

Saif Altalib IDD Overview Statement

Being immersed into the field of instructional design and development has been a very exciting and inspiring time for me in a personal and professional level.

Personally, I have greatly enjoyed implementation of emerging technologies and building abstract concepts and understandings in the field of instructional technology.

I have learned things that range from project management, collaboration, cognitive learning theories, statistical inference, database development, graphic design, learning objects, to using emerging technologies like *iPods* for educational purposes.

I came into the program as an information technology and web professional, experienced in the areas of network & computers, eCommerce, and web design. In a year and a half of immersion in instructional technology, I came out of the program with skills and knowledge in working with the areas of instructional design, project management, learning objects, and learning strategies.

The three themes that I felt were most related to my coursework and experiences within the IDD program are the eLearning, Instructional Design & Development, and Information Technologies themes. The specific projects that I developed and fall under each of the three themes can be viewed at

<http://www.saifdesign.com/experiences/>

I credit my extensive involvement in eLearning directly to the faculty and students enrolled in the IT Studio courses. During my Studio experience, I developed two effective eLearning programs for the College of Education Office of Information Technology. I also joined Dr. Orey's wonderful eLearning teaching technique by contributing to the "Emerging Perspective in Teaching, Learning & Technology" eBook. A fellow student and I, wrote a chapter about "Examples of Modeling" that is now openly available for anyone in the world through the WWW to learn from. My last and very unique artifact I included in my eLearning theme is my collaboration with Dr. Choi in developing the database running the case-based

classroom management program. Working on this project gave me a sense of ideal eLearning environments and the understanding of the tremendous amount of effort and time needed to develop a high quality contextual educational program.

The Instructional Design & Development theme is an obvious choice since it is also the title of my graduate major. In the crucial EDIT6170 "Introduction to Instructional Design" course, I worked with a peer in learning how to design a complete needs assessment, analysis, development, design and evaluation of an instructional program. Being part of all these processes in a real world environment gave me an abstract understanding of the complexity of the field and the importance of learning and applying all the steps suggested in instructional design models.

The third and last theme I chose is also obvious, since I began my experience in information technology during my undergraduate degree and business work experiences. In addition, my current graduate assistantship is with the College of Education office of information technology (OIT). With the OIT, I was exposed to the College of Education information and instructional technology daily support, future plans, and vision for the use of technology at the University of Georgia's College of Education. My main responsibility with the OIT was maintaining the Teaching with Technology (TWT) faculty and students support and resources portal. I helped develop this site into one of the most effective COE instructional technology resources available to its faculty and students other than the instructional services OIT, CTL and EITS staff. The site contains graphic helplets, animated tutorials, automatically updated news feeds, searchable database of FAQ, collection of educational technology resources, and much more. Another part of my work at the OIT which was very enjoyable for me, since I like challenges, was leading workshops on Macromedia DreamWeaver & Captivate, WebCT, and LiveText to graduate students and their instructors. I realized that the best way to learn something is to

be responsible for leading a workshop or session for the purpose of teaching people the concept behind the tool and how to use it in their context!

I could have chosen various themes for the work I have been involved in during my graduate degree in IDD but I felt the three themes (eLearning, Instructional Design & Development, and Information Technologies) were the most compatible with my work and interests. My greatest work, *OIT Employee Customer Service Training Program*, is currently under development and I cannot wait until it is complete and make a positive difference for the OIT organization and its student employee's customer service knowledge and skills.