

Please join the Department of Computer Science in welcoming

Dr. Donald Chinn
Institute of Technology
University of Washington
Tacoma, Washington

"Triesman Workshops for Computer Science"
Community-invited talk

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Hennings Hall Room 222

3:15 – 4:30 PM

Abstract:

Active learning techniques, including collaborative programming and problem-solving environments, have been widely adopted by many computer science educators. A related approach is the Triesman model, which was originally developed for the first-year calculus course and involved intensive workshops where students collaborate in small groups to solve problems. The Triesman model has been adopted for computer science courses at the University of Washington-Tacoma. Regression analysis indicates that students who participate in the workshops for the algorithms perform better (0.561 grade points on a 4.0-scale) than those who do not, even after accounting for prior academic performance.

This talk will focus on how to adapt the proven Triesman techniques to the computer science undergraduate curriculum for student recruitment, retention, and success.

About the speaker:

Dr. Donald Chinn is an Associate Professor at the University of Washington, Tacoma. He helped create a supplementary problem solving workshop program based on the Triesman model for computer science students at UWT in 2004. His research interests are primarily in computer science education. For example, he is engaged in research that aims to understand what students think are important skills needed to succeed in the software industry. He is also part of a multi-national research effort to understand the relative difficulty of assessment instruments in the introductory programming course. Previously, he has done research in theoretical computer science. He also worked at Microsoft Corporation as a software design engineer for three and a half years.

Speaker's web site: faculty.washington.edu/dchinn/

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