Information Media Newsletter   Department of Information Media

Fall 1999

Information Media Newsletter Vol. 30 No. 1

St. Cloud State University
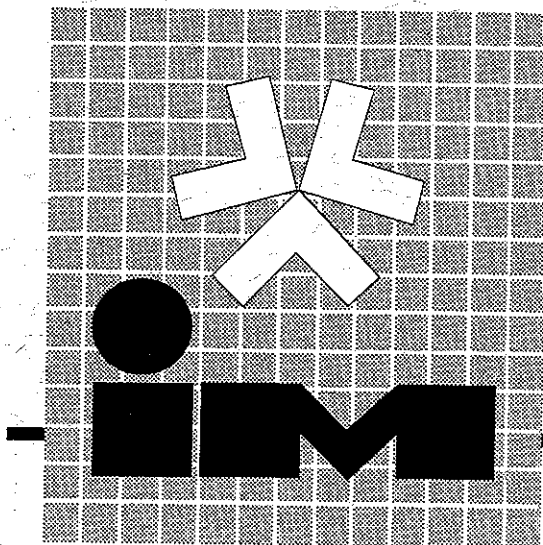
Dean's Corner

It is an exciting time to be involved in teaching, learning, and technology. For many years educators have differentiated between local learning and distance learning. How we interacted 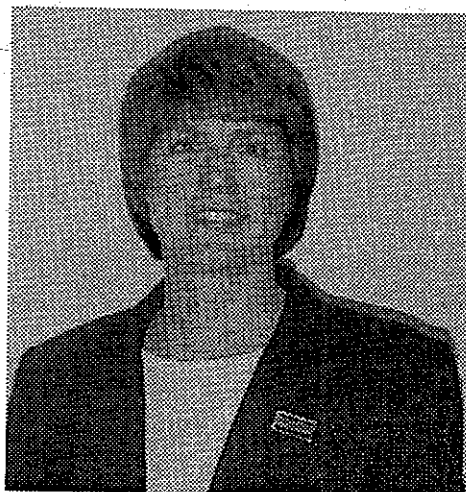with learners in a face-to-face setting was considered to be quite different from how we worked with students via ITV, in packaged courses, or other delivered methods. The lines between traditional learning environments and distance learning environments have begun to blur in the past few years. Indeed, even the language we use to describe the environment has changed. No longer is it popular to refer to all learning done out of the classroom as "distance education." The more correct term currently is "distributed learning." This new phrase encompasses all types of interaction between faculty, students, and other learning participants that happens outside of the classroom whether in a distance learning or a local learning environment. Distributed learning may include chat lines, web pages, desktop video teleconferencing, and a host of other options that new technologies are allowing instructors to try.

SCSU, LR&TS and CIM are taking a leadership role in exploring and developing opportunities in distributed learning. Our joint program with the University of North Texas providing the opportunity for midwesterners to earn an ALA-accredited MLS in Minnesota is a perfect example of a distributed learning opportunity that we have initiated this past year. One of our goals we have for the graduates of all our CIM programs is that they too will be prepared to be leaders in this new distributed learning environment. It truly is an exciting time to be involved in teaching, learning and technology!

Dr. Kristi Tornquist

**Best wishes to all for a
productive, enjoyable
academic year!**

CIM News

Fall has arrived again, and once more we find ourselves in the midst of the excitement that always accompanies new beginnings. As I looked at past issues of the CIM newsletter, I couldn't help but notice that last Fall the theme was "adapting to change." Clearly, in CIM we could probably focus on change and the ramifications of it in every issue, but then that would be boring, wouldn't it? Therefore, let's begin with why you are reading an editorial written by me rather than Doreen. There are many reasons that I would have welcomed being asked to write this semester's editorial for the CIM newsletter; however, the reason I'm serving as a guest editorialist happens to be that my good friend, colleague, former student and confidante is recovering from an illness, and that certainly was not among the reasons I had in mind. With that as a context for the article, let me say that it became **Dr. Dennis Fields** apparent to me very soon after agreeing to fill in for Doreen, that I was not going to be able to "fill her shoes"! All I could do was hope that I might be able to guide a very talented group of faculty and staff through the 1999-2000 academic year with some success and a minimum of stress.

Although others will undoubtedly comment on our moving into the Library in the Summer of 2000, I feel that it would be remiss for me to omit mentioning the event and some of what it will mean to us in CIM. The facility will be, without a doubt, a "must see" if you are in the St. Cloud area. State-of-the-art technology, generous space to do many of the things we have always wanted to do, aesthetically pleasing from every angle, incredible services and an outstanding faculty and staff. As alumni, we encourage you to come and visit as soon as you have time, perhaps at the Grand Opening, (look for the announcement in a future edition of the CIM newsletter) or soon after the event. The new facility promises to provide the CIM faculty and students opportunities for exercising their creativity in ways unknown to all of us at this time, but literally beg for exploration.

We continue to modify our curriculum to try and meet the incredible changes that occur in the field of information media and the needs of our incoming students. The undergraduate major is now operating like a full fledged program with most of the "bugs" worked out and expanding faster than we anticipated. The graduate degrees are growing and the employment opportunities, in most cases, exceed our ability to meet them. We do appreciate the fact that many of you inform us of openings as they occur, and we do our best to accommodate your needs.

Finally, due to Doreen's illness and subsequent decision to retire at the end of this academic year, we are in the process of developing a search for a replacement. We hope to have a replacement by the end of the 1999-2000 school year so that we can begin the academic school year for 2000-2001 at full strength.

The Center for Information Media and Learning Resources & Technology Services
congratulate the following Spring and Summer 1999 graduates:

Spring Semester 1999 Graduates		**Summer 1999 Graduates**	
Evelyn Anker (Track III)	Wendy Lee (Track I)	Roy Anderson (Track II)	Rodger Lindgren (Track II)
Limin Gu (Track III)	Julia Lodermeier (Track II)	Christine Fossum (Track II)	Shelley Peterson (Track II)
Marina Hammond (Track I)	Nancy Lorentz-Berg (Track II)	Linda Gibbons (Track II)	Katherine Unterburger (Track III)
Bethany Kauffman (Track II)	Cynthia Menas (Track I)	Peter Graff (Track II)	Sandra Yeager (Track III)
Cheryl Kellen (Track II)	Beverly Mowe (Track I)	Suzette Habisch (Track I)	Rochele M. Zemke (Track II)
Christine Kelly (Track II)	Pamela Osterberg (Track I)	Barbara Hysing (Track I)	
Joseph Kestel (Track III)	Gary Skarsten (Track I)	Jeanne Iverson (Track I)	
Alexandria Lammers (Track II)	Lori Stangland (Track I)	Carol Jernberg (Track II)	
Karen LaPlant (Track I)	Renee Wittenberg (Track III)	Debra Lanerd (Track I)	
Elizabeth A. Larson (Track I)		Linda Liebl (Track I)	

Teaching an Online Course: IM 618 - Recent Trends in IM

by **Luther Rotto**

This past summer I had the adventure of teaching my first online course. "Recent Trends" is a course required in most IM Master's degree programs. In the summer just past, we planned to offer it as a weekend course at District 287 in Plymouth. Why wasn't I surprised when the enrollment stopped at six?! As you might guess, however, those six REALLY needed to take the course (why else would someone want to take a weekend course—in the summer!).

Since the arrival of WebCT software (**http://www.webct.com/**) at SCSU last Spring, I had been anxious to put it to use. My six determined students seemed an ideal reason to make it happen. The students (not to mention the instructor) were all traveling a fair distance to get to Plymouth, with one coming all the way from the Hawley area. The nature of the course, seminar/discussion format about current topics in IM, matched up well with WebCT's discussion group, private e-mail, and chat room features. It seemed we could nearly recreate the seminar classroom in virtual form. After a crash course in the rudiments of WebCT courtesy of Celina Byers of our staff, I went to the first scheduled "real" class meeting ready to propose my web class alternative to the students.

The students were ready to try it, but with a few reservations. Several professed that their home computers were not up to the task of interacting with the WebCT features (it requires a frames-capable, Java-enabled browser, i.e., Netscape or Internet Explorer version 4.x). It turns out these folks did most of their "heavy" computing at work, not at home. Not wanting to buy new equipment, they found clever alternatives such as going to nearby public libraries or colleges with public access computers. Others voiced concerns over the lack of face-to-face contact with students and the instructor in the class. However, all realized that "learning at a distance" with this technology was, in itself, a "recent trend" that could now be experienced first hand within the course.

After deciding to try the online format and planning the course topics at that first meeting in June, the class was ready to begin virtual meetings. The course was structured around eight topics. Each student was required to research a selection of topics and report the findings to the group using the discussion group feature. Other students then had the opportunity to read and react to the postings during the following week. Starting in mid-July, the class would also meet in WebCT's chat room each Friday night from 5 until 8PM. These chats allowed for real-time discussion/debate of the topics. Students were also able to interact via WebCT's "private" e-mail feature, which allowed them to exchange information directly with each other within the secure environment of the course's WebCT mail domain.

All of these features were accessible from ANY web-connected personal computer, something that permitted the students to participate regardless of their location at the time. In addition, this feature allowed the class to bring in guest participants. For example, we were able to invite Jane Prestebak to discuss MnLINK and statewide library cooperation during one of the chat sessions. The course also attracted the attention of a St. Cloud Times reporter working on an article about distance learning who was able to conduct an interview with one of the course members while we were chatting.

At the conclusion of the course in August, several things were apparent. First, the selection of Recent Trends as a test course for web-based learning was fortuitous. The results of our class's experience showed that a seminar/discussion course can be readily conducted via the web. The availability of discussion group/bulletin board and e-mail provided the forum for extended format, more formal text-based submission of student work. The chat-based discussion sessions provided the approximate equivalent of face-to-face in-class discussions so important to an issues-centered course like Recent Trends. These two features worked in tandem to provide an experience that was as pedagogically sound as a "real" seminar conducted on a scheduled basis at a prescribed meeting site.

However, there was a consensus among the participants that, "We missed the faces." Until someone is only a name on the screen, we don't realize how much we value the others' faces and "nonverbals" as an important part of each class. It appears, after all is said and done, that we DO really like each other and that sharing a space and time with others in class is an important part of the experience. This human dilemma as well as the occasional technical glitches inherent in any technologically based instruction serve as ongoing challenges to the conduct of web-based learning.

I'm glad to have had the experience, and the course evaluations shared by the students indicated they were pleased to have had the opportunity to participate as well. With the caveats in the preceding paragraph taken into account, I'm sure CIM will continue to move towards offering course content via the web in the future.

Copyright-- Not Just an In-house Problem

by **Jim Pehler** and **Karen Thoms**

Copyright just keeps on rearing its head for librarians as well as classroom teachers. SCSU is taking a proactive role in addressing copyright, especially infringement issues. The Pehler/Thoms team has been conducting workshops on campus and at statewide meetings to reinforce understanding of copyright issues and rules/guidelines. More often than not, the copyright questions center around print materials, but "the times, they are a-changin'" as some wise person once said, and the scope of copyright issues has been expanding. As SCSU "reaches beyond the walls" to provide access to off-campus patrons, nationally recognized questions must be answered. As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, the following questions are being raised and addressed: incorporation of copyrighted materials on Web pages, use of copyrighted materials in the classroom, creation of course packets through permissions sanctions (and fee payments) with Copyright Clearance Center, use of audio/visual materials in ITV transmissions, and use of Electronic reserves (once again working with the Copyright Clearance Center). And the list goes on . . . . The very recent installation of the proxy server at LR&TS provides access to many off-campus patrons as they search our databases for resources. Licensing agreements permit access of certain databases to SCSU students, faculty, and staff (people who have a valid SCSU identification card and account) and thus restrict access and eliminate accessibility to others. Once again this is an example of external factors controlling the service which LR&TS can provide.

The 21st Annual Children's Literature Workshop

featured speakers
David Wisniewski & Mary Casanova

David Wisniewski received the Caldecott Award for the cut paper illustrations of his book *Golem*. Other books by Wisniewski include *Elfwyn's Saga, Warrior & the Wise Man, Sundiata: Lion King of Mali, Keep Your Eye on Amanda, Tough Cookie,* and *Secret Knowledge of Grownups*.

Mary Casanova lives and writes in International Falls, MN. Casanova's novels include *Riot, Moose Tracks, Wolf Shadows,* and *Stealing Thunder.*
June 19 - 20, 2000

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. both days
Kelly Inn, downtown St. Cloud, MN
St. Cloud State University
Center for Information Media

For information please call: The Odyssey Group (320) 202-1831
Visit our Web site: lrs.stcloudstate.edu/cim/clw

Professional Activities

Robert Hauptman has recently published essays, reviews, and letters in a host of serials including *Choice, Research Strategies, Rhetoric Review, The Chronicle of Higher Education, The New York Times,* and so on. He continues to edit the *Journal of Information Ethics.* During the summer, he climbed 12 mountains in California, Idaho, Wyoming, and the New England States, some many times for a total of 34 climbs.

Center for Information Media
St. Cloud State University
Spring Semester Schedule 2000

Course #	Course Title	Sec	Instructor	Cr.	Time	Location
104	Information Quest	1	Pehler	3	9:00-9:50MWF	CH-228
		2	Williams	3	12:30-1:45TH	CH-228
204	Research Strategies	1	Rude	3	9:30-10:45TH	CH-228
		2	Lockway	3	5:00-7:45W	CH-228
245	Microcomputers in Classrooms and Media Centers	1	Stachowski	3	9:30-10:45TH	EDA126
260	Exploring Information Technologies	1	Motin	3	9:30-10:45TH	CH-125 & 232
		2	Rotto	3	11:00-12:15TH	CH-126 & 232
		3	Thompson, Ma	3	12:30-1:45TH	CH-126 & 232
		4	Yannie	3	3:30-4:45TH	CH-125 & 232
		5	Thompson, Ma	3	5:00-7:55M*	CH-125 & 232
420	Information Technologies and Cultural Relevance	1	Miltenoff	3	10:00-10:50MWF	CH-125 & 232
421-521	Media Materials and Methods of Instruction	1	Polesak	2	9:00-9:50MW	CH-125
		2	Miyagishima	2	9:00-9:50WF	CH-126
		3	Polesak	2	11:00-11:50MW	CH-125
		4	Rotto	2	1:00-1:50MW	CH-228
		5	Inkster	2	2:00-2:50MW	CH-228
		6	Rodgers	2	4:00-5:50T*	CH-228
		7	Stachowski	2	5:00-6:50M*	CH-228
444	Internship in Media	1	Fields	1-3	Arr	Arr
454-554	Microcomputer Applications in Education & Training (January 28-29; February 11-12; February 25-26; March 24-25 Weather days: March 31-April 1)	1	Kochmann	3	F/S**	CH-228 & 232
456-556	Design and Preparation of Multimedia Presentations II	1	Byers	3	6:00-8:45H	CH-228 & 232
462-562	Design and Editing for TV	1	Polesak	3	6:00-8:45H	SH-151
616	Social Implications & Human Factors in Information Technology	1	Hauptman	3	6:00-8:45W	CH-127
618	Recent Trends in Media	1	Josephson	3	6:00-8:55M*	CH-127
628	Administration of Media	1	Radeke	3	6:00-8:45W	CH-125
634	Instructional Design II	1	Fields	3	6:00-8:45H	CH-127
638	Organizational Training & Media Management	1	Hill	3	6:00-8:55M*	CH-126
656	Computer Based Authoring	1	Rotto	3	6:00-8:55T*	CH-125 & 232
680	Internship in Media	1	Fields	2-6	Arr	Arr
682	Media Generalist Practicum	1	Rodgers	1-3	Arr	Arr
687	Readings in Media	1	Staff	VR	Arr	Arr
697	Research Applications	1	Staff	VR	Arr	Arr
699	Thesis (Plan A)	1	Staff	VR	Arr	Arr

(over)

On-campus week-end class meeting times:
*Monday and Tuesday evening classes meet for 10 minutes longer spring semester due to number of class meetings.
**Friday evening classes meet from 5:30-9:30 p.m.
**Saturday day classes meet from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Off Campus Classes--Preregistration will be required with Continuing Studies (255-3081)
Masters Program -- Plymouth

608	Research Methods	51	Rodgers	3	F/S	Plymouth
	January 14-15; February 4-5;					
	March 3-4, April 14-15					
	Weather dates: May 5-6					
612	Technologies in Library/	51	Rodgers	3	F/S	Plymouth
	Media Centers					
	January 28-29; February 18-19;					
	March 24-25; April 28-29					
	Weather days: May 5-6					
632	Training/Human Resource	51	Fields	2	F/S	Plymouth
	Development					
	January 21-22; February 25-26;					
	March 10-11					
	Weather dates: April 7-8					

Off-campus class meeting times:
Friday evening classes meet from 5:00-9:00 p.m.
Saturday day classes meet from 8:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.

New Library and Proxy Server

by Keith Ewing

New Library Update

Work on the new library is moving forward. Anyone who has driven past campus down Fifth Avenue or who visits the WebCam (**http://www.stcloudstate.edu/library/index.html**) will see that most of the exterior brick on the West wing is complete and many of the windows have been installed. Masons have moved to the East wing, laying brick on the North face and laying block on the South and East faces. The contractors removed the construction braces under the North and South cantilevered entrance canopies this past week (the sag was minimal, well "within expected parameters"). All in all, from the outside it's beginning to look like a real building.

In the meantime, work on the interior has picked up. Heating and ventilation ducts have been installed and contractors are installing the heating and cooling coils in the sub-basement. The ventilation fans are enormous (they look like aircraft jet engines). Electrical transformers already hum in the sub-basement, and electricians are getting ready to install wire. John Nies, one of our excellent technical staff, has ordered the first roll of network cable and is anxious to get started on pulling the more than 50,000 feet of cable for more than 1200 connections. Sheetrock is in place for most of the first floor in the West wing and is going up in various locations on the second and third floors.

While it is easy to see the changes in the new building, the work behind the scenes by workgroups planning for the move is becoming more urgent. Every faculty and staff member is involved in reorganizing operations and procedures in preparation for the move. Many are involved in planning layout of furniture, signs, computer configurations, and stack organization. All the planning and preparation comes in addition to maintaining the normal work of acquiring, cataloging, and circulating materials, providing reference service, maintaining and expanding computers and networks, and teaching regular course loads. Needless to say, everyone deserves a pat on the back for their efforts to date. We expect to move to the new library next August.

Proxy Service for Off-Campus Internet Users

The increasing use in LR&TS of Web-based databases and fulltext services has been a frustration for off-campus students and faculty. This is no longer true. All of the LR&TS subscription databases and fulltext services (e.g., InfoTrac, ERIC, PsycInfo, Project Muse, etc.) use IP filtering, an authentication method that allows on-campus computers and modems to be recognized as authorized users and refuse access for all others. The implementation of a proxy server in late September now allows current students and faculty who live outside of St. Cloud or use a commercial Internet provider to access and use these subscription services. Essentially, a proxy allows authorized outsiders to communicate through the proxy server to an external database. The proxy server, sitting within the range of IPs allowed by the subscription, then manages the session for subscription services. It does not interfere with other Internet activities or connections. We have encountered only one subscription service (Lexis-Nexis) that does not allow access via the proxy server.

More than eighteen months went into solving the problems of designing the authentication file, validating proxy enrollments against the campus directory server, and developing the "pass" to allow connections to subscription service. To date, we have nearly 100 students and faculty registered to use the proxy server. Our thanks go to Chris Brown, Phil Thorson, and Jeff Hennen in the Computing and Technology Services section solving the proxy server "riddle."

Graduate Update

John H. Binsfeld, a graduate from the Master's program in Information Media Track 3 in February 1998, received state recognition through a MNGRAT Award (Minnesota Governments Reaching Achievements Together) on September 22, 1999, for an educational CD-ROM he helped design and develop while employed at the St. Cloud Technical College. The CD-ROM was funded by a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance for the transportation services department at the St. Cloud Technical College.

Graduate Profile

Nancy Evans graduated from SCSU with a Master's degree in Information Media, Track II in 1995. "A love of children's and young adult literature, a fascination with computers and a new job opportunity" prompted her decision to do graduate work in Information Media. "Convenience / close to home / limited number of schools offering school media certification" were the reasons why she chose SCSU's program. Nancy currently is a Media Specialist working with grades 5-9 at Zimmerman Jr. High School. She describes her current job, "The Internet has drastically altered the delivery of information for our students and staff. Most of the students at this level are not proficient at locating relevant information on the Internet, yet they would much prefer to "surf" than to look for information in print resources. I have to really sell the usefulness of the books and periodicals we own. I'm trying to educate teachers that there's more to good lesson design than just planning to take their classes to the lab to surf for any and all information on the topic of the day. Some of the assignments given are very similar to the old workbook pages that require filling in blanks after reading the chapter in the textbook, only now it's reading a web page on the computer. The challenge is, and always has been, designing lessons that involve higher level thinking. We aren't really involved, yet, in collaborative projects that make use of the ability computers give us to communicate across networks. Our staff is just now becoming skilled enough themselves to feel comfortable teaching students how to use the computer as a tool to create and share their final work. Now I'm hearing that we should be showing the students how to take their notes electronically, and I'm wondering how we will ever have enough computers." She also talked about the education experience she had. "The media department at SCSU struggles with some of the same concerns we have in our K-12 environments - particularly having the funds to keep up with the rapid changes in technology. Certain courses might have been designed to teach particular software applications, and yet I found that faculty members were more than willing to let individual students try other software programs that were more applicable to their place of employment or teaching situation. As a student, I really appreciated that. Also, in both the K-12 environment and at St. Cloud State, we are working with clients who have different levels of experience and who are using different platforms and programs. My experience at State helped me to before adaptable and accommodating." Nancy's advice for those in the Information Media program is to "get involved in professional organizations where you can share ideas and concerns with others in your field. Very few of us work in buildings where there is more than one media specialist. We need to take advantage of opportunities to network with one another."

New Faculty

Mark Yannie grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, earning a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Music, concentrating in Woodwind Instruments and Jazz at the University of Akron, Ohio. He played music professionally his whole life until attending the University of South Florida where he received a Master's degree in Library and Information Science (December 1993). In addition to that, he worked as a reference librarian for almost four years at the University of North Florida. Mr. Yannie came to St. Cloud State University (SCSU) with the intention of career development as a librarian. He also stresses that SCSU provides a tremendous amount of opportunity to grow, and is an excellent place to live, with its "good, healthy environment." Mr. Yannie is currently preparing a course for next year (Spring 2000) where he will be instructing a class on Exploring Information Technology.

Plamen Miltenoff is a recent graduate of the Library and Information Science program at Dominican University (formerly Rosary College) in River Forest, IL. Plamen is a native Bulgarian, who has further schooling in history from the University of Florida, Vienna University in Austria, and Sofia University in Bulgaria. His position as an Electronic Projects Coordinator is a part of the InforMedia Services. Plamen will be teaching an undergraduate class Information Technology and Cultural Relevance in the Spring 2000 semester. He has teaching experience and library background from universities and cultural institutions in the United States and abroad. His last position as a Technical Support Specialist in a Chicago-based publishing company for medical journals provides him with knowledge and experience in computers and networks. Plamen's professional interests include computers, networks, and multimedia.

Graduate Assistants
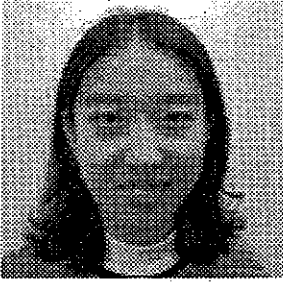
Xiaojing Xu is a second- year graduate student in Information Media (Track III) and a second year graduate assistant.

She writes, "I graduated from Nankai University in 1998 and am now studying my second Master's degree in Information Media here. My first Master's degree is in British and American Literature. I have always loved to try different things and to meet the challenges in life. My GA work this year is the 'webifier' -- mounting technology test on the Web. I chose Information Media because it suits my interest in computer technology. I love to work with people. Coming from a background of English teaching, I am looking forward to training myself in a different field and to entering into a human resource department in the future.

Laura Krueger is a second–year graduate student in the Information Media program and a second–year graduate assistant. This year, she is the CIM lab coordinator and assists with CIM's publications.

She writes, "I graduated from SCSU four years ago with a Bachelor of Arts in English with an emphasis in writing. This is my second year as an Information Media (Track I) graduate student; and hopefully, I will finish my degree this Spring."

Chengxiao Cao is a first-year student in Information Media (Track III)

She writes, "I am a first-year graduate student in Information Media. I graduated from Nankai University this Summer, and I am very glad to be a member of LR &TS at SCSU. Although my former major is Economics, I am very interested in knowing how vast amounts of information can be made readily available for easy access. As a GA, I am now doing support work for Technology Development Programs, and I really like what I am doing."

Tianhui Tao is a first-year student in Information Media (Track III)

She writes, " I graduated from Nankai University with a major in Information Science in 1998. After graduation, I joined Nestle Tianjin Ltd as a training & welfare officer in the Human Resource Dept. My working experience made me more aware of my interest and direction for individual development in this field. Now, I work in the computer lab as a lab assistant. I enjoy studying, working and living in St. Cloud."
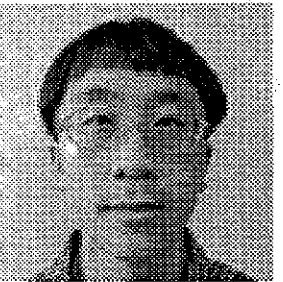
Yuan Li is a first –year Track III graduate student working in the Center for Information Media.

He writes, " I am excited about getting my Master's degree in Information Media. Prior to coming to SCSU, I worked as an English teacher at Nankai University. I got my ESL Master's degree from the English Department here at SCSU not long ago. I am looking forward to combining my teaching skills with my new training and development skills."

The Center for Information Media and Learning Resources and Technology Services welcome news of former students . . . Please remember to keep us updated and that includes a simple change-of-address notification. Keep us informed by contacting:

Center for Information Media Office
Centennial Hall, Room 214
St. Cloud State University
720 4th Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498
e-mail: lsupan@stcloudstate.edu
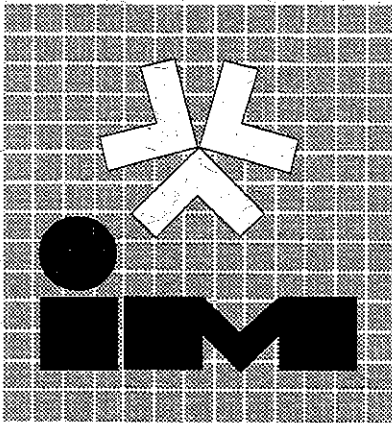
information media news

ST. CLOUD STATE
U N I V E R S I T Y
A tradition of excellence and opportunity

210117
Center for Information Media
Centennial Hall, Room 214
St. Cloud State University
720 4th Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498

BONNIE HEDIN

CAT/ACQ