

TEACHING & E-LEARNING NEWS

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FACULTY INVITED TO JOIN FORCES IN FOSTERING STUDENT COLLABORATION

Now going into the second year, a group of faculty known as the Collaborative Teams Teaching Circle has been meeting to explore the use of teams and groups in the classroom. During the past spring, the group looked at various aspects classroom-based collaborative group work: designing appropriate assignments, dealing with reluctant team members, assessing collaborative work, and implementing intercultural teams.

This fall, the Teaching Circle has continued to explore

these subjects. At its first meeting, the Circle discussed the sometimes disturbing disjuncture between what we teach about teams in our classes and what happens to students when they begin an internship or first job. One example of the way the group puts their work into practice involved a Teaching Circle meeting to work with a member who was using groups for the first time in her writing class. By coming together as a team to solve a problem, the Collaborative Teams Teaching Circle uses the collective strength of all its

members for a rewarding payoff and a supportive, collegial atmosphere.

The Collaborative Teams Teaching Circle would like to encourage any faculty interested in learning more about what this teaching circle can do for you and your classroom to please contact Meg Morgan (mpmorgan@uncc.edu), Charlynn Ross (cross@uncc.edu), or Christie Amato (chamato@uncc.edu) for more information.

☐ Meg Morgan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- A Teaching Circle is a group of faculty who meet on an ongoing basis to discuss issues of teaching and learning.
- Members of the Circle determine the focus and topics for discussion.
- There are 13 different groups with such diverse interests as Active Learning, Teaching Portfolios, and more.
- For more information about Teaching Circles, contact Sallie Ives, ext. 7-3021 or smives@email.uncc.edu.

NEW WORKSHOPS FROM FCTEL & TRAINING DEPT.

There's something for everybody among the various workshops this semester. Please join us in any number of our professional development opportunities to help maximize teaching and learning in your courses. We offer workshops in various instructional methods, e-learning technologies,

diversity issues, WebCT, and more.

Our full schedule is available at <http://www.fctel.uncc.edu/calendar/index.html>. Just let us know what you would like to attend. You can also learn additional computing skills, from PowerPoint to

Dreamweaver and much more, courtesy of the ITS Faculty and Staff Technology Training Department. Visit <http://training.uncc.edu/> for a full listing of the ITS offerings (also see the article on p. 3 for more information about various types of e-learning training available).

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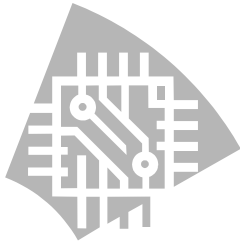
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ATKINS LIBRARY'S ELECTRONIC DATABASES UNDERGO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



Starting in January, 2006, the Atkins Library will be making significant changes to its electronic database coverage. The changes are occurring as a result of the Atkins Library's participation in NCLIVE, a consortium of North Carolina Public, Academic, and Community College Libraries which, through funding by the NC General Assembly, jointly purchase several popular database titles across several disciplines. The following

new databases will be available to UNC Charlotte users:

- ◆ Business Source Premier (replaces ABI/INFORM and upgrades Business Source Elite)
- ◆ Academic Search Premier (replaces Infotrac and upgrades Academic Search Elite)
- ◆ HeritageQuest
- ◆ CINAHL with Full Text

These resources will provide

a more complete and easier access to full-text information across several disciplines to the Atkins Library's patrons.

To read more about the changes and see a complete list of databases that were added or dropped along with descriptions, please see http://www.nclive.org/changes_2005.phtml.

□ Brad Warren, Public Relations & Grants Librarian, J. Murrey Atkins Library

TIRED OF SPAM? NEW CAMPUS ANTI-SPAM PROGRAM HELPS KEEP YOUR EMAIL INBOX CLEAR

Did you know that ITS blocks nearly 4 million spam messages per month? Did you also know that nearly two out of every three incoming email messages to UNC Charlotte are spam? If left unfiltered, you would probably receive from 1,500 to 2,000 spam message per month.

Luckily for you, ITS has created a way to easily report spam messages so that future spam messages from those addresses can be blocked from entering our e-mail system. This will help keep your inbox clear and ensure that all of your inbox is full of only the important email, such as those from your students and colleagues.

To report a spam message in the program, you will need to simply forward any spam messages as an attachment to

stopspam@unccl.edu. (The easiest method for accomplishing this in Outlook appears at the end of this article).

What happens next? Well, your message with the spam attachment will be delivered directly to an e-mail gateway called IronMail, which is used to perform spam filtering. IronMail strips the unique identifiers of the spam, called header information, from each attachment, and then ITS can set blocks on the message header data directly in IronMail, preventing future messages from passing through to your inbox.

If you need assistance with this or anything else pertaining to your IT needs, please call the Help Center at ext. 7-3100.

Outlook Instructions For Forwarding An E-Mail Message As An Attachment:

1. Open a new mail message.
2. Address it to stopspam@unccl.edu.
3. Use your mouse to drag the spam message to the new mail message. The spam will be added to the new mail message as an attachment.
4. Send the message.

For a copy of these step-by-step instructions plus two additional methods on reporting spam, please visit the ITS Help Center's "How To" Web page at <http://www.helpcenter.unccl.edu/howto/rtf/StopSpam%20Instructions.rtf>

□ Dan Dombchewskyj, IT Security Analyst, ITS

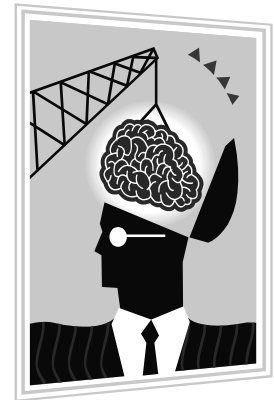
NEARLY 4
MILLION SPAM
MESSAGES ARE
BLOCKED BY
UNC
CHARLOTTE
EVERY SINGLE
MONTH.

E-LEARNING: NOT JUST FOR THE TECH-SAVVY!

Did you know that many faculty members who use employ e-learning tools such as WebCT or Centra are not just the “technical wizards” of their department? Many of them simply want to make a more enriching experience

for themselves and their students. They may have heard some good things from a colleague or seen some information about how e-learning tools might help them. So they give e-learning a try, and find out that not only do they have the ability to use it, they

really enjoy it! To learn how your colleagues are using e-learning, visit http://www.webct.uncc.edu/WCT_FACULTY/spotlight_dc.html.



“WHAT CAN E-LEARNING DO FOR ME?”

E-learning can open up many new teaching and learning options for yourself and your students. For example you can offer self-tests for students to drill themselves till they gain mastery of a certain

topic, open up online discussion forums to enable more avenues of communications and self-expression, maintain online grade-books that make course management easier, share learning objects such as

question databanks and content modules with colleagues, or even track whether your students are keeping up with their online reading materials!

“HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT USING E-LEARNING TOOLS IN MY TEACHING?”

FCTeL offers a full range of e-learning workshops to help you get started using WebCT, Centra, Turnitin, SurveyShare or any of our other e-learning tools and programs. Please see <http://www.fctel.uncc.edu/calendar/index.html> for FCTeL's workshop offerings. If one of these workshops doesn't fit your schedule, no worry! You may also contact us at fctel@email.uncc.edu

or extension 7-3022 to request individualized consultations or even a special workshop for your department on any of our available topics.

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SPECIAL OFFER:
THE FIRST 10 FOLKS WHO SIGN UP FOR & ATTEND ANY OF OUR SPRING 2006 WEBCT WORKSHOPS WILL GET A FREE COPY OF THE ULTIMATE WEBCT HANDBOOK. A COMPREHENSIVE INSTRUCTOR'S/DESIGNER'S GUIDE, A \$50 VALUE!

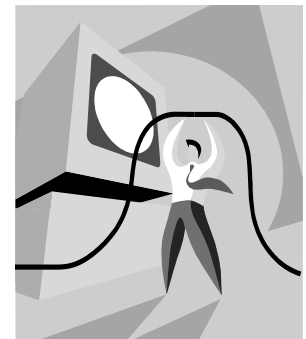
“HOW CAN I LEARN ADDITIONAL COMPUTER SKILLS USEFUL FOR E-LEARNING?”

Though you don't need to be a “computer wiz” to use e-learning tools, ITS offers a broad range of computer training for faculty that can help support your e-learning skills. For example, you might like to learn more about web page editors such

as Dreamweaver or Front-Page. A lesson in PowerPoint might be helpful in making presentations web-ready. And some PhotoShop training can help you learn how to create and edit images for your online courses. You can even learn how to simply become

more comfortable with general computer use. For a full list of ITS's Faculty and Staff computer trainings, visit <http://training.uncc.edu/>.

☐ Lorraine Stanton, Manager of e-Learning Support





Faculty Center for Teaching and eLearning

FACULTY CENTER FOR TEACHING AND E-LEARNING
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WebCT Support: www.uncc.edu/webct

Student E-Learning: www3.uncc.edu/elearning

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.FCTEL.UNCC.EDU



BRIDGING METHODS OF INSTRUCTION
& EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING & LEARNING (SOTL) FAIRE AT WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY ON FEBRUARY 23!

UNC Charlotte faculty are invited to attend the 2nd annual Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) Faire at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, on Thursday, February 23, 2006. The website for the 2006 Faire is <http://www.wcu.edu/facctr/sotlfaire/index.htm>. If any faculty are interested in participating in the Faire and have questions, they should contact the Faire's organizer, Alan Altany, at altany@email.wcu.edu.

The Faire is a one-day, concurrent sessions conference where faculty presenters (sometimes with student associates), individually or collaboratively, inform others about their approaches, methods, research and results in creating, guiding and assessing students' learning. Since it is a SoTL event, presentations are to include not only teaching practices, but some amount of qualitative and/or quantitative research / evidence about the effects of methods or practices upon student learning. This promises to be an outstanding event for all who attend!

THE WEBCT VISTA CORNER: WEBCT + BLACKBOARD = BETTER FOR ALL

WebCT and Blackboard, the two leading providers of learning management systems, have announced their intent to merge companies. The merger should be completed sometime by the middle of 2006. An overview of the merger can be found at <http://www.blackboard.com/WebCT>

◆ The merger will combine the strengths of both organizations to form a better, more innovative, more supportive company.

◆ Plans are to continue to develop, innovate, upgrade, improve, and support both Blackboard's and WebCT's products, including WebCT Vista.

◆ Common, standards-based APIs will be developed which will allow the existing product lines to interoperate with one another.

◆ A recent comment from WebCT states there is a strong feeling that the merger process positions the companies to continue focusing on client success and

minimize any disruption as they combine corporate structures and philosophies.

The merger is unlikely to have any short term impact on UNC Charlotte's current learning management system strategy, as we will continue with our upgrade to WebCT Vista.

The Faculty Center for Teaching and E-Learning (FCTeL) is committed to providing continued support for both faculty and students.

□ Mark Sivy, Associate Director, FCTeL



UNC CHARLOTTE PLAN FOR WEBCT VISTA ROLLOUT

• **Spring 2006:** Pilot course delivery; finalize support processes.

• **Fall 2006 - Fall 2007:** Existing courses migrated/moved to WebCT Vista.

• **December 31, 2007:** Campus Edition license expires; transition to WebCT Vista complete. Personalize content based on students' unique needs.