

UT TeleCampus Communiqué
Volume 5, Number 10
April 2007

In this issue

IOL 2007 Update

UTTC Executive Director Darcy Hardy interviewed in Distance Education Report

Summer Courses

TIS Registration Open for Summer Courses

Spring Evaluation Schedule

Postcard Mailout

IOL 2007 Update

If you've been waiting to see the conference program before registering, it is now available on the IOL website. As of April 4th there are 36 presentations across all five tracks. We've asked some presenters to combine their presentations to give our attendees the most information in the time available. We thank you all in advance for working together if asked to do this. Also please remember that everyone attending IOL, including presenters, needs to register online (www.iolconference.org).

Remember that the nominations for the Library Resource Integration Award are being accepted until April 13. The award recognizes successful efforts to integrate library resources into course curriculum and is given each year at IOL by the UT Library Directors. See the website for details and the nomination form (<http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,1618,82,32,html>).

New Event -- High Definition Video Conference Shootout!

Come one, come all to the first ever High Definition Video Conference (HDVC) Shootout.

Polycom, Tandberg, and LifeSize will be demonstrating their HDVC products. See, touch and hear what they have to offer. Compare the different features and abilities of each to see how they can improve your facilities. If you're curious about this delivery method, this will be a great chance to learn a lot from the sources in a short time. The event is free and is scheduled as a preconference event on May 21. Registration is not required.

Bat Boat -- The Bat Boat Tour (optional) does require advance registration and space is limited. To join us aboard as we watch 1.5 million Mexican freetail bats take to the sunset sky, please register now.

Hotels -- Make those reservations now, folks. Hotel space downtown is getting rare, and rooms at this rate are only reserved until May 4. After that the prices go up considerably, if you can find a room!

UT Library Directors' Award for Excellence in Library Resource Integration

For the third year, UT System Library Directors will confer an award to a UT System faculty member during this year's conference to recognize the efforts of integrating library resources into course curriculum. We are seeking nominations from within the UT System for online, hybrid, web-enhanced or classroom courses. Examples of library integration include:

- a course that includes a link to the library and/or assigned readings
- a course that has a librarian lead a discussion board exercise
- a course that includes research in the library's digital collections
- a course that demonstrates students' knowledge of information resources

The award will be given during lunch on Friday, May 25th. See <http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,1618,82,32,html> for more details.

UTTC Executive Director Darcy Hardy interviewed in Distance Education Report

The interview is a follow up to Darcy's "triple crown" win of the Mildred and Charles Wedemeyer Outstanding Distance Learning Practitioner Award, the Richard Jonsen Award from WCET, and induction into the Texas Distance Learning Hall of Fame. The interview covers a variety of topics related to the UTTC specifically, and distance education in general, including the UTTC's role with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Course Redesign Project. Please see attachment.

Summer Courses

UTTC will begin its summer session with medical branches on April 30 and academic campuses on May 14. UTTC is offering over 100 courses this summer.

TIS Registration Open for Summer Courses

UTTC opened registration for summer courses in the newly-upgraded TIS on April 10. The upgrade added several new features for students and staff. For example, for students, social security numbers have been replaced with home campus student IDs, there is a cart system to submit multiple registration requests on one form, they can select any username and password they wish, and the "Forgot Your Password?" function is now based on the selection of a personal question and answer. To help students get started in the new system, there are a series of animated tutorials demonstrating the functions and features they use. In preparation for the opening of registration, registrar staff and advisors met online to review the new features of their accounts. There are also animated tutorials showing staff how to use the new system, including new features. Some "new and improved" features for staff accounts are the ability to search for students by both first and last name, the ability to assign access to SSNs to just selected registrar staff, the pre-population of student data into registration requests based on the most recent processed request, and the ability for registrars to return incomplete registration requests to the staff member who processed the request previously.

Spring Evaluation Schedule

Due to the upgrade of the TIS, student access to spring courses evaluations will be the same for all courses. The spring evaluation period will be May 1 through 15. As always, enrolled students will be notified by email at the start of the course evaluation period.

Postcard Mailout

The Communication Services department followed up with the attendees of the 2007 Texas Computer Education Association Conference where we had a booth promoting UTTC programs a few weeks ago. This month we mailed out over 7300 postcards, designed by CS staff, to registrants reminding them of our online programs for educators.

Dr. Darcy Hardy ** Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs ** Executive Director
The University of Texas System ** UT TeleCampus ** 512-499-4207
www.telecampus.utsystem.edu