Nelumdini Samaranayake

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Learning Technologies (2023)
University of North Texas

Master of Science, Learning Technologies (2019)
University of North Texas

Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Program (2019)
University of North Texas

Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (2018)
University of North Texas

Associate Degree in Applied Computer Science (2010) Penn
Foster College, Arizona.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of North Texas, Health Science Center   **Jul 2022 - Present**
Medical Education and Health System Science
Instructional Technology Specialist

- Collaborate to translate department and faculty needs into behaviorally based learning and course technology.
- Design, develop and manage the systems processors, content and materials that will enable learners, instructors, and coaches to achieve educational outcomes.
- Manage the instructional platform to deliver timely and accurate instruction, learning materials and student communication in coordination with course and section directors and other staff.
- Manage and provide a broad array of technical assistance with applications of educational technology for students and department faculty and staff including technical support regarding delivery of education in multiple live classroom and online courses.

Tarrant County College, Fort Worth, Texas   **Oct 2015 - Jul 2022**
Instructional Associate / Learning and Development Specialist Interim Instructional Designer
       Jul 2020 - Apr 2021

- Shine A Light: Teaching Tidbit Videos – Upload, re-curate to produce finalized professional teaching video, and maintain content in the organization as needed.

- Developed training material, e.g., adjunct training orientation & syllabus modules in Articulate Storyline to be used as e-learning modules with easier tracking capabilities.
- Delivered the student planning, faculty contract, and stipend training modules in Articulate 360.
- Reviewed and re-developed the instructional material for Proctorial student and faculty guidelines.
- Learning Center training facilitation management, data entry, and bulk update of faculty sessions.

Administrative Assistant II   **Oct 2015 - Feb 2022**
- Facilitated the Administrative formalities for the Center for Teaching and Learning.
- Research instructional design and best practices in teaching & learning.
- Coordinated the departmental travel and hotel formalities.
- Managed the departmental budget and processes the expense reports for the department.
- Expedited the Tuition Assistance Program for the final reimbursement process.
- Handled and coordinated the external departmental events and professional services and expedite procuring promotional items and technology for the department.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sri Lankan operations
Senior Information Technology Associate   **Oct 1999 - Oct 2014**
- Managed the overall IT operations in UNHCR Sri Lanka, directed and monitored system installation, configuration, and upgrades of all voice, data, and services for 15 years.
- Initiated, planned, scheduled, coordinated, and implemented projects simultaneously, including procurement of IT/Telecommunication infrastructure and configured and installed them in regional and eight field offices.
- Coached, trained, mentored all staff in the UNHCR Sri Lankan operation and led the Information Technology team located in various field locations.

Sri Lankan Airlines
Senior Executive/ Coordinator, IT Projects   **Jun 1984 - Sep 1999**
- Managed the Information Technology functions within the Marketing Group, planned, analyzed, designed, and programmed new information systems.
- Planned and managed infrastructure-related training courses. Trained the Marketing Department staff in computer system use and application software.
- Managed the infrastructure project tasks with internal and external suppliers, engaged in technical writing tasks, impact assessment, and coordinated the procurement of equipment
- Followed project flow and planned for resource management at entry-level, coordinated the tasks of infrastructure projects with internal and external suppliers.

PUBLICATIONS

Samaranayake, P.N. (2023). The Role of Extended Reality to Improve Refugee Education and Community Building in Developing Countries. In E. Langran, P. Christensen & J. Sanson (Eds.), *Proceedings of Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference* (pp. 2236-2244). New Orleans, LA, United States: Association for the Advancement

of Computing in Education (AACE). Retrieved December 7, 2023
from https://www.learntechlib.org/primary/p/222118/.

Samaranayake, N. (2022). How Technology Supports Student-centered Learning. In T. Bastiaens (Ed.), *Proceedings of EdMedia + Innovate Learning* (pp. 304-309). New York City, NY, United States: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE). Retrieved September 27, 2022, from https://www.learntechlib.org/primary/p/221304/

Samaranayake, N. (2022) Exploring the sustainable education through MOOCs: to 21st-century online learner, *EDULEARN22 Proceedings*, pp. 8189-8195.
https://library.iated.org/view/SAMARANAYAKE2022EXP

Samaranayake, N. (2022). Faculty Attitudes and Knowledge Towards Information Technology. In E. Langran (Ed.), *Proceedings of Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference* (pp. 2082-2088). San Diego, CA, United States: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE). Retrieved June 13, 2022, from https://www.learntechlib.org/primary/p/220996/.

Samaranayake, P.N. (2021). Fostering Ethical Behavior as an Instructor/ Designer of Online Courses. In T. Bastiaens (Ed.), *Proceedings of Innovate Learning Summit 2021* (pp. 392-397). Online, United States: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE). Retrieved June 13, 2022, from https://www.learntechlib.org/primary/p/220308/.

Submissions – Under Review
- **Samaranayake, N.,** Ethics in a Digital Learning Environment: 21st century learner, TxDLA Journal of Digital Learning.
- **Samaranayake, N.,** Online Learning and Instructor Feedback, Journal of Online Learning Research.

PRESENTATIONS

- Baker, R. **Samaranayake, N.** (2021), Sustainable education to all. Accepted and presented for the International Society for Performance Improvement (ISPI) EMEA 2021 Annual Conference.
- **Samaranayake, N.** (2022) Instructor Feedback: Online Distributed Learning Platform, University of North Texas, Research Symposium, Denton, Texas.
- **Samaranayake, N.** (2022). How Technology Supports Student-centered Learning. Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE)
- **Samaranayake, N.** (2022) Exploring the sustainable education through MOOCs: to 21stcentury online learner, *EDULEARN22.*
- **Samaranayake, N**. (2022). Faculty Attitudes and Knowledge Towards Information Technology. Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE)
- **Samaranayake, P.N**. (2021). Fostering Ethical Behavior as an Instructor/ Designer of Online Courses. Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE)
- **Samaranayake, N.** (2023) Ethics in Digital Environment, TxDLA Virtual Conference, (April 2023).

SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

Grants
- 2020 Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) - conference registration - Department of Learning Technologies, UNT.
- 2021 ISPI – Bay Area/ Boise State Chapter membership grant.

HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

- [Member of Phi Kappa Phi](), Tau Sigma, Sigma Alpha Lambda
- The University of North Texas - President's List & Dean's list • Penn Foster College Intl – Dean's list
- Scholarship, COI/LT Dr. G. Jones Schl, University of North Texas
- Scholarship, Hatton W. Sumners Foundation, University of North Texas
- Scholarship, David J Ewing Scholarship fund, University of North Texas
- Masters in Science (Honors), University of North Texas

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- SITE - Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education
- AECT - Association for Education Communication and Technology
- AACE - Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education
- TXDLA - Texas Digital Learning Association