LIS490ST: Community Informatics Studio -- Equipping the Community Media Newsroom

1 message

Martin Wolske <mwolske@illinois.edu>   **Wed, Feb 2, 2011 at 4:53 PM**
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To: CIC-ANNOUNCE@listserv.illinois.edu

Hi all,

I'm excited to announce this summer's LIS490ST Community Informatics Studio course. I will be co-teaching the course with Brant Houston and Pam Dempsey from the Journalism Department and CU-CitizenAccess.org during Summer II, 2011. Using Studio-Based Learning methods, this course will bring together students, instructors, professionals from related fields, and community members in a collaborative environment to address a real-world problem or "case" or in journalism parlance, "the story." Project work will be very much student-led, with the instructors and outside experts serving as mentors and professional role models. A recently funded Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement project, "Equipping Citizen Journalists" is bringing together key ongoing and recent projects to address the disparity in effective use of technologies for information gathering, reporting, and information and news presentation that currently exists in north Champaign and East St. Louis. Four public computing centers have been identified as pilot sites to serve as community media newsrooms, including the Mary E. Brown Center (East St. Louis), the East St. Louis Park District Community Center, Salem Baptist Church (Champaign), and Salt and Light (Champaign). Students in LIS490ST will work with pilot sites and professionals to adapt community media and citizen journalism programming to the current needs of residents in the marginalized communities of north Champaign and East St. Louis. Issues of controlled vocabularies, wayfinding, preservation and archiving will also be considered to assure information is not only produced but also accessible in a way that is sustainable and impact-ful. Please note that we actively seek participation by both undergraduates and graduates in a variety of informatics- and journalism-related disciplines and welcome your help recruiting others who would bring valuable skills to the project.

The class will meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9AM to 3:50PM from June 13 through August 3. Most of the work for the class will be completed in studio, although there will be some research and communications that will be required to happen outside of studio time. We will also occasionally travel to model programs in addition to the various pilot sites, with travel sometimes falling outside of studio time.

You can find out more about the course from the online syllabus at: http://courseweb.lis.illinois.edu/~mwolske/lis490st/summer11/syllabus.xhtml or by contacting me. My office hours this semester (LIS 337) are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-10AM or by appointment. Please feel encouraged to stop on by or send me an email with questions or ideas related to the class.

This will be an exciting opportunity to bring together a number of community engagement projects led by faculty, staff and students of GSLIS, the Journalism Department, and the University more broadly. I hope you will consider joining us this summer!

-- Martin

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Community Informatics Initiative
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