

WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS

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*EDUC 526 Capstone Experience in Educational
Technology and Learning*

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INTRODUCTION

During the summer of 2011, I decided to enroll in the Educational Technology and Learning Program with Azusa Pacific University. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership (also from Azusa Pacific University) my intentions were to seek a Master's degree in the same program as my Bachelor's degree. Unfortunately or fortunately, the number of students required for enrollment into the Leadership and Organizational Studies were not meet. After reviewing the information provided by the educational representative of the program, I decided to further my education with a technological approach to education. At the start of the program, I had recently worked as a technical writer for a governmental contract. Prior to working as a technical writer, I performed the duties of a logistics analyst for engineer equipment assets as part of the Marine Corps' Field Supply Maintenance and Analysis Office (FSMAO) Program and also as a warranty coordinator for the Marine Corps' optics warranty program. Each assignments involved working for the military; primarily the Marine Corps. My primary focus was dealing with logistics management. There are numerous aspects that apply to the logistics community. As a logistics manager, I could work anywhere between supply chain management, distribution, procurement, and transportation. As a logistics analyst, I had the opportunity to work with an array of emerging technologies. As it relates to working with the military, technology is the key to keeping the warfighter one step ahead of the competition. There were numerous reasons, I decided to pursue my Master's degree; Motivation being one of them. After graduating with a degree in Organizational Leadership, I was motivated by the number of students that were graduating with a Master's degree in various fields of studies. Observing this event made me hungry and thirsting for more. I can recall how the master of ceremonies stated that, "it sounds so good to be called a master"; I agree. That motivation drives me each and every day. With a tough job market, I thought it would be feasible to obtain a higher level of education while seeking my next career move. With my level of management experience, having a Master's degree would go a long way in moving forward in my next endeavor.

PERSONAL GROWTH

My personal growth assessment has expanded on the different types of learning styles that I endured during my studies in Organizational Leadership. The study habits for the two programs are different but the outcome for each is the same. Put your best foot forward and hope for the best. The bachelors program was directed more towards my analytical skills for writing and research while the master's program is directed towards providing a kinesthetic approach. Throughout the program, my study habits have remained the same which is to make a concerted effort to stay ahead of the program. I make an effort to stay in advance of the course as much as possible in order to avoid the last minute drawbacks. Fortunately, the various course instructors have allowed me and the fellow students to work in an educational friendly atmosphere. The program has given me the opportunity to expand on both a personal and educational level. I have worked with a high level of classmates and course instructors to obtain and complete the best product available. I have worked with knowledgeable individuals that have allowed me to pick their brains for bits and pieces of technological expertise and experience. My spiritual level to this point has remained the same since I started the program. I have added certain spiritual aspects to various parts of the program but it has not changed my overall spiritual outlook. The program has added some expansion spiritually but only to a small degree. On a personal level, completing my educational journey with a Master's degree in Educational Technology and Learning would mean the world to me. I would have journeyed further than I ever thought possible. As I look back on my days as a high school student, if I would have applied the same drive, motivation and hunger that drives me today, there's no telling what I could have accomplished. After enduring a long career in the military, I never thought I'd receive a college education. Now that I have, it's given me a great feeling of accomplishment. Regardless of my next career move, the feeling of graduating with a Master's degree will be one to uphold.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

As a scholar through my studies with Azusa Pacific University, I feel as though I have grown immeasurably. I have grown mentally, physically, spiritually, and on a technological level. As a student and future educator I have a different outlook on technology and what it means to the future of our education. As a student, educational concepts that once seemed overwhelming are now considered routine. Course work that was once painstaking is now easy to obtain through research and study. My educational vision is always changing and evolving. My original intentions were just to finish high school. In my later years once I decided to attend college, my educational vision evolved from obtaining an Associate's degree to obtaining a Bachelor's degree to now seeking a Master's degree. I am not sure what my next educational endeavor may be but I will continue to evolve as the outlook of my education does. There have not been any significant changes or responsibilities professionally since the start of the Master's program. I would hope as I move forward into the program, the opportunity for growth in a field of choice would become available. Once the opportunity does become available, the necessary steps will be taken to ensure that my experience, knowledge, and education will be properly accounted for. Currently I have not incorporated any changes to my form of teaching as it relates to the program. Although I have not instructed at the K-12 level, I have provided instruction for adult learning through military development. As a logistics analyst, I had the opportunity to provide teaching and instruction on numerous bridging technologies to entry level and mid-level management. As I progress through my educational journey, I look forward to providing training grounded on the information I received in the Educational Technology Program. The training that I provided in the past was based on technology and forward thinking processes. Each course has provided some insight to what I can use as part of my instructional piece for training future students. At this point and time, I do not foresee a career in teaching levels K-12 but if in the future if I had a change of heart, I would incorporate learning experienced I obtained from the following courses:

- In (EDUC 513) the students were required to create a live binder account which was used as a portfolio to create and store all material generated during the

course. I think this can be an excellent tool to use in the classroom to maintain all documents created during the school year.

- In (EDUC 514) the students learned about the thirds of photography and how to edit movies and videos for multiple purposes. Depending on the class taught, I think can be very useful to students that would like to create a movie or video to present their presentation.
- In (EDUC 515) I had my first use of Prezi. I think this can be a new, engaging, and useful tool for providing a presentation to the students. I think that if you mix up the presentation, it keeps the students engaged on the learning.
- In (EDUC 519) I had the opportunity to create documents using programs such as Adobe InDesign. This is just another example of providing material with a different appeal to keep your students and audience engaged on the lessons learned.
- In (EDUC 522) I had the opportunity to create a unit/lesson plan. The unit plan will allow me to create an agenda as to how the required material will be covered during the school year. In line with using and developing a unit plan, the instructor can ensure that they are following the guideline for teaching at a particular grade level as provided by the California school standards.
- In (EDUC 523) I had my first experience with iBook Author. If iPads will be the future of student learning, using iBook Author will play a major role in educating students. With the use of iBook Author, the instructor can create their own reading material and provide it to the students through the use of iBook Author and an iPad.

For my action research study, I reinvented myself through the use of diet and proper exercise. I have always had an appeal for exercise but I did not always have the appeal

for a proper diet. For my action research, I will attempt to lower my cholesterol, my body fat, and lower my weight by changing my eating habits and conditioning program. The entire project will take place over the course of 45 days with a cholesterol, body fat, and weight check being conducted before and after the course of the program.

TECHNICAL GROWTH

The technical aspect of my growth while attending the Educational Technology and Learning program has made the biggest impact on my overall success. I had specific technical skills relating to the program but that was nothing in comparison to what I have now. There is a great deal of growth that I have obtained over the course of the program. Different characteristics of the program that I have learned since my enrollment in the summer of 2011 include but are limited to; video editing, camera angles and working in thirds, various aspects of photo shop ranging from panoramic photos to picture makeovers. I have a better understanding of multiple intelligence and working with podcasting as well as video casting. I am now versed on programs such as web based design, blogging, adobe programs, and video production. There is an endless source of information that I have obtained and will continue to seek as I move forward.

LIFE LONG LEARNING PLAN

The program had added a lot of value to my personal and professional life that I will continue to use long after the program is over. Personally I plan to use what I have learning in the program to develop and create my own personal videos. With the knowledge I have obtained through video editing and adding sound and graphics, I can create my own product to enjoy for many years down the road. Professionally I plan to use the tools I have learned throughout the program to present a better product to the future company or organization that I plan to work for. I intend to use the program the same way I used bridging technologies while working with the Marine Corps. I plan to incorporate the tools I have available at my disposal to modernize an organizations outdated processes. In order to effectively use the knowledge obtained through the program, I will have to continue to hone in on my skills. Most of the skills acquired

through the program with only be maintained by using the skill obtained through constant use. If the skills are not constantly used then they will be lost and all the knowledge obtained through the program will be lost as well. The most important thing I have become conscious of during the course of the program is to provide the best product available. My fellow classmates have created some outstanding project which have in turned anted up the stakes for all future projects. If you are not putting forth the effort and sacrifice it will show when you present your project alongside that of your classmates. I plan to stay abreast in the field of study by following technology as closely as I can by reading information posted to blogs and the likes that keep us up to speed on the advancements of technology. I plan to keep abreast of everything and seek additional education as required. In five years, I see myself excelling in a prominent organization. I plan to assist an organization to achieve their immediate and future goals. I hope to have enough stability and knowledge to assist someone who is seeking the same knowledge I was seek five years prior. In ten years I look forward to being in a situation where I am a lead representative of a major company or organization.

SECTION TWO:

INTRODUCTION

In this portion of the growth assessment, I plan to provide some insight on the course material studied during the Education Technology and Learning and what I took from each course. Each course had its own benefits and teaching points that can enhance any form of learning environment.

HISTORY OF COURSE WORK AND COURSE EVALUATION:

EDUC 512 *Productivity Software: Summer 2011/Professor Jim Sullivan:*

This was the first class I had as part of the Educational Technology and Learning Program. Professor Sullivan introduced the class to a number of different tools such as: Dropbox, Web-Quest, Teacher Web, Using Rubrics, Quest Gardens, Zoonal, Weebly, Webs, Evernote, Google Docs, Copy Right Laws, and Digital Tech Discussions. We

also discussed the difference between Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP), Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA), and Wi-Fi Protected Access II (WPA2).

Commentary: This was a great introductory class to get the ball rolling on the program. I almost wish I had this class for 9 weeks verses the short 6 week version I had. This was my first class and I think I was still trying to figure things out in the end. This course was the table setter for the program. I told my wife after the completion of this class, I'd be better prepared for every class to follow.

EDUC 514 *Digital Video in the Classroom: Summer 2011/Professor Tory Temple:*

This was my second class as part of the Educational Technology and Learning Program. Professor Temple introduced the class to the world of video and music editing. I did not have any experience when I entered the class so it was a major learning curve. I used Vegas Movie Studio HD Platinum 10.0 to create and edit my videos. With the use of the Vegas Movie Studio, I was able to add and edit video clips, add and edit music for the video, and to add and edit graphics. I created my final project using a camcorder and edited it with the movie studio. Professor Temple also discussed the art behind taking pictures and using different picture angles such as over the shoulder shots and wide angle shots. We discussed such items as different shot types, layering shots, types of camera angles, and the rules of thirds. We also discussed how the use of a green-screen can be used to enhance your video effect.

Commentary: I had a great time editing my video in this class. This was my first class along with EDUC 512. This particular class motivated me for the remainder of the program. In this particular class the instructor made a comment concerning my final project that I'll never forget. The instructor mentions that if I would have done more editing here and there, I would have had a better project. I wish I would have known that in the beginning. I almost wish we had 2 separate finales; one at the mid-point of the class and one at the end. Unfortunately, this was a 6 weeks class. Nevertheless, my Capstone project will have a much better presentation.

EDUC 517 *Digital Imaging: Fall I 2011/Professor Doyle Potter:*

In the course on Digital Imaging, Professor Potter introduced the class to Adobe Photoshop. I had no previous experience with Photoshop so I had another major learning curve in order to get onboard with the program. As with all of the classes in the program, I learned a lot and had a great deal of fun. Each week we were creating new projects with Adobe Photoshop (Creative Suite) CS4 or CS5. With Adobe Photoshop, we created projects such as: Photo Restoration, Creating a Panorama Photo, Creating a 3-D Photo, Creating a Photo Composition, Doing a Digital Makeover, and Creating a Book Cover. The final project consisted of a composition that consisted of each of the Photoshop projects and presenting through the use of power point. For this class most of the work was submitted through the use of Dropbox since the files were large. This also gave the other students in the class a chance to view the different projects and adjust their project as needed.

Commentary: My welcome into the world of digital imaging and Photoshop.

Unfortunately I had no experience with Photoshop. This was the first class I did via adobe connect. I would not recommend doing Photoshop through adobe connect or Skype or Google docs. I thought this was probably the number 1 class that should be done strictly face to face. The class was ok and I loved it but I struggled at points trying to figure things out. Professor Doyle was great. I just wish I could have sat in his class.

EDUC 522 *Learning in the 21st Century: Fall I 2011/Professor Nicol Malone:*

In the Learning in the 21st Century class, Professor Malone introduced the class to Blooms Taxonomy and Multiple Intelligence. In this particular class, I created my first video podcast and was introduced to Audacity 13 Beta. In Professor Malone's class, a lot of focus was directed toward the use of Multiple Intelligence, Bloom Taxonomy, A Multiple Intelligence Lesson Plan, and a Multiple Intelligence Unit Plan. Also in Professor Malone's class, I was introduced to Google reader and started submitting blogs to my Weebly page.

Commentary: Great class. Professor Malone is a great instructor. She was the first instructor to get everyone's attention concerning the Capstone. She was very easy to work with.

EDUC 515 *Evolving Educational Technologies: Fall II 2011/Professor Lance Martin:*

In the course on Evolving Educational Technology, Professor Martin introduced the class to numerous useful websites and technologies. We discussed items such as blog sharing, creating audio and video podcast, and creating a case study for emerging technologies. In Professor Martin's class I was introduced to Prezi and embedding codes for Weebly and different websites. I was introduced to programs such as Flickr, Animoto, Scribd and Jing. During the class we also created a standard based blog. I had a great time using Vlog It on my PC to create podcast that I used as part of my final presentation.

Commentary: Another great class. Professor Martin is one of the best instructors I had. I wish I could have had him for more classes. Professor Martin introduced me to numerous outlays as mentioned above. Prezi, Scribd, Jing, and Vlog it are great tools that the instructor introduced me to. I still use Vlog It for most of my video presentations.

EDUC 524 *Curriculum Design and Delivery: Fall II 2011/Professor Joanne Gilbreath:*

In the Curriculum Design and Delivery, Professor Gilbreath introduced the class to ADDIE where we developed the analysis, design, development, implementation, and evaluation of our final project. In Professor Gilbreath's class I created the prototype for my professional website that I will present in EDUC 525. As part of the curriculum we worked on the Instructional Design, created a site map of our favorite store, created a flow cart for our final project and provided a storyboard. The more important aspect of this course was the spring board I would use for my website.

Commentary: This class I think more than any other set the table for the direction I would go with my final project and website. I was not sure which direction I would go

with my final project but after creating my project in Professor Gilbreath's class, I was able to figure it out.

EDUC 519 *Document Design in the Classroom: Spring I 2012/Professor Matt Hixson:*

In the Document Design class, Professor Hixson had the class create their design layout for their growth assessment and action research plan. The focus was turning your word document into an exciting presentation. Some of the students used this opportunity to provide their material using iBook author and other (including myself) used Adobe Creative Suites InDesign. Although I had used Adobe Photoshop previously in EDUC 517, this was my first experience with InDesign. I really enjoyed using InDesign and I decided to purchase it at the conclusion of the class. Once my InDesign presentation was completed, I created a PDF file to present to the instructor.

Commentary: This particular class is listed as a class III level for the program. I did not find it too difficult. I think it could have been part of the level I or level II training. Working through In Design was a little tough at first but the instructor provided great reference material to get us through. Professor Hixson also provided the information needed to make it through the Capstone which was very beneficial.

EDUC 525 *Web Design in the Classroom: Spring I 2012/Professor Linda Muhlhauser:*

In the Web Design classroom, Professor Muhlhauser introduced the class to a surplus of information related to website design and configuration. The first part was learning about HTML and embedding codes into your website. This was a little challenging but once it was all said and done, I enjoyed the work that was put in. The student were required to purchase and read the book, "Don't Make Me Think". The book contained a great deal of information pertaining to the "do's and don'ts" of creating your website. Our focus was on a single page web design. In this class I used Google Plus for the first time and used Google Docs to create doc or upload them and then publish them to the web. Used Google Forms to create quizzes, test, and surveys and embed those documents into our website. The class learned about using Notepad as a way of writing codes with a PC and embedding those coded into your website. Developed both a

professional and personal outline for our website, researched copy right laws, discussed the 10 commandments of web design, created our own Wesleyan Quadrilateral, and discussed the flipped classroom. This class in particular helped to bring my website to life.

Commentary: Another great class. Professor Muhlhauser provided a lot of helpful information. I think this class could be broken into 2 parts. We went over embedding coded to build a website through HTML. This could have been a program all its own. Professor Muhlhauser kept us busy with material which was great for learning. This class probably helped me organize all my education technology information more than any class. This is a great class that should be taken before EDUC 520.

EDUC 513 *Digital Age Literacies: Spring II 2012/Jennifer Courdiff*

In the course on Digital Age Literacies, Professor Courdiff introduced the class to live binder. This was my first experience using live binder for the Educational Technology and Learning Program. During this class, we used Facebook for threaded discussions and created an account with Twitter to follow an educator or celebrity of our choice. As part of our live binder portfolio, we created different computer scenarios for the classroom, looked at the structure of a church or organization, created a list of collaborative tools, and conducted an interview with an Information Technology (IT) rep from the school district. The projects listed were provided to create the overall portfolio for live binder.

Commentary: Professor Courdiff has a great deal of patients. I thought the class was pretty straight forward but some students struggled with some of the assignment due dates. I thought everything was clear cut and easy to follow.

EDUC 520 *Creating Web Media: Spring II 2012/Professor Tory Temple*

In the course on Creating Web Media, Professor Temple provided the class with the tool necessary to enhance our website. Professor Temple wanted the class to create tools for our websites that taught the user various skills. Most of the instructional portfolio was created using Camtasia or Screen Flow. As a PC user, I primarily used Camtasia. This was my first experience using Camtasia. I thought the software was useful and engaging. I was able to narrate callout, add media, and enhance the capabilities of my project.

Commentary: Once again Professor Temple got the most out of his teaching abilities. In this class I was introduced to Camtasia and I enjoy using the program. Unfortunately for this particular class, I was scheduled for EDUC 513 on the same night at the same campus. Thankfully, Professor Temple recorded the class through adobe connect which allowed me to follow the class at a later date once I got home. I would recommend that all classes are recorded for students who may have to miss class for various reasons.

EDUC 523 *Hypermedia-Enhanced Learning Environments: Summer 2012/Tim Holder*

In the Hypermedia-Enhanced Learning Environment, Professor Holder introduced the class to iBook Author. This was my first experience working with the iBook Author program. As part of the course, the students were required to create an interactive media using iBook Author by incorporating videos, photos, audio, a power point presentation, and an assessment of the material for the learners' use. Photos were edited using Photoshop or other editing programs and videos were created using iMovie or a form of video editing such as Sony Vegas Suites.

Commentary: Currently completing this class along with the Capstone project. To this point, I like what I see so far with iBook Author. I know other students enjoy it as well and I think some of them are using it to present their Capstone. I would recommend this course to be conducted earlier in the program so the student can have a better understanding of it if they plan to use it for their Capstone.

EDUC 526 Capstone Experience in Ed Tech and Learning: Summer 2012/Matt Hixson

The Capstone Experience in Educational Technology and Learning was a culmination of everything you learned during the program. In this course, Professor Hixson had the class create a presentation using a website or other form of approved presentation to provide your learning experience throughout the program. For the final presentation, the students would create a project portfolio, a growth assessment of information learned throughout the course, an action research based on a study you conducted over a period of weeks, and a unit plan based on a topic of instruction provided in a classroom setting. The Capstone project is the final piece to the Educational Technology and Learning Program and is required for complete of the course.