Message from the President

Ever hear the old saying, “change is inevitable, growth is optional”? In graphic communication this is especially true. New software, new computers, new students, and smaller budgets are all part of our lives. Change in our field happens every year, sometimes every month. But as the change happens, do we grow to meet it? Do we change our curriculum to meet the latest technology, or do we modify what we have been teaching because we do not have the time to really make up an entire new curriculum? Every year we have new students, but do we adjust our teaching style to meet the needs of the new students? Do we grow with the changes around us?

In many ways I feel we do. We have all been working with limited budgets yet continue to teach to the best of our ability. We may not have the latest and greatest tablet PCs, but I am sure we do what we can with the technology we have. Every semester I see new faces in my classes and I hope to accomplish everything I have in my syllabus, but sometimes that just does not happen. Sometimes I may only get through three quarters of what I had hoped to, while other times I am searching for a new project to help fill in the void after the students have completed all the projects in my syllabus. It really depends upon the students, I adjust to what I feel they are accomplishing, and I adjust to ensure every student is getting the most possible out of the class.

Being a graphic communication educator these days is truly a challenge, but I feel it is a very worthwhile endeavor for all of us, but we need to be able to grow, and need to make sure we do not become stagnant.

A fantastic way to do this is to attend our annual IGAEA summer conference. This year it is going to be in Reno, NV. The IGAEA Board has been working hard on finalizing the details for the conference and more information about it will be available soon, but I can tell you the focus on the presentations this year is going to be on exchanging best classroom practices. Presenters will be focused on sharing worthwhile ideas you can take back to your classroom. These new ideas will hopefully help you change and grow as an educator. Be sure to attend.

Hope everyone has a great start to 2011!

Charles Weiss, IGAEA President
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