KARL KAPP had the kind of week most instructional technology professors only dream of when he was asked to be the “author” of a course on one of the country’s leading online learning companies: Lynda.com.

It all started when Kapp was a presenter at the Learning Solutions Conference in Orlando, Fla., where he caught the eye of Aaron Quigley. Quigley, a content manager for Lynda.com, is responsible for curating authors and courses that meet viewers’ training needs.

Quigley explains that the ideal candidate is a passionate subject matter expert who can deliver content in a conversational tone. “When I first saw Dr. Kapp at Learning Solutions, he connected with his audience in a way that engaged the learners and transformed typically passive viewers into active participants in the presentation.”

Lynda.com courses generally come in two different formats: screen-capture and live-action. Screen capture courses are useful for lessons that are entirely software-based. That way, a student can follow an author’s mouse and go through each step of the program. More conceptual courses are often live-action. Kapp’s presentation skills, along with the concepts he taught, made his course appropriate for a mix of live-action, screen-capture and B-roll footage.

Kapp compared writing the scripts for the course to writing a book. When it came time to shoot, it was like turning that book into a movie.

Lights, Camera, Action!

True to California style, Kapp received the Hollywood treatment during his five-day stay on the set, including makeup and wardrobe changes. Once Kapp heard “Action,” he came out running.

“It felt naturally fast-paced. It wasn’t hectic, but it was fast-paced,” says Kapp.

Kapp’s role as “the instructor” for Lynda.com differed greatly from classroom teaching. In a classroom, a major part of Kapp’s teaching style is his interaction with the students. With no student energy to feed off of and no breaks between lectures, he says it was difficult to maintain high-level energy for the entire performance. Another challenge Kapp faced was the inability to improvise; he had to stick to the script.

“I really needed to just focus on reading the words on the teleprompter. Nothing felt like a normal classroom,” says Kapp. “It really didn’t feel like traditional teaching at all.”

Kapp was comfortable in front of the camera, but he did not foresee the strain production would place on his vocal cords. Day two was filled with non-stop voice recording, he recalls, as he completed 29 of his 40 chapters. Each chapter took several takes that all demanded the same level of enthusiasm. A little tea called “throat coat,” however, allowed him to get the job done.

Kapp praises his experience with Lynda.com and the atmosphere on set. Everyone was friendly and professional, and everything they did went toward improving their learners’ experience, he explains.

“They really went out of their way to make you feel welcome and to focus on the student’s experience watching the instruction,” says Kapp.

When asked about his experience with Kapp, Quigley shared a similar sentiment. “Working with Dr. Kapp is a delight. His organization of course content, passion for engaging instruction, and utmost professionalism make him an ideal Lynda.com author,” says Quigley.

It is no surprise then that Kapp is looking into working with Lynda.com on more courses. Hopefully next time he will get to meet Lynda – cofounder and executive chair Lynda Weinman, that is.

While Kapp’s course has yet to be released, members of the BU campus community have full access to Lynda.com courses and tutorials at Lynda.bloomu.edu.

By: Sean Williams ’15
Nursing majors participate in BU’s first White Coat Ceremony

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY was one of three nursing schools in the commonwealth and 100 nationwide chosen to receive a $3,000 grant from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the Arnold P. Gold Foundation (APGF) for a White Coat Ceremony. The program was held on Sept. 7 in the Haas Center for the Arts.

White coat ceremonies have been a rite of passage at medical schools for more than 20 years. The event marked the first coordinated effort to bring the tradition most often practiced by medical schools to nursing schools. At the ceremony, Bloomsburg University sophomores were formally recognized onstage as they were welcomed into the nursing major before their family, friends and their junior and senior class peers. After swearing an oath, each nursing student from all three classes received a specially designed pin. The pin serves as a reminder of the students’ commitment to keeping their oath and providing quality care to their patients.

BU’s nursing program receives HRSA grant

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY’S Department of Nursing was re-awarded the Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship (AENT) grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources, and Services Administration Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship (AENT) Program. BU’s nursing department is among a group of 65 schools from across the country receiving an AENT award.

The re-awarded grant of $691,872 will provide tuition, fees and textbook stipends to approximately 48 nurse practitioner students over the next two years (2014-2016). These awards are the largest in the program’s history.

“The fact that the program was re-awarded the grant is a testament not only to our excellent program but also to the commitment of Bloomsburg University’s Department of Nursing to providing an excellent education to future primary care providers,” says Noreen Chikotas, program director and the writer and project director for the grant. “These practitioners will serve the rural Northeast and Central Susquehanna Valley regions of the state, helping to fulfill our institution’s mission to serve the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.”

Chikotas says the scholarships will assist in providing the local rural community with well-prepared primary care providers and give the students the ability to focus on their education to become nurse practitioners.

Brenda Wands, assistant professor and program director of the nurse anesthesia program, also was awarded a HRSA grant. The $15,701 Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship Grant program will offset some tuition costs for nurse anesthesia students.

Students continue experiment

SEVEN College of Science and Technology students spent the winter, spring and summer semesters collaborating with physics and engineer technology faculty John Huckans and Ju Xin to continue building Bloomsburg University’s UltraColdBloom. The purpose of this laboratory experiment is to trap and laser-cool rubidium-87 atoms to sub-Doppler temperatures (below 140 degrees micro kelvin).

Students Rachel Livingston, Dan McDonald, Steve Zosh, Josh Halboerster, Nick Hitch, Matt Gift and Devon Perkins developed a wide range of experimental skills and knowledge in several areas of physics, including optics, electronics, mechanics, and quantum mechanics. The team expects to begin science experiments later this year. Livingston, Zosh, Halboerster, Hitch and Gift presented at the fourth annual Susquehanna Valley Undergraduate Research Symposium at Geisinger Medical Center in early August. See more about the symposium at bloomu.edu/news/research-symposium.

BU RadNet station added to EPA website

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) included BU’s campus RadNet station on its public online website. RadNet monitoring stations track gamma radiation levels emitted from airborne radioactive particles. There are 140 RadNet stations across the U.S. and BU’s station on top of Andruss Library is one of just three in Pennsylvania.

To check out Bloomsburg radiation levels or for more information on the EPA and its RadNet stations, go to www.epa.gov or contact David Simpson, associate professor of physics and engineering technology, at dsimpson@bloomu.edu.

Couple supports STEM Magnet and others with $1 million gift

MICHAEL ‘85 and Beth Boguski of Mechanicsburg have committed $1 million to the Bloomsburg University Foundation to support initiatives including the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Magnet School; Professional U; and the Henry Carver Fund, Bloomsburg University’s annual fund.

“Bloomsburg University is a very special place,” says Boguski, president of Eastern Alliance Insurance Group and a member of the BU Foundation Board of Directors. “I had a great college experience and received an outstanding and affordable education. Beth and I are extremely pleased to support the university with this financial commitment.”

Through this gift, the couple established the first Professional U Endowed Capstone Experience Scholarship, which will support internships, travel abroad and research projects for students each year. The gift also renews the Boguski’s support for the Henry Carver Fund and, through Michael’s company, support for the STEM Magnet School, a two-year science, technology, engineering and math immersion program for local high school students.

Boguski, a first-generation college student and a member of the Zeta Psi fraternity, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business administration.
MATHLETES, an after-school program at Greenwood Friends School, finished its third year at the end of the spring semester. Under the direction of Paul Loomis, associate professor of mathematics, BU students Lara Cesco-Cancian, Martina Drew, Zach Malett, Casandra Miller, Selena Phillips, Jon Thomas and Dylan Weiss traveled to Greenwood each Thursday for the hour-long program of math-related games, puzzles and activities. The students worked at stations with a group of four to six students at a time; every 10 to 15 minutes the students would rotate to another activity.

Mathletes began in fall 2011 with five BU students and 12 to 15 Greenwood students. This spring more than 30 students from first to eighth grades took part each week.

Chris Vanek, a senior electronics engineering technology major, worked on research on wireless power transfer (WPT) technology sponsored by the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. He designed and implemented a 4 megahertz inductive-resonance WPT system that transferred 75 watts of power wirelessly to a light bulb.

The WPT system, designed under the guidance of Biswajit Ray, professor of electronics engineering technology, worked up to a separation distance of 50 centimeters between the transmit and receive coils. The wireless power transfer technology is becoming increasingly popular for consumer electronics, electric vehicle charging, and implantable biomedical devices.

The current engineering challenge is to design systems that maintain high power and high efficiency capability for dynamic loads with changing distance and orientation.

NSF grant awarded to Tapsak’s firm

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) has awarded Zzyzx Polymers a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant in the amount of $737,000. This grant will support research and development efforts on the firm’s novel plastic polymers manufacturing process. Mark Tapsak, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry at BU, is one of the company’s cofounders.

This SBIR Phase II project will demonstrate the first commercial-scale processing of post-consumer plastic materials for high-value applications using an approach known as continuous mechnochemical compatibilization. In 2010, only 8 percent of the 230 million tons of plastic waste generated in the U.S. was recovered for recycling. The Zzyzx Polymers project will focus on using CMC to recycle materials without the need for extensive cleaning or sorting, thereby reducing processing steps, and returning value to these materials in a more cost-competitive way. For more information, go to www.zpolymers.com.

Bu professor heads to Poland for fellowship

MEHDI RAZZAGHI, professor of mathematics, statistics and computer sciences, has been selected for a one-year Fulbright Senior Specialist Fellowship to conduct research overseas. He will spend the 2014-15 academic year at the University of Warsaw in Poland as a visiting scholar where he will offer a special topics course for the graduate students, “Statistics in Toxicology.” He will also conduct collaborative research on a project, “Finite Mixtures for Modeling Counts in Developmental Toxicity Experiments.”

The goal of the Fulbright program is to establish increased mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge and skills.
A GROUP OF STUDENTS enrolled in the field-based course, Special Topics in Field Geology, got first-hand experience with the geological and environmental issues of the western United States during three weeks in May.

During the first week of class in Bloomsburg, every student researched two assigned topics and prepared a poster and write-up/hand-out for each. The 13 environmental, geographical and geological sciences students then headed west, led by faculty Chris Whisner, Jennifer Whisner and Cynthia Venn, to spend 11 days traveling through Death Valley, the Mono Lake area, the Eastern Sierra and Owens Valley, Calif. Students were challenged physically and mentally: roughing it at rustic campsites, grilling trout caught in mountain streams and working on field notebooks until late in the evening. They endured rain, snow, hail, tent-breaking wind/sand storms and 116 degree heat while marveling at the mining impacts, stunning geology and complex water resource issues on their 1,800-mile trek.

Students learned how to set up and take down camp, work as part of an effective team, cultivate a positive attitude in the face of adversity, show initiative in identifying and then doing what needed to be done, deal with personalities unlike one's own and have fun in the great outdoors.

Each student gave a lecture at two stops while faculty displayed the accompanying posters. They also made improvements to the quality of their field notebooks – a personal record of observations, interpretations, and activities. In their final synthesis paper, most students noted that seeing mile-high mountains, volcanoes, earthquake scars, picturesque landscapes carved by alpine glaciers and rushing water, and irrigation in one of the most water-starved parts of the U.S. helped them better understand concepts they had discussed in class.

This trip was made possible by a generous contribution from an anonymous donor who covered the cost of plane fare for the students.

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EGGS students present research to the Geological Society of America

FIVE STUDENTS majoring in environmental, geographical and geological sciences (EGGS) or chemistry/biochemistry presented research results at a recent meeting of the Northeastern Section of the Geological Society of America, in Lancaster:

- Kody Bond (professional geology major) and Jennifer Whisner, assistant professor of EGGS - “Groundwater-Surface water interaction in cleaned and uncleaned stream reaches, Fishing Creek, Sullivan County, PA”
- Lynnette Eichenlaub (bachelor of science in geology, currently a graduate student in instructional technology), Christopher Hallen, professor of chemistry, and Cynthia Venn, professor of EGGS - “Water quality study at Mike’s Lake, a catch and release pond in Wyalusing (Bradford County), PA”
- Robert Kresch (professional geology/environmental planning major), Whisner, Hallen and Venn – “Intensive sampling of a methane-rich residential water well outside the Marcellus Shale development region, Montour County, PA”
- Amanda Pritzlaff (chemistry and biochemistry major), Hallen and Venn – “Annual Snapshot #5: Susquehanna River water chemistry at Danville, Watontown, and Shady Nook, PA”
- Franklin Rodemer (chemistry and biochemistry/professional geology major), Hallen and Venn – “A summer study of three acidic mine drainages utilizing passive limestone treatment systems in Schuylkill County, PA”

Whisner and Venn organized a theme session on “Abandoned Mine Drainage: Impacts, Treatment and Novel Uses” for the meeting. Also attending were Hallen and student Justin Woerth.
ACM students take third place in PACISE programming contest

FIVE STUDENTS from Bloomsburg University's Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) student chapter competed in a test of computer programming skills recently at California University of Pennsylvania. Students Jim Capozzoli, Jacob Dorman and Melissa Wall, competing as Team Ramrod, took third place, writing four programs during the three-hour Collegiate Programming Contest of the 23rd annual Pennsylvania Association of Computer and Information Science Educators Conference. Computer science majors Landan Cheruka and Michael Young competed, as Team Crimea River, among 15 teams from State System schools. Team members are part of the programming-contest group in the Bloomsburg Student Chapter of the ACM.

BU’s Department of Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics is a member of PACISE, the Pennsylvania Association of Computer and Information Science Educators, representing computer programs across the State System member schools. The programming squad coach, Robert Montante, associate professor of mathematics, statistics and computer sciences, represents BU at PACISE. He is also a member of ACM, an international professional organization of computer scientists and computer science educators with student chapters at many schools.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

CHEMISTRY

The American Physical Society Physical Review Letters has accepted for publication:


Co-author John H. Huckans is an assistant professor of physics at Bloomsburg University. This is the first appearance of an article by a Bloomsburg physicist in this journal.


MATH, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STATISTICS:

Kevin Ferland, professor of mathematics, published his paper, “Record Crossword Puzzles,” in The American Mathematical Monthly. The paper contains a proof that 96 is the maximum number of clues possible in a daily New York Times crossword puzzle. In addition to presenting the only two possible grids that have 96 clues, it provides a crossword puzzle using one of those grids.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS


PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

AUDIOLOGY
Shaheen N. Awan Ph.D. CCC-SLP ASHA-F recently coauthored the following research articles:


In addition, the following presentations were recently made at the Care of the Professional Voice Foundation Symposium: Philadelphia, PA in June 2013:

Awan SN, Kunkle KR, Martin MR. Effects of intonation patterns on nasalance.

Awan SN & Watts CR. Effects of Sample Duration on Cepstral/Spectral Measures of Continuous Speech.

Peterson EA, Roy N, Awan SN, Merrill RM, Tanner K. Performance of the Cepstral/Spectral Index of Dysphonia (CSID) as an Objective Treatment Outcomes Tool.

BIOLOGY
Clay Corbin, associate professor of biological and allied health sciences, has written two articles recently.


CHEMISTRY

Mike Borland, assistant professor of chemistry, was awarded a Faculty Research and Scholarship Grant through December 2014.

MATH, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STATISTICS
John Riley, professor of mathematics, statistics and computer sciences, is a section editor for The Journal of Digital Forensics, Security and Law.

The forensics program hosted Boy Scout Troop 50 for a presentation by John Riley on Social Media and Digital Forensics.

EXERCISE SCIENCE
Kelly Dauber, professor of exercise science and athletics, did a presentation at the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Annual Convention in Charlotte, N.C., “Double Jeopardy in Sport: Let’s Open Doors, Not Close Them.” The presentation discussed ways to open the doors of physical activity to populations that have faced closed doors due to race, class, gender, sexuality, disability, or other factors.

Swapan Mookerjee, professor of exercise science, co-authored two presentations at the 60th annual meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine in Indianapolis, Ind. Graduate student Matthew McMahon (MS ’13) was the collaborator on these research projects.

Swapan Mookerjee was the lead author and co-author of two presentations recently at the 18th annual Congress of the European College of Sport Science in Barcelona, Spain. These presentations were based on ongoing collaborative research with colleagues at the Institute of Physiology, German Sport University, Cologne, Germany.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY
Karl Kapp, professor of instructional technology, spoke about games for learning and gamification at the Singapore Armed Forces Learning Symposium held at SAFTI Military Institute. Officiated by Chief of Defense Force, Maj. Gen. Ng Chee Meng, the event featured a series of presentations and exhibitions on future training and learning relevant to the SAF.

NURSING
Noreen Chikotas, professor, Department of Nursing, recently presented on research she began during her sabbatical at the 2014 International Rural Health and Rural Nursing Research Conference at Montana State University, in Bozeman. Her presentation, “Case Management Clinic in Women’s Cardiovascular Health in Rural Pennsylvania” discussed the development and outcomes of a women’s cardiovascular case management clinic implemented at the Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine Clinic located in Mifflinville. The American Heart Association (AHA) cardiac guidelines for women were utilized to screen, assess, diagnosis, educate, and manage women between the ages of 25-55 without health insurance. Chikotas is continuing to research and determine if intensive screening, education, and management make a difference in the cardiovascular care of rural underserved women.

EGGS
Cynthia Venn, associate professor of environmental geography and geosciences, presented a paper, “Using Map Exercises as an Integrative Tool in a General Education Oceanography Course,” at the American Geophysical Union Ocean Sciences meeting, Feb. 23-28, 2014, in Honolulu, Hawaii. This paper reports the results of a semester-long class activity that was developed as a result of the 2013 BU Teaching Excellence Academy sponsored by the TALE office.

For news about research, presentations and publications, see bloomu.edu/research_scholars.