



OFE/CIRT

Office of Faculty Enhancement, Center for Instruction and Research Technology
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BUILD 2004

BETTER UNDERSTANDING FOR INFORMED LEARNING DESIGN



The Office of Faculty Enhancement sponsored an annual teaching and learning seminar this quarter, **Better Understanding for Informed Learning Design (BUILD)**. This seminar is continually updated with new material and methods as well as from participant input following their experience. Dr. David Jaffee initially created the seminar, although it was named Course Redesign for Effective Learning (CREL). The seminar duration is between three and five full days, so participants receive extensive information and active learning for the week. This seminar is for any faculty member interested in improving their teaching and learning in an environment of foundational pedagogy, technology and applications.

The agenda with hyperlinks to each presentation can be found on the OFE website <http://www.unf.edu/dept/ofe/build/2004/agenda.html>. Some of the benefits of this session are to provide information, models, resources and time to enhance teaching and learning. In addition, faculty members are provided various teaching tools. This year each participant received a Palm Tungsten wireless handheld computer, secure digital memory card, keyboard, Photoshop Elements software, memory card readers, t-shirts, and even baseballs (thanks to Dr. Chuck Paulson). This hands-on seminar was limited to eight faculty members and selection was competitive based on their application. The OFE hopes to offer two seminars/year, one in December and one in May, and each between sessions. If you would like more information or would like to share your input, please feel free to contact Jace Hargis in the OFE, jhargis@unf.edu or x 1446

BLACKBOARD TIP



Copying Course Materials from one Course to Another

There are two ways to copy or move content from one course to another in Blackboard 6. The first way is useful if you want to copy a single item or a few select items. To copy a single item from one course to another use the **copy button** found to the right of the item in the control panel. The second method is useful if you want to copy a whole course, or several parts of it, such as from one semester to another. To copy sections of a course go to the control panel of the course with the material you want to copy, then click **Course Copy**. You will be asked to choose the course into which you want to copy and be able to select the material.

For more information about copying course content please go to:

<http://blackboard.unf.edu/support/viewfaq.asp?faqid=76>

Summer Events Blackboard One-Hour Focused Workshops

Using Images and
Multimedia with a Course
Friday, June 4th
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Discussion Boards
Tuesday, June 8th
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Assessments, Pools,
and Surveys
Friday, June 11th
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Lightweight Chat
and Virtual Classroom
Tuesday, June 15th
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Gradebook
and Course Statistics
Thursday, June 17th
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Digital Dropbox
and Assignments
Tuesday, June 22nd
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**All workshops are held in
Building 15 Room 1104**

**RSVP to: cirtlab@unf.edu
or call extension 3927**

FLASH MX COHORT SUMMER 2004

David Wilson, from OFE/CIRT will host a Flash MX cohort, for faculty, during summer B. Members of the cohort will be encouraged to select a small project to work on while learning the software. We will meet weekly to learn new techniques, discuss design issues, review projects, and answer questions.

Macromedia Flash MX is a tool for creating animations and interactive applications. By the end of summer B participants will be able to create animations for demonstrating various concepts, like chemical reactions and business models. Faculty of all skill levels are welcome.

If you would like to participate, or more information please contact the OFE/CIRT lab at cirtlab@unf.edu

INTERACTIVE TEACHING TOOL

Digital Cameras



Digital Cameras are valuable instructional tools for teaching in the field and abroad because they afford immediate access to pictures. Using a digital camera with a laptop computer an instructor can take pictures while in the field and then present them to the class that evening or the following lecture. The OFE/CIRT lab has several digital cameras available for faculty checkout.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

From Chuck Paulson, Honors Program



In Spring of 2004 I taught the Honors Course "Explorations in Marine Biology". Instead of a weekly lab period, the lab/field portion of this course was a week-long spring break trip to a marine lab on San Salvador Island in the Bahamas. On San Salvador, students are in the field all day (typically snorkeling or SCUBA diving) and the class meets for class each evening at the marine lab. For the trip I was accompanied by Dr. Kelly Smith from Biology, and her husband Tony Turrin. Tony is not a biologist, but his SCUBA and underwater photography talents turned out to be very useful.

Teaching in the ocean is a challenge, even with a small group of students. When you see something interesting, you can only point it out to the one or two pairs of students who are closest to you, and it is never convenient to talk very much as you are treading water. When I have taught this class in the past I used photographs of marine life to give the students identification quizzes, either pictures from textbooks or slides taken with a Nikonos underwater camera and developed on site. With this in mind, I brought a digital camera with a waterproof housing, as did Tony. Mine was a soft housing (like a thick waterproof bag with a glass pane in the front), with a depth limit of 25 feet, which is fine for snorkeling. The price is reasonable, in the range of \$80. Tony brought a rigid housing, essentially a clear plastic box. The rigid housing is much more expensive, but goes down to 130 ft. of depth and thus can be used for SCUBA. These enabled us to take underwater photos of the marine life we encountered each day and download them to a laptop each evening to be viewed and discussed in the class sessions.

I was surprised at how valuable the digital pictures were in our class sessions. Using the photos, we were able to talk about the different species that we had observed, confirm that all of the students could identify them, and raise lots of questions for discussion. Using the photos from each day enabled us to get specific in discussing what we had seen. It also produced much more engagement than showing textbook pictures, since these were the exact scenes that the class had experienced. The student feedback was that the use of digital photos enriched their learning, and I found myself wishing that I had brought a portable projector also. After the trip we pooled the best photos and burned them onto CD-ROMs, so that each student could have a disc of photos, including the underwater ones. I'd be happy to talk to anyone who is interested in using digital photography in their class or in the field.

