

**UT TeleCampus Communiqué**  
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**IOL Conference Website Launch and Call for Proposals**

The UT TeleCampus-hosted first annual Innovations in Online Learning (IOL) conference will be held May 31 (pre-conference) through June 2, 2005 in Austin. Mark your calendars now! The website and the call for proposals went live today, January 18. Proposals are due February 28, so check out the website by following the IOL icon on the front page of the TeleCampus ([www.telecampus.utsystem.edu](http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu)). Although the TeleCampus is hosting IOL, all UT System faculty and staff who are involved in online teaching and learning (fully online or hybrid) are encouraged to participate, regardless of whether or not they are affiliated with the TeleCampus.

**New Redesigned TRACK and TRACKPlus Program Launched**

The TeleCampus is pleased to announce the launch of the new redesigned TRACK website and program. In addition to a whole new look for the website, the Course Development and Technology department has redesigned the entire program (diagnostic testing and learning materials) in order to move the program in-house, saving us hundreds of thousands of dollars in out-sourcing costs. This was a huge undertaking for the TeleCampus and we encourage you to check out the new site ([www.track.uttelecampus.org](http://www.track.uttelecampus.org)). We have also launched TRACKPlus, which is the TRACK program plus access to online tutoring provided by Smarthinking. Our partnership with Smarthinking allows students to access live and asynchronous tutors in English Language Arts, Math, and Bilingual Math. All tutors have been trained to tutor the specific 11th grade objectives addressed on the TAKS test. TRACK and TRACKPlus are offered as a service to the Texas high school students, their teachers and their parents at no cost. The site is open to and accessible by the public.

The new version of TRACK offers several advantages over the 2004 TRACK program which ran on the Blackboard platform:

- the TRACK website—the pages that describe TRACK before you actually log in—was completely redesigned using cascading style sheets; this approach insures that the information is available to all modern browsers (versions released since 1998) and to users with visual impairments (ADA compliance)

- after logging in, all users (not just students) may take subject-specific diagnostic tests. The new testing system written by the TeleCampus is presented entirely in Flash (with downloadable text alternatives). What sets apart this testing application from any other is that test items are presented one at a time (with the opportunity to move forward and back, skip questions, and review questions at the end before grading) but are not dependent on the Internet. If a student loses her connection, her answers are not lost. Further, because of the object-oriented design, thousands of students may take tests at the same time without causing database bottlenecks.
- after a subject test is completed, results are posted for later review. A new feature individually configures the Flash menu (a text alternative is also available) for each user, providing a personalized study plan. The dynamic menu allows students to check off tutorials as they are studied—and subsequent iterations of the test confirm (or not) if that study produced subject mastery.
- teachers who request to be designated as TRACKPlus teachers (see the site for more details) have the authority to assign (and to rotate those assignments) up to 5 of their students to the TRACKPlus program (for tutoring) without intervention by the TeleCampus.

The 2005 TRACK program was built from scratch by the UT TeleCampus from October through December 2004.

#### **Faculty Training Scheduled for February 3 and 4**

Course Development and Management training will be held in Austin February 3 and 4. Information, including lodging suggestions, agendas and an online registration form are available at <http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,589,84,72,html>. Please register if you plan to attend! Faculty should attend training nine to 12 months prior to the first offering of their course. It is a great opportunity for faculty teaching courses developed by others. And, since there is always something new, established faculty will benefit as well. So, please join us. For additional information email Lori McNabb at [lmcnabb@utsystem.edu](mailto:lmcnabb@utsystem.edu).

#### **Safe Assignment Pilot Videoconference Scheduled for January 31**

The TeleCampus is piloting Safe Assignment, a plagiarism detection service, during the Spring semester. A videoconference will be held January 31 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. to demonstrate its functionality. Safe Assignment will be available to faculty within Blackboard through the Assignments tool. If you have not used Blackboard Assignments, you'll find they are very easy to use and are a great way to organize student work and provide students with feedback. They can even be date-based to be used for an exam. Videoconference locations will be emailed to faculty teaching in Spring. If you are not teaching this semester and would like to join us, send an email to Lori McNabb at [lmcnabb@utsystem.edu](mailto:lmcnabb@utsystem.edu) to be added to future Safe Assignments communications. After the videoconference, additional information will be posted on the faculty tab in Blackboard.

#### **UTTC Bookstore Update**

The UTTC Bookstore, managed by eCampus, is up and running. Fall students were able to participate in book buy-backs and Spring students can purchase all their books and other course materials. In preparation for the Summer term, materials lists will be removed from the course information pages on the TeleCampus website as they are added to the UTTC bookstore. The bookstore is at <http://www.ecampus.com/SchoolFront.asp>. Contact Terry Barksdale at [tbarksdale@utsystem.edu](mailto:tbarksdale@utsystem.edu) for additional information.

#### **Semester Start**

Registration is winding down and classes are beginning. All registered students received a detailed email to help them get started. And, if they were not registered in the Fall they also received the TeleCampus Getting Started CD. A special thank you to the many registrars, advisors and technical contacts that worked so hard to get students into their Spring TeleCampus courses. For information on the TeleCampus Information System (TIS) contact Kimberly Staten at [kstaten@utsystem.edu](mailto:kstaten@utsystem.edu).

#### **CEO Update**

UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has added Emergency Room Psychiatry to the Career Enhancement Online (CEO) system. The course is available to their students and to practicing physicians. UT Southwestern has also added Contemporary Limb Prosthetics for practicing physicians.

And the UT Austin Software Quality Institute added Business Context and Legal Considerations for Software Projects. The CEO is at <https://ceo.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.asp>. For additional information, contact Katrina Wells at [kwells@utsystem.edu](mailto:kwells@utsystem.edu).

### **Dental Hygiene**

In Fall 2004, a new bachelor's completion program in dental hygiene will be offered via the UT TeleCampus. This four-course program will only be available to students who have received their Dental Hygiene Certification from UT Health Science Center at Houston. Web pages for this program are now up. To learn more: <http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,1152,82,56,html>

### **UTTC Booth at Upcoming Conferences**

Winter marks a busy time to spread the word about our programs. At the end of this month, January 31st-February 1st, we will be staffing a booth at the Texas Association of School Administrators 2005 Midwinter Conference in Austin, Texas. On February 9-11, we will be exhibiting at the Texas Computer Educators Association Conference in Austin. These conferences give us the wonderful opportunity to talk to prospective students and school administrators about our various education programs, including TRACK. Frequently current or former students stop by to introduce themselves.

### **First Graduates from HRD Program**

Fall 2004 marks the first semester to graduate students out of the online HRD program. Two students were awarded the Master of Science Degree in Technology with a Human Resource Development option. The HRD program began in Spring 2003 with 29 enrollments.

### **UTTC Brochures & Merchandise**

With the start of the new year and the start of the semester, we ask that you check your supply of UT TeleCampus brochures. If you are running low, please send a request (with desired quantities and mailing address) to Maggie Galbreath at [mgalbreath@utsystem.edu](mailto:mgalbreath@utsystem.edu). Also, as a reminder, if you or your students are interested in UTTC merchandise, the new bookstore is currently selling some fashionable apparel items. Visit: <http://www.ecampus.com/SchoolFront.asp> or link from the UTTC homepage.

### **Advertising Update**

UTTC programs are advertised in the following locations during the month of January. **Please note that some placements are booked year round and will appear each month. For example, we index once for the year with searchable databases.** Want to make a suggestion? We do quarterly media reviews and will be happy to consider your suggestion. Send URL, radio/TV station, or sample publication to Jennifer Rees at [jrees@utsystem.edu](mailto:jrees@utsystem.edu).

- Alamo Cinema Calendar Guide
- Alcalde Magazine
- AllStarDirectories (AllCriminalJusticeSchools, AllBusinessSchools, AllEducationSchools, AllNursingSchools)
- Ameriforce Texas Military Relocation Guide
- ATPE (Association of Texas Professional Educators) News Magazine
- Austin Bergstrom International Airport
- Degree.net
- Distance-Educator.com
- GetEducated.com
- Gradschools.com
- Insight Magazine (Texas Association of School Administrators)
- JustColleges.com
- Longhorn Sports Athletic Program
- NewsweekDistanceLearning.com
- Online University Consortium
- Peterson's Distance Learning Guide
- Policetraining.net
- Sloan-C.org
- TAHPERD website

- Texas Monthly
- Texas Nursing Magazine
- TUMaster.com
- Vault.com
- WorldWideLearn.com

### **Course Development Videoconferences**

On August 9 and September 13, the UTTC Course Development team hosted videoconferences for campus production staff in order to showcase some of the extraordinary work being developed by both the TeleCampus and UT System components. Participating campus staff presented the following:

- UT Brownsville – "Using Dreamweaver Templates with Blackboard Package Files"
- UT Permian Basin – "Digitizing Specialized Content," "Textbook HTML Templates" and "Uploading Content into Blackboard"
- UT Arlington – "ADA-Compliant Delivery of Online Courses"
- UT El Paso – "Single Object Design of Package Files"

In addition, the Spring and Summer '05 semester development schedules were reviewed, and potential problems or aspects of the development process were discussed. Campus production staff were asked to demonstrate their progressive course design ideas, and the TeleCampus offered \$500 worth of technical training classes to each component that participated.

### **Emergency Room Psychiatry Case**

During 2004, the TeleCampus developed an ER Psychiatry module for UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. UTSWMC and Parkland Hospital staff served as content authors, while UTTC provided the interface design and programming.

The module was developed so that the content and the interface aspects are separate entities. The interface aspect is an intelligent generic shell that generates the case study module based on the associated content files. The content belongs to the client, and the interface belongs to the TeleCampus. This separation allows the client to make their own updates and corrections without being dependent on an outside programmer. Adding a new area to the module (including sub-levels and navigation elements) is a simple matter of adding a document. A new case study module is created by copying the interface file into a new directory and adding the appropriate content files.

Creating the XML (eXtensible Markup Language, the successor to HTML) code required a thorough deconstruction of the case elements, but the templates were designed to be straightforward: no prior experience with XML is needed to successfully develop and maintain case study modules. When the student completes the module, the module connects with a Cold Fusion application server outside of the Blackboard environment. Through Flash Remoting and a custom CFC (Cold Fusion Component), the module sends email, connects to a database, and takes advantage of other server-side processes as determined by the client on a case-by-case basis.

### **Paralegal Program Complete**

The TeleCampus has completed a year-and-a-half long project creating professional development courses that allow participants to receive a paralegal certificate online from The University of Texas at San Antonio. Traditionally, these courses were taught in a face-to-face setting and consisted mostly of question and answer discussions meant to engage the participants, particularly in the more staid areas of study like business law. The challenge for the TeleCampus was how to keep the courses as engaging and interesting online as in the classroom.

The courses were developed as interactive lessons, instead of passive readings, so that students became active participants in the subject matter. Throughout the content, self-checks consisting of in-line quizzes, question and answer buttons, pull-down menus, and interactive Flash activities, as well as research and software tutorials, and primary legal source material were interspersed. Flash modules that feature a lecturing virtual instructor (or avatar) that interacts with a group of virtual students in a classroom setting was created. These virtual lectures regularly prompt the live participants to answer questions and to move the virtual lecture along at their own speed and in various subject areas. This unique socialization aspect not only emulated the question and answer format used in the live classroom, but

also offered a human quality to the course typically lacking in many online formats. By varying the kinds of interactivity available, the courses are more engaging and less repetitive to the online learner.

### **Welcome to Laura Steffen**

Laura Steffen joined the Course Development team in November. Laura provided instructional design solutions for both corporate and higher education learners in the Bay area for the last four years; she worked independently with clients like Mervyn's, Visa USA, and US Oncology. Most recently, she was a Senior Instructional Designer and faculty trainer at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco where she continues to teach online courses in photography. After studying photography, her first passion, Laura worked as a photographer and art director for several projects, from large scale print reproductions to fashion and product photography, for both online and print mediums, using 35mm, medium-format SLRs, 8 x 10 cameras, film scanners, digital cameras and advanced imaging devices.

### **Data Feeds**

When UT Health Science Center at Houston began sending data feeds this semester, TIS achieved another milestone. Now, every component that offers courses transmits its academic course enrollment and registration information to the TeleCampus via an electronic data feed. For TIS, the next step is the removal of partial social security numbers, a project scheduled for completion in 2005. CEO, the parallel professional development system with credit card processing, is in full swing, and all non-academic courses will be moved into CEO this year.

### **Safari Support**

With enhancements to the Blackboard 6.1 platform, the TeleCampus added support for Safari 1.2 as an additional browser this Spring. Technical support pages and the browser checker have been revised to extend this expanded support to Macintosh users.

### **Embanet Statistics**

Summary for Nov 2004:

Phone Calls	81	64.3%
Emails	10	7.9%
Web Forms	34	27.0%

Avg Time to Complete Email Request	8 minutes
Avg Time to Complete Phone Request	12 minutes
Avg Time to Complete Webform Request	27 minutes

Summary for Oct 2004:

Phone Calls	91	51.1%
Emails	12	6.7%
Web Forms	75	42.1%

Avg Time to Complete Email Request	2 minutes
Avg Time to Complete Phone Request	8 minutes
Avg Time to Complete Webform Request	44 minutes

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