

# TEACHING & E-LEARNING NEWS

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## NEW SPRING WEBCT WORKSHOPS NOW AVAILABLE!

FCTeL offers training for WebCT, UNC Charlotte's online course management system, as well as other instructional methods and technologies. Our full workshop schedule is available at <http://www.fctel.uncc.edu/calendar/index.html>.

Added to our regular lineup of WebCT workshops are these great new offerings:

### Planning your Online Course:

This fully online WebCT course will help you learn how to convert pre-existing material from a face-to-face course to one that will be delivered either partially or entirely online. Excellent for faculty that would like

to learn more about WebCT in their own time and on their own computer.

### WebCT Fast Track:

FCTeL announces the new WebCT Fast Track workshop — 2 four-hour sessions that will provide all the information you need to get up and running with WebCT. You should be comfortable using a computer and working with electronic files for this intensive workshop series.

Each attendee will get a free copy of *The Ultimate WebCT Handbook*, a 600 page resource book valued at \$70.

### Using the WebCT Assignment Tool:

This workshop will cover

how to add the assignment tool, add individual assignments and change the default settings.

### WebCT Student Homepages & Presentations:

In this workshop you will learn how you can use the WebCT Student Homepages and Student Presentation tools to allow students to add content within WebCT for individual assignments, group projects, and other online activities.

### Basic HTML for WebCT:

We will explore the most popular HTML tags used for modifying text using WebCT's built-in HTML editing feature.



- *WebCT is used in over 500 classes UNC Charlotte*
- *WebCT is flexible: use it as little or as much as you want, from posting a course syllabus to having a course fully online*
- *Call ext. 7-3100 today to learn more about using WebCT*

## MORE FACULTY ENHANCE TEACHING & LEARNING

Usage of WebCT continues to increase at UNC Charlotte, with 42% more faculty, 53% more course sections, and 70% more student seats utilizing WebCT this semester as compared to a year ago. Within the 531 course sections are 10,005 unique students

enrolled in 18,545 student "seats."

Distance Education uses WebCT for fully-online courses, comprising only 7% of the total WebCT courses this semester. Almost all of the other 93% of courses use WebCT as a

course enhancement. As the enrollment continues to expand, these figures illustrate the growing recognition of WebCT as an effective tool for managing courses and students.

□ *Jana Avery, e-Learning Systems Administrator*

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## RESPONDUS: A HELPFUL QUIZZING TOOL!

Is quiz creation sometimes tedious for you? If so, we have your solution! Respondus is a Windows-based software tool that can be used to create surveys, quizzes, and exams which can be printed or published to WebCT.

Respondus supports six different question types, from multiple choice to open-ended responses. Respondus can also include mathematical and scientific symbols. One of the most powerful instruc-

tional features of Respondus is its ability to include instructor-student feedback, which gives students immediate knowledge of their results on each quiz item.

Respondus also has a network of test banks that can be downloaded free by an instructor using a participating textbook. To search for a publisher's test bank, please visit their Website at <http://www.respondus.com/testbank/index.shtml>.

Faculty using WebCT are automatically given access to download Respondus from the "Faculty Resources" course on your "MyWebCT" page, or you can request an account. For more information, visit our Respondus page at <http://www.fctel.uncc.edu/instructional/respondus/respondusinfo.html>.

□ Zhivi Saxon, Instructional Technology Consultant

## CENTRA VIRTUAL CLASSROOM NOW AVAILABLE TO FACULTY

YOU CAN NOW  
HOLD A LIVE  
CLASS ONLINE, IN  
REAL TIME, WITH  
CENTRA!

Centra is a virtual classroom environment that enables an instructor to hold live class meetings, virtual office hours, or study sessions over the Internet.

In Centra, the instructor can be heard by students. Class materials such as PowerPoint can be made visible for discussion. A whiteboard can be utilized for creating diagrams

and written notes. Centra sessions can even be recorded for later review!

FCTeL supports the use of Centra for Distance Education, but we are currently accepting additional faculty who wish to test the use of Centra with their classes. If you wish to test Centra, please send your request to [fctel@email.uncc.edu](mailto:fctel@email.uncc.edu) and

we'll assess your needs.

For computer specifications and other information about this exciting e-Learning tool, please visit our Centra website at <http://www3.uncc.edu/elearning/centra/>.

□ Lorraine Stanton, Manager of e-Learning Support

## WEBCT UPGRADE ON THE HORIZON



In continuing to meet the requests and needs of the UNC Charlotte teaching and learning community, an upgraded version of WebCT Campus Edition, called WebCT Vista, has been selected as part of a statewide UNC learning initiative.

The transition to WebCT Vista will occur over the next

two to three years. Naturally, the full training and support FCTeL presently provides for Campus Edition will continue as we develop and implement the same for Vista.

What is particularly interesting about WebCT Vista is that it has the functionality of the present Campus Edition

yet adds many new features, capabilities, and benefits.

Over the next year, FCTeL will be educating the UNC Charlotte faculty and staff about Vista. Please look for more informative news and events coming in the future.

□ Mark Sivy, Associate Director, FCTeL

## “WIG” OUT AND COLLABORATE ABOUT WEBCT

The UNC Teaching and Learning with Technology Collaborative (TLTC) is an organization that provides shared resources in support of teaching and learning with technology initiatives on the sixteen UNC campuses, and the WebCT Interest Group (WIG) is one of many ongoing projects sponsored by the UNC TLTC.

The interest group serves as a forum for promoting collaboration between WebCT users.

By establishing professional relationships with other WebCT users, the group strives to become a functional resource that will provide opportunities for sharing ideas and experiences.

The facilitators for the group, Jana Avery and Lorraine Stanton, are responsible for coordinating the communication between participants.

The WIG is still evolving, and we welcome your suggestions

and participation as we work to make this a dynamic group that will benefit everyone.

For more information about this exciting way to collaborate about WebCT, please contact Jana Avery or Lorraine Stanton at [elarning@email.uncc.edu](mailto:elarning@email.uncc.edu).

☐ *Jana Avery, e-Learning Systems Administrator*



## PUTTING POWERPOINT ONLINE IN YOUR COURSES

*“I’ve got a PowerPoint presentation that I would love to put on the Internet, but I am worried that I probably can’t because of its file size.”*

If you have ever wondered about this, then your days of frustration are over. You can now use Impatica for PowerPoint, an easy-to-use software application that converts PowerPoint files into a compressed format for Web delivery. The “Impaticized” file is typically 95% smaller than the PowerPoint file.

Impatica makes it simple to add narration to your lectures and use within WebCT or your customized course Web site. Impatica also supports most features of PowerPoint, including text and animations. Impatica is currently available

in FCTeL’s Technology Lab in Atkins 146. To request assistance on its use, please contact the Help Center at ext. 7-3100 and ask to speak to a FCTeL consultant. We look forward to helping you retain the teaching power of PowerPoint online!

☐ *Ron Lewis, Instructional Technology Consultant*

“I’VE GOT A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION THAT I WOULD LOVE TO PUT ON THE INTERNET, BUT I AM WORRIED THAT I PROBABLY CAN’T BECAUSE OF ITS FILE SIZE.”

## WHERE TO GET WEBCT HELP

FCTeL provides support for WebCT. Faculty and Shared Designers can get WebCT assistance by calling the Help Center at ext. 7-3100. Please state that you need WebCT help, and your call will be transferred to a FCTeL Instructional Technology Consultant.

If you prefer, you may also

send an email to [webct@email.uncc.edu](mailto:webct@email.uncc.edu). For self-guided help any time, you may refer to the WebCT Faculty Support page at [http://www.uncc.edu/webct/WCT\\_FACULTY/index.html](http://www.uncc.edu/webct/WCT_FACULTY/index.html).

Students can request WebCT help by submitting a Help Request Form at <http://www.uncc.edu/webct/REQUEST/studenthelp.html>.

☐ *Caryl Gordon, Instructional Technology Consultant*





Faculty Center for Teaching and e-Learning

FACULTY CENTER FOR TEACHING AND E-LEARNING  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE

149C Atkins Library  
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
Charlotte, NC 28223

Phone: 704.687.3022

Fax: 704.687.3894

Email: [fctel@email.uncc.edu](mailto:fctel@email.uncc.edu)

FCTeL Homepage: [www.fctel.uncc.edu](http://www.fctel.uncc.edu)

WebCT Support: [www.uncc.edu/webct](http://www.uncc.edu/webct)

Student E-Learning: [www3.uncc.edu/elearning](http://www3.uncc.edu/elearning)

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
[WWW.FCTEL.UNCC.EDU](http://WWW.FCTEL.UNCC.EDU)

INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT FOR  
THE 21ST CENTURY.

## WE WANT YOU!

We at the Faculty Center for Teaching and e-Learning are always trying hard to expand our outreach to the campus community, and we welcome your input!

Over the past year, we have collaborated on a number of projects, ranging from training to instructional research, such as a usability study with the Atkins Library, research projects involving faculty and students, customized training for instructors, and leading intercampus instructional efforts—among UNC schools and beyond.

If you think you would like to collaborate with FCTeL to expand your effectiveness in teaching and learning, either for you or your department, please contact us to tell us how we can help. We can offer customized training, consultations, materials, and more.

Or if you would like to contribute an article to our next newsletter, ask us a question, or give us an idea that you would like for us to address, we encourage you to let us know. We always value input from our constituents.

## RESEACH SPOTLIGHT: GRAD STUDENTS FIND INTERESTING RESULTS ABOUT WEBCT ON CAMPUS

Last semester, a group of graduate students in a Computer Mediated Communications course taught by Dr. Kirk Duthler of the Communications department undertook a research project where they looked at the effects of WebCT on classroom communication.

The results were not exactly what they expected. The research team found that although professors thought that they were using WebCT as a communication tool, that for the most part, they were using it as an adminis-

trative tool. This use, however, freed up time in class and during office hours for what the research team dubbed “more meaningful interaction.” Professors that used the WebCT system found that there was less hassle about certain activities such as giving grades back to students and other so-called “maintenance” type tasks that usually took up class or office time. The results from the faculty surveys showed that this increased the perceived quality of overall classroom communication.

The research project took the entire semester and was a large portion of the students’ overall grade. The students, with the help of their professor, developed a survey to gauge both the perceptions of the students and professors in courses that met in person and also used WebCT as a supplement. They then analyzed the two data sets using SPSS and made their conclusions. An online version of the full report will be made available in March for interested faculty.

□ *Daniel Heskett, Student e-Learning Assistant*

