

Distinguished Visiting Fellow Report

Professor David Kaufman (Simon Fraser University), a world leading and renowned researcher in Computer Supported Education (CSE) visited Scotland in May 2016 for 15 days. His host was Dr. Ishbel Duncan at St Andrews and although he was based in St Andrews he spent a lot of time visiting other sites.

Five other universities were keen for Dr. Kaufman to give a lecture on one of his ten possible talks covering issues from Digital Games in Education, Problem Based Learning, Ageing Well: Can digital games help older adults, applying educational theory to practice in teaching, using humour in teaching, active learning methods etc. It was decided that Glasgow and GCU would share a venue, but Stirling and Abertay and Napier all wanted separate talks.

Unfortunately Napier had to pull out of their event as they had a local holiday for two days (Victoria days) and if it was known earlier some movement of other talks could have been done to accommodate a visit to Napier. As it was David and his wife did visit Edinburgh but no-one was able to meet him that day so he took the day to tour the city. The scheduling of the three other talks meant that David's time in St Andrews was limited and he was only able to talk to the Virtual World researchers without giving a formal talk as he did for Glasgow/GCU, Abertay and Stirling. He gave two separate talks (files attached) on Digital Games and Ageing Well and was well received at each site.

In St Andrews he met with the Virtual World educational researchers and gave us advice on applying for EU grants together with his SFU research unit. He was keen to meet with us again and to liaise over the next year with a view to getting joint research on computer supported education for history, schools, the elderly and also for supporting science.

In Glasgow and Stirling he met with staff interested in education and the liaison required for the talks meant that the educational community within SICSA was keen to share more information about their work on supporting education with computers, perhaps through the Centre for Computing Education Research at Napier. David intends to return to Scotland for a longer period in two or three years time and hopes to then visit Napier for a series of talks, perhaps within a CSE conference for interested researchers.

His talk at Abertay, which was attended by over 40 people, was followed by a small lunch for several members of staff and again his advice over grant and research proposals has led to further meetings about CSE research direction between St Andrews and Abertay with David to act as an external adviser or colleague on any grant application.

Outcomes: David Kaufman's short visit was successful in that he visited four separate SICSA sites and his enthusiasm has led to several members of staff, across sites, working together on research ideas with potential papers and research grant applications. David is keen to visit again in two years time and that will give us an opportunity to set up a conference on CSE with David as a keynote speaker. His many ideas and guidance given has helped spark ideas and research plans. These outputs will be monitored over the coming year.

Ishbel Duncan 1 June 2015.