

**Description:** AECT's Graduate Student Assembly invites you to join us on March 27th, 1:00 PM EST for a webinar “How to be an Effective and Efficient Academic Writer.” Learn from four prolific academic writers as they discuss approaches to organizing ideas and references, building upon earlier writing projects, developing publishable articles, understanding authorship issues such as order and responsibility, and managing time.

#### **Special guest panelists:**

Dr. Ali Carr-Chellman, *Dean and Professor from University of Idaho*

Dr. Jeffrey Carpenter, *Associate Professor from Elon University*

Dr. Tian Luo, *Assistant Professor from Old Dominion University*

Dr. Tyler Hollett, *Assistant Professor from Penn State University*

**Moderator:** Bret Staudt Willet, PhD Candidate from Michigan State University

**Recording:** <http://bit.ly/aect-gsa-2019-2>

## Grow Together with Social Media *By: Yam Chaivisit*

The Social Media division promotes and maintains the brand of the AECT Graduate Student Assembly through the digital engagement of our members. We support and advertise GSA activities via social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We reach out to GSA members by posting about AECT events, webinars, proposals, opportunities, jobs, etc.

We are currently working on the GSA Officers/Members Spotlight and Daily/Weekly Article Posts. The spotlight campaign runs on Fridays. We introduce GSA officers and members through social media. We post about their involvement with AECT GSA, research interests, and hobbies. The other campaign is Daily/Weekly Article Posts. Articles we post for our members include #MentalHealthMonday, #TeachingTuesday, #CareerTrackThursday, #SurvivalSaturday, and #ResearchSunday. We hope that these themes will meet our member's various interests and needs.

This division is led by Yam Chaivisit, Oklahoma State University. Our volunteer team includes Kae Novak, University of Colorado, and Rachel Kim, Oklahoma State University. With the help of the International Division, we have also proposed an AECT Inspire Session, named "Growing Together with Social Media: AECT Graduate Student Assembly Across Borders." The purpose of this session is to connect graduate students internationally, so that we can keep in contact and inspire each other. The ultimate goal of this session is to use social media to reach graduate students from many countries and help them improve their research in various disciplines and their educational systems.

## Microlearning Initiative *By: Shams Duha*

Some members of the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) have gathered together to make microlearning video modules on some of the hot topics in the field of educational technology. The short video modules will provide brief insights into the selected topics to the general audience. The team is now actively looking for more members who have expertise in any one of the following: content development, scriptwriting, video editing, video making, and animation. If you are interested, please contact Shams at [mduha@purdue.edu](mailto:mduha@purdue.edu).





## Designers for Learning (D4L) – Expert Design Team Project Observers *By: Tugce Aldemir*

Fifteen experienced designers participate in this project that offers a mentored team-based professional development opportunity. The designers' overall aim is to better align lessons (e.g., assigned OER based on the previous phase of the project-expert review) with learner needs, context, challenges, and opportunities. Based on each design team's decision about the needed amendments or enhancements, the lesson redesign might include revisions to the instructional strategies and assessments, learner experience features (e.g., directions and help, aesthetics of display, lesson sequencing, and overall ease of use), affective considerations (e.g., arousing learner curiosity and attention, relevance, level of challenge), or display features (e.g., images, graphics, audio, animation, video, or print materials).

Five GSA members joined this project to observe the experience designers as they engage in the above activities. These members include: Kiran Budhrani ([kbudhran@uncc.edu](mailto:kbudhran@uncc.edu)), Kathy Essmiller ([kessmil@ostatemail.okstate.edu](mailto:kessmil@ostatemail.okstate.edu)), Xinyi Yu ([xuy36@psu.edu](mailto:xuy36@psu.edu)), Behi Abdi ([b.abdi2011@gmail.com](mailto:b.abdi2011@gmail.com)), Tugce Aldemir ([tugcealdemir@gmail.com](mailto:tugcealdemir@gmail.com))

Each GSA member was assigned to a group, and has been attending the meetings of their teams and making observations regarding empathic design focusing on empathic forecasting, uncertainty, emotion, collaboration, and design making. It is a great opportunity for the GSA members to observe experienced instructional designers in action, and gain experience in research observations.



*This project has provided real-world experiences for me to witness, learn and report a team-based instructional design process on its functionality, quality of interaction through an ethnographic research method.” (Behi, Graduate Student Observer for D4L)*

The project is facilitated by Monica Tracey, [mwtracey@gmail.com](mailto:mwtracey@gmail.com), and John Baaki, [jbaaki@odu.edu](mailto:jbaaki@odu.edu), both members of [Designers for Learning's](#) Board of Directors, and led by Jennifer Maddrell, [jmaddrell@gmail.com](mailto:jmaddrell@gmail.com), Executive Director at [Designers for Learning](#).

*Note: **Designers for Learning** (EIN: 47-1639401) is organized as a nonprofit corporation in the State of Illinois, and operates exclusively for charitable purposes in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. We crowdsource the design and development of open educational resources (OER) to help adults improve their literacy skills for career & college readiness.*

# Top 10 Highlights at AECT 2019

By: Lauren Bagdy

The 2019 AECT International Convention will be in Las Vegas, Nevada from October 21-25. The theme for the convention is *Inspired. Inspired Professional Learning. Inspired Learning Professionals*. There are many new and exciting items on the convention agenda.

We have compiled a list of the Top 10 things to look forward to at the convention this year:

1. Inspire! Sessions
2. Program strands
3. AECT and Division Kickoff
4. Gallery Walk with Posters and D&D Showcase
5. Roundtable sessions
6. Editors session
7. Birds of a feather sessions
8. Workshops throughout the week\*
9. Invited sessions
10. GSA Sessions!

\*Fee required. Most workshops will be \$15.



Inspired **Professional Learning.**  
Inspired Learning Professionals.

## 2019 AECT International Convention

Las Vegas, Nevada

Oct 21 - 25 2019

**Workshop Sessions:**  
Monday, October 21  
through Friday October 25

**Concurrent Sessions,  
Posters, Panels &  
Roundtables:** October 21 -  
October 25

Visit Dr. Michael Grant's [website](#) for more information about these items and for additional convention updates.

## Graduate Program Spotlight: Florida State University *By: Lauren Bagdy*

The Instructional Systems and Learning Technologies (ISLT) program at Florida State University is part of the Educational Psychology and Learning Systems department within the College of Education. We currently offer a doctoral degree (campus Ph.D.) and a master's degree (online and campus). We are also excited to offer our first online, cohort-based Ed.D. program in Learning Design and Performance Technology this summer.

A rigorous research-focused program, the campus Ph.D. program is designed for students who want to become researchers in universities and research organizations. Coursework for Ph.D. students includes advanced instructional design, research design, and both quantitative and qualitative methods. Ph.D. students are also required to complete four courses in a focus area related to our individual research interests.

Our master's program is designed for practitioners in the Instructional Systems and Learning Technologies field. Offered both on campus and online, the program requirements include coursework (instructional design and development, learning theory, inquiry and measurement, evaluation, performance improvement, emerging technologies), an internship, and a portfolio.

Starting this summer, our Ed.D. program will prepare students to be leaders in applied, practitioner settings. Designed for working professionals, this program will be offered online. Students will visit campus once per year to network with our faculty, students, and alumni.

We also offer two certificate programs: Human Performance Technology (HPT) and Online Instructional Development (OID). While these programs can supplement our current students' graduate studies, they can also be completed as stand-alone certificates.

ISLT is a vibrant community. The Instructional Systems Student Association (ISSA) plans social, service, and professional development activities throughout the year. While it is a student association, we often have alumni, current faculty, and former faculty at our events.



For more information about ISLT, visit the website or follow the program on social media.

[ISLT Program Website](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

# Shoutouts! GSA Member Accomplishments

We would like to recognize some of the outstanding work being done by our outstanding members! (GSA member names in bold.)

## Publications

Bonk, C. J., **Zhu, M.**, Kim, M., Xu, S., Sabir, N., & Sari, A. R. (2018). Pushing toward a more personalized MOOC: Exploring instructor selected activities, resources, and technologies for MOOC design and implementation. *International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning*, 19(4).

**Budhrani, K.**, Ji, Y., & Lim, J.H. (2018). Unpacking conceptual elements of smart learning in the Korean context. *Smart Learning Environments*, 5(23).

Carpenter, J. P., Kimmons, R., **Short, C. R.**, Clements, K., & Staples, M. E. (2019). Teacher identity and crossing the professional-personal divide on twitter. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 81, 1-12. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tate.2019.01.011>

**Essmiller, K.** (2018). How do I get my name on that? *TechTrends*, 62(3), pp. 210-211

Espiritu, J.L., & **Budhrani, K.** (2019). Cultivating an e-learning culture. *Scientia Pedagogica Experimentalis*, 56(1), 3-32.

Graham, C. R., Borup, J., **Short, C. R.**, & Archambault, L. (2019). K-12 blended teaching: A guide to personalized learning and online integration. Retrievable from Edtechbooks.org

Jung, H., **Kim, Y.**, Lee, H. & Shin, Y. (2019). Advanced instructional design for successive E-learning: Based on the Successive Approximation Model (SAM). *International Journal on E-Learning*, 18(2), 191-204. Waynesville, NC USA: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE). Retrieved March 28, 2019 from <https://www.learnstechlib.org/primary/p/187327/>.

Martin, F., **Budhrani, K.**, Kumar, S., & Ritzhaupt, A. (2019). Award-winning faculty online teaching practices: Roles and competencies. *Online Learning*, 23(1), 184-205. doi:10.24059/olj.v23i1.1329

**Muljana, P. S.**, & Luo, T. (2019). Factors contributing to student retention in online learning and recommended strategies for the improvement: A systematic literature review. *Journal of Information Technology Education: Research*, 18, 19-57. <https://doi.org/10.28945/4182>

**Muljana, P. S.**, & Placencia, G. (2018). Learning analytics: translating data into “just-in-time” interventions. *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Innovative Pedagogy*, 1(1), 50–69.

Richard, G. T., & **Giri, S.** (2019). Digital and physical fabrication as multimodal learning: Understanding youth computational thinking when making integrated systems through bidirectionally responsive design. *ACM Transactions on Computing Education (TOCE)*, 19(3), 17.

**Zhu, M.**, Bonk, C. J., & Sari, A. (in press). MOOC instructor motivations, innovations, and designs: Surveys, interviews, and course reviews. *Canadian Journal of Learning and Technology*.

**Zhu, M.**, Bonk, C. J., & Sari, A. R. (2018). Instructor experiences designing MOOCs in higher education: Pedagogical, resource, and logistical considerations and challenges. *Online Learning*, 22(4), 203-241.

# Shoutouts! GSA Member Accomplishments

## Conference Presentations

Colquhoun, C., and **Essmiller, K.** (2018). Dangerous data? The ethics of learning analytics in OER in the age of big data. Presented at the 15th Annual Open Education Conference, Niagara Falls, New York, 10-12 October, 2018.

**Essmiller, K.**, Thompson, P., and Asino, T. (2018). It's nifty but is it useful. Accepted for presentation at the American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada, 5-9 April, 2019.

**Kim, Y.**, Alvarado-Albertorio, F., & Stansberry, S. (2019, March). An investigation into a way for transformative learning with 3D printing in teaching. Poster presented at the Transformative Learning Conference, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Kim, Y.**, Chaivisit, S., Asino, T., & Stansberry, S. (2019, March). An explorative study on emerging technologies in a learning space. Virtual presentation at the Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education (SITE) 2019, Las Vegas, NV.

**Muljana, P. S.**, Luo, T. (2018, October). Creating accessible instructional materials to improve learning for all. Association of Educational Communications Technology (AECT), Kansas City, MO.

Richard, G. T., **Giri, S.**, Ashley, R. W., & Whittington, N. (2019, June). Scaffolding inclusivity through making: A preliminary analysis of diverse learners' meaning making through complex systems. International Conference on Computer Supported Collaborative Learning, Lyon, France.

**Short, C. R.**, & Graham, C. R. (2019). Preparing K-12 teachers for blended teaching: A competency-based approach. Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education, 30th Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

**Turcotte, N.** (2019). Transforming bodies as boundary objects: Viewing golf instructor's pedagogical encounters across space-time. Dissertation research presentation given to candidates accepted into the LDT Ph.D. program at Penn State, State College, PA.

**Turcotte, N.**, & Kirby, J. A. (2018). An exploration of our field's online doctoral degree programs and their requirements. Roundtable Presentation for Design and Development at Association of Educational Communications and Technology (AECT), Kansas City, MO.

**Turk, M.** (April, 2019). Exploring the perceptions and experiences of college students and a course instructor about a video discussion technology tool: A community of inquiry perspective. Poster presentation to be delivered at AERA 2019 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada.

### *We would also like to take the opportunity to recognize and congratulate the following:*

**Cecil R. Short** on being elected to serve as the VP of Communications for TED at AECT, and as the co-chair of the K-12 Online Learning SIG at SITE.

**Kathy Essmiller** on accepting appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University, and OER Librarian/Academic Liaison to the Greenwood School of Music and the Department of Theatre.

**Pauline Salim Muljana** on her nomination by the committee for consideration for the Division C Outstanding Graduate Student Poster Award for her poster entitled: Factors Contributing to Student Retention in Online Learning and Recommended Strategies for Improvement: A Systematic Literature, to be presented at the meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Toronto.