ISSUE

Communication of Informational Technology ACONINE

SEPTEMBER

this issue

Expanded LMS P.1

Training Dates Set P.1

Online Training P.2

Q&A Techno Geek P.2

Training Dates Have Been Set

Training dates for onsite training have been confirmed. Trainers and alternate trainers have been identified. Friday, October 3, and Friday, October 17, are the scheduled dates of onsite training. An ANGEL rep will come to spend two full days training our trainers. Once the trainers have been trained, they will begin conducting training sessions. The order of training will go as followed: LMS team, alternate trainers, Spring II online instructors, Summer online instructors, remaining online instructors, curious bystanders. In addition, plans are underway to host an online training opportunity for distant faculty and interested parties. All online instructors will be required to participate in training.



LMS Lots More Salary

Since the adoption of AC Online the customized version of ANGEL, the LMS committee both disseminated and expanded. The original team divided into seven sub-teams for the purpose of delegating responsibilities. The original team has grown to forty-five members. Recruiting new members was very easy because LMS was not defined. Many volunteers still think LMS stands for Lots More Salary. Please notice that each team has representation from Faculty, Classified, IT, and Administration. All areas are working together to represent the best interests of each group. The teams consist of the:

Project Lead Team: Patsy Lemaster, Lou Ann Seabourn, Terry Kleffman, Laura Grandgenett, Mark Hutson, and Claudie Biggers. This team defines the goals and objectives of the project, determines the overall timeline, assembles the project teams, attends training, and monitors the progress of the other sub teams.

Communication Team: Becky Easton, Jill Gibson, Kim McGowan, Linda Reed, Leslie Priest, Norma Campbell, and Mindy Graham. This team is responsible for internal communicating, encouraging faculty and staff adoption, planning the introduction and roll-out to the students, and collecting continuous feedback. Branding of the new customized AC Online is also a task of this team. Future plans consist of nonalcoholic educational happy hour gatherings. We've got the margarita machine and you are invited.

Policy Team: Brenda Davidson, Terry Kleffman, Jerry Mohler, Diane Brice, Jan Martin, Carol Buse, and Brandi Clark. This team will determine policy regarding data integration, authentication, migration, term rollover, schedule and configuration settings.

Support Team: Linda Hendrick, Chris Brown, D'dee Grove, Charles Hendrick, David Hernandez, Dale Longbine, Bill Siddens, and Vickie Taylor-Gore. This team gains system expertise, defines support issues and protocol, creates documents for frequently asked questions and develops end user policies and procedures information sheets.

Information Technology Team: Larry Adams, Kim Hays, Chris Brown, and Corey Willis. This team is responsible for defining the needs of the college since AC Online will be hosted offsite. Education and Training: Patsy Lemaster, Lou Ann Seabourn, Terry Kleffman, Laura Grandgenett, Mark Hutson and Claudie Biggers. This team will gain expert knowledge of the AC Online environment, determine the needs, and develop training sessions and best practice. LMS Administration: Patsy Lemaster and Terry Kleffman. This team gains system expertise,

applies system configuration policies, and applies updates to the system.

And Then There Was One

The trend of education is pushing towards online learning. The Administration recognizes that it is crucial to have a fully functioning eLearning Center. The priority of the Administrators is to staff the center with individuals that can help faculty meet the challenges of the new trend. A national search for a new Director and two Instructional Designers is being conducted. Unfortunately, the search for the right individuals will take time.

This week the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) formerly known as eLearning Center lost Tricia Stevens, who will be taking a medical leave. Her absence will increase the ratio for faculty to instructional designer. Brenda Davidson will be single-handedly manning the center. Faculty are encouraged to consider the multiple e-learning tasks being coordinated and handled by Brenda Davidson and use the Center as support only as necessary. Brenda will not be able to dedicate time to add content or create courses in WebCT. If faculty need assistance for such tasks, please contact Patsy Lemaster to discuss the possibility of joining an E-POD group (faculty assisting faculty).

Online Training Has Begun

Six AC members began online ANGEL training Monday, August 25. The online course consists of twelve self paced modules. The first two weeks are proctored by an ANGEL rep, and the last two weeks, the participants will continue without supervision. The entire course is four weeks long and contains videos, activities, and checkpoint quizzes. So far, the training has been fairly easy, and each module can be completed quickly.



rtsp://realvideo.actx.edu/firstcenter/biggers/Angel-7 Manuals.rm

CTRL-click the link to play the video.

Q&A With Techno Geek

Dear Techno Geek,

I am an online instructor, and I want to make my courses more interactive and high tech. There are so many new software tools that would help me achieve my goals. The problem is that there are too many software tools. I cannot possibly learn all there is to know about all of the different tools and stay current on my course subject matter. My institution has a support center for online instructors. Its staff does not have time to learn current technology because they are busy helping faculty add content and maintain courses. My institution has always prided itself for setting the pace for innovation. At this pace, we are following up behind like a pooper scooper at the end of a parade.

Dear Street Sweeper,

I agree, there are several tools available that will help create an interactive environment for your students. The current market is infested with great software for motivated instructors. There is no better time for an institution to set the pace for technology trends. The ideal situation is to have a support center that is focused on providing new innovation. Hopefully, your support center can wean faculty by educating them to manage courses themselves. You may even consider asking other faculty to work with you and teach each other. Faculty helping faculty is always the best.

Dear Techno Geek,

I am an adult student and a single parent that can only take online courses because of my schedule with my job and my children. The other day when I was registering, I heard a professor say that online learning is joke. I am really concerned because I have invested a lot of time and money taking online courses. Is this truly the sentiment of the academic population?

Sincerely, Not Laughing

Dear Not Laughing,

Chances are the professor you overheard has never been exposed to high quality online learning firsthand. Many students are turning to online education for reasons, such as gas prices, job schedule, parenting, and location. Knowing that online courses are the future trend of education, many schools are making large investments to insure a quality online education. As long as your courses are recognized by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, it should not matter what one individual thinks. It is possible you will face discrimination until more people are educated about online instruction. In the meantime, hold your head high because online learning success requires highly motivated students.

Developing NEW classes in WebCT

As eLearning transitions to Angel, we have set a deadline of Friday, September 12, for eLearning assistance for **developing NEW classes in WebCT**. If it is necessary and you are able to develop new classes independently in WebCT, you are welcome to do so. eLearning will continue to support existing classes in WebCT as needed by faculty until the end of the Spring 2009 semester.

Top Ten Reasons to Teach Online

- 10. You don't have to worry about parking.
- 9. You don't have to cancel class because of inclement weather.
- 8. You never call in sick.
- 7. You don't have to make photocopies.
- 6. No more Scantron tests.
- 5. You can upload any image of yourself.
- 4. You have time to look up the answers to the questions you do not know.
- 3. Students don't talk in class.
- 2. No cell phones or texting.
- 1. You can lecture NAKED.