That’s News to Me

By Gil Conradis
Online Learning

The Class News is an important communication feature, I classify with the standard tools of chat, message/discussion board and e-mail. Why? Several points come to mind. The first is that when a student logs into your course the Class News is the first item that is displayed at the top of the page. It is prominently shown and therefor difficult to miss. Further the positioning makes the Class News a logical tool in which to refer students to an area of the LMS that you want them to attend to. Finally, another is the html text formatting tool which can display announcements and differentiate between subjects.

Each week of your eight-week course you have a Class News available to you and the current week of the term is always the default starting point. For example, in week three you and your students will enter your course in the week 3 Weekly Course Outline. An appropriate message for that week is helpful to inform, encourage and direct students attention to timely course requirements. The following is an example for using the Class News in week one to inform and give direction.

Welcome!
I’ll be sending out a welcome e-mail on Monday morning with LOTS of good information, tips, tricks, and hints regarding this course. This class starts on Monday, Month, day, 2010. This will be explained in your welcome e-mail.

I look forward to working with you this term.

- Once you have read the welcome e-mail, your assignment for Week 1 (i.e., due date is Sunday, at 11:59 PM ET) is to post your biography under the correct message board and comment on at least one other student’s biography.

Then create a message board with the name “Week 1” and make the first entry (thread) your directions for that assignment being as specific to your expectations as possible. For example:

1) Post your biography under this Message Board. I will not read or grade biographies (or any assignments) that are not posted under the correct message board. This Week 1 Topic is: "My Biography". Make this post no less than 150 words. All rules of writing

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If I’d asked my customers what they wanted they would’ve said a faster horse.
~ Henry Ford
Research Questions: Ask a Librarian!

From the Library’s Web site (http://lib.fit.edu), you will find Ask a Librarian listed under the Express Links. You can bookmark direct access to this site by going to http://lib.fit.edu/questionpoint/.

We look forward to providing assistance to you and your students.

If you have any questions, I am here to help.
Celine Lang
Dean of Libraries
I can be reached by phone directly at (321) 674-8766 or by email at cdavis05@fit.edu.

Library Resources and Services for Distance Learning/Off-Campus Programs has its own link. http://www.lib.fit.edu/pubs/distancelearning

The Evans Library provides valuable resources and services to all Florida Tech faculty, students, and staff, including those who participate in extended, distance learning, online, or off-campus programs.

By Cheryl Davis
Distance Learning Librarian

With Evans Library’s Ask a Librarian service, research assistance is available to students and faculty, whether on or off campus. Ask a Librarian is featured right on the front of the Library’s homepage (http://lib.fit.edu).

When you link to this service, you will see that there are several ways to contact librarians for assistance:

Email. Just click on email, complete and submit the online form, and you will receive a response within one business day.

Telephone. Contact a research librarian at (321) 674-8021 during the following hours:

- Monday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET
- Friday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET
- Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET

Chat. A live chat service is often available through Ask a Librarian.

Contact Us. Use this form to submit any non-research questions, suggestions, or comments.

Visit the EVANS Library

Our shared vision is clear and simple – to foster the academic excellence of every Florida Tech student; to support the research and teaching of every member of the Florida Tech faculty; and to welcome the community into the hearts and minds of our university.

- Celine Lang
Dean of Libraries

Ask a Librarian has regular “live” conversation during the weekday hours of:
- Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

http://lib.fit.edu/questionpoint/
Influential Florida Tech Individuals

Florida Tech alumni, Catharina Dubbelday Hayes (B.S. Psychology 1983) is a federal judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Judge Hayes was the sixth and final judge nominated to the Fifth Circuit by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate. She maintains chambers in Dallas Texas.

A shining example of how Florida Tech women are breaking new ground to Write Women Back into History!

Haynes received a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida Institute of Technology in 1983. She graduated from Emory University School of Law in 1986 with her J.D. At Emory, she was an editor for the Emory Law Journal. She graduated from Florida Tech at age 19, and from law school when she was only 22. She became a member of the State Bar of Texas in 1986.

In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the national celebration to the entire month of March. Since then, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Each year, programs and activities in schools, workplaces, and communities have become more extensive as information and program ideas have been developed and shared.

Every year Florida Tech honors persons who have enhanced the climate for women's participation and development on campus. This award is the Joan Bixby Award.

To learn more about the history of the award, past participants and the newly created Space Coast Women's History Award, please visit http://www.fit.edu/alumni/womens_history/.