Dean’s Comments

Welcome to the revised format of Online Learning, the newsletter for faculty teaching in the Florida Tech University Online programs. We hope that the revised format will provide you with tips, items and resources that will help you. In addition, we want to provide a mechanism for you to share news about your professional activities with your faculty colleagues.

Gil Conradis remains as editor. An editorial review board composed of Andy Stanfield, director, Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, and Julie Shankle, associate director of online program administration, Online Learning, will assist Gil. Cheryl Davis, distance learning librarian, will continue in her role as contributing columnist.

Bridging the Distance: Electronic Books (E-Books)

Did you know you and your students have 24/7 access to thousands of electronic books (e-books) covering subject areas such as business, law and psychology?

Check out our e-book collection on the Evans Library website.

Emerald is a database containing contemporary, high-quality research books in business and management, marketing, economics, strategy, accounting, finance, ethics, library and information sciences, engineering and materials science, sociology, politics and policy, psychology, health care, and education. Search Tips. Tutorial.

NetLibrary Criminal Justice Series is a collection of 29 titles covering a wide range of subjects in the field of criminal justice. Access to the series is available by choosing the Catalog option under the Express Links on the library website; then use “netlibrary” as the search term on the Quick Search page. To view a book, click on the URL link listed under the publication date for each title.

PsycBOOKS is a full-text database that contains over 1,600 books published by the APA and other classic works of psychology. Search options include author, title and keyword. The BROWSE tab at the top of the page allows you to search for books by title.

Safari Books Online contains e-books on subjects such as computer science, business, technology development (e.g., For Dummies series), desktop and web applications (e.g., Facebook, Kindle, Microsoft Office), and personal and professional development that were published within the last three years (current year and two previous years).

Springer eBooks give you access to thousands of e-books and reference titles published since 2005 and organized into subject collections, such as behavioral science, business and economics, humanities, social sciences and law, and professional and applied computing. To find out which e-books are in our library collection and are accessible to you, click
**Instructional Strategies: Developing Case Studies**

Andy K. Stanfield, Director, Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE)

**What are case studies?**

The case study method is a great instructional strategy that combines ill-defined problems and real-world situations. Case studies work both online and in traditional courses, individually or in collaborative groups, and can be either fictional or factual. Case studies require practical thinking, but they also force students to be creative and to draw upon past experiences. Additionally, they are great for teaching ethics. Conceptually, this instructional method helps students merge theory into practice. This is an active learning approach that has multiple benefits, including improved communication skills, critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of the subject matter. One of the most important aspects of this method is selecting or developing the case. There are many case studies available online or in books, but sometimes there aren’t existing case studies on a required topic, so it is up to you to create your own.

**Developing the case study**

After deciding on a topic, you must first gather data for the case study. You need to strive for a detailed level of data to make the case study appear realistic. Next you need to organize the data so that the students can easily use it. This might mean putting data in a spreadsheet or creating realistic documents or Web pages. After the data is organized in an easily usable format, then you need to write the narrative for the case study. This should be very readable and should summarize the key details. It should be thorough enough that the reader has a clear picture of all the variables. After you have written up the case narrative, you need to test the case study with a few participants. This is best done with participants who are close to the learners who will be using the case study. Next, make sure that you revise the case study based upon the feedback you receive from the testing stage. Finally, you might want to evaluate your approach after the students use the case study. This will allow you to reflect on what worked and what didn’t and can help you make important changes before you next use the case again.

Next time, we will discuss how to use the case study method that you have developed with your students. ◊

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**Florida Institute of Technology**

**Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence**

**Fall 2011 Teaching and Learning Schedule**

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<th>TOPIC</th>
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<td>The art of the discussion forum</td>
<td>This session will focus on creating engaging and dynamic discussion forums for online environments.</td>
<td>Oct. 5, 2011 6–7 p.m.</td>
<td>Adobe Connect session</td>
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For more information on this workshop, call ext. 8531 or email Andy Stanfield at astanfield@fit.edu, Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE).
Faculty News

Marilyn Carter, instructor for the Art Appreciation course, has again been juried into the Art of Ink exhibition at Chiang Mai University in northern Thailand, which starts on Nov. 8.

Professor Yoo Sung Lee of St. John’s University in New York, the president of Art of Ink, which is a creative calligraphy group, has also asked Marilyn to help open the exhibit by giving a demonstration and talk on her particular style of Kanji, Japanese character, compositions. Ms. Carter's interest is not only in the creativity of reorganizing the thick and thin balanced line in Mandarin writing, but also in creating a harmony and balance with the use of ancient pictographs coupled with the cursive form of a Chinese character.

Announcing New Professional Development Opportunities

Florida Institute of Technology has a Group Online Subscription to The Teaching Professor and Online Classroom.

As a member of our campus community, this online resource from Magna Publications is available at no cost to you.

Sign up today and help energize your higher education career. Full instructions on creating and using your account are located in the Faculty Lounge within the LMS.

The Teaching Professor is a forum for discussion of the best strategies supported by the latest research for effective teaching in the college classroom. A companion publication, Online Classroom, brings advice and inspiration to educators making the transition into distance education.

We hope you take advantage of these professional development opportunities. We plan on future articles in the Faculty In Box to highlight some of the information from these publications. Watch for more information on how you can join these conversations.

Need help? Call 800-433-049, ext. 2, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Central, Monday through Friday or email support@magnapubs.com.

“If it’s what we think we know that keeps us from learning.”
—Claude Bernard

Both meaning the same as in the following, Fish, or “Swimming in the Deep.”

If you have news about your research and presentations, please submit them to Gil Conradis at conradis@fit.edu.
Support Services for Mac Users

Florida Tech now has easy access to support services for OS X Mac users. Students who identify themselves as Mac users now have a user-friendly resource to answer questions and provide support.

Some courses require software that may not be compatible with some Mac systems. If a student has Mac questions or needs software support, please provide them with the following email: MacHelp@fit.edu.

I can set you up for an account with the Florida Tech “Remote Online Connection.” This allows a Windows-based browser to be run on your desktop and without having to purchase a copy of Windows operating system.

Questions? Contact me, Gil Conradis, conradis@fit.edu, machelp@fit.edu, (321) 674-8203.

Bridging the Distance

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If you have any questions, I am here to help. I can be reached at (321) 674-8766 or cdavis05@fit.edu. And, you can always use our Ask a Librarian service. Next time I will tell you about another great library resource that will help us all to bridge the distance.