UWGONLINE

August 2011

UWG ONLINE *Thinking Outside the Box*

Associate Dean's Corner

with Dr. Jason Huett

Welcome back to campus and to the first edition of our newsletter focused on online teaching and learning at UWG. My name is Dr. Jason Huett, and I am the Associate Dean of Online Development for UWG. In this newsletter, you will find updates and information about online programs offered on this campus, profiles of faculty currently teaching online, useful online teaching tools, news, and notes as well as highlighted services and other important information out of this office.

Currently, we are busy renovating the bottom floor of the Old Auditorium building across from the library into a "one-stop-shop" for faculty interested in online teaching and learning in any form. We will also be providing a host of services to faculty, colleges, and departments from help with designing and developing new online programs to individual and group training sessions for faculty members already teaching online or interested in starting.

You may not know this, but when people in Georgia or the Southeast think "online learning," the first university that often comes to mind is UWG. We are a recognized leader in the field of online teaching and learning. UWG is home to the very successful USG *eCore Program* as well as some very innovative online undergraduate and graduate programs including new doctoral degrees in *School Improvement* and, soon, *Nursing Education*. Here at UWG, we have put together one of the strongest teams of distance education professionals in the country who are willing and able to serve the needs of our faculty in their online/hybrid teaching and learning endeavors. What this means for you is that if you are interested in leveraging the innovative potential of online education, we can help.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and find it useful. I encourage you to stop by or contact us to see how we can help you serve new audiences, improve existing online classes, design new online programs, and better position your existing programs in the increasingly competitive regional, national, and international distance education marketplace that is currently adding more than one million students a year in the U.S. alone!

Cheers,
Jason Huett
Associate Dean of Online Development and USG eCore

Meet the Staff

David Lloyd
Director of Online Faculty Development

As the Director of Online Faculty Development at the University of West Georgia, David facilitates the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of online instruction for faculty members. He works to help UWG faculty keep up with the ever-changing nature of technology and contemporary online instructional trends. He hopes to broaden faculty members' access to appropriate, pedagogical and technology resources as well as train faculty in Blackboard/WebCT and other online instructional tools.

David studied Information Technology at Utah Valley University and, soon after, found that his career path was leading more towards the instructional side of technology. The shift in career direction lead to a concurrent shift in his education towards Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Instructional Technology and Business Administration. As a firm believer in the benefits of lifelong learning, he also plans to continue a formal education at UWG.

David has a very broad occupational history. In his words, he "needed a few solid years of attending the "school-of-hard-knocks" before attempting a conventional education. His past experiences include working as a home builder, driving a truck, administering Linux Internet servers, and USG online faculty training. David eventually made his way to his current position by following a passion for online teaching and learning.

David specializes in faculty training and the various technical aspects of online instruction. He specifically enjoys focusing in on the challenge of balancing the technical and pedagogical/andragogical considerations with online course design. He believes in team effort and in fostering a collaborative educational environment for faculty, staff, and students. David is also greatly interested in Social Media within online instruction. His favorite software includes the Google Applications Suite and Google Knol (bank of pedagogical-related resources).

David has many interests including skydiving, riding motorcycles, and jogging. David has also been married for 18 years and has 3 children.

To contact David Lloyd, email dlloyd@westga.edu

Online Around Campus

Criminology Goes Online

Our B.S. in Criminology is unique in the state for two reasons. First, as opposed to criminal justice, it is in criminology which encompasses a much broader perspective on crime and its effects. Second, it is the first such program to be offered entirely online. Our faculty made the decision to add online delivery of our undergraduate program due to increasing demand in the field. While we noticed the popularity of online courses among current students, the continuous inquiries about an entirely online degree from practitioners and non-traditional students tilted the scales in favor of making the move now. Also, with the recent foundation of the College of Social Sciences and the Department of Criminology, along with incredible support from Distance Education and the VPAA, the timing was perfect to implement new and innovative ideas. We will be working on scaling the program in an attempt to keep pace with what appears to be an incredible opportunity to fill a niche in the USG system at the undergraduate level, while also building a popular graduate program.

-David Jenks, PhD   Department Website
Professor of Criminology, Chair

Online Teaching Tools

Khan Academy
http://www.khanacademy.org/ **(Check it out!)**
This free, thorough, developed resource is ideal for supplemental student tutorial support on a variety of subjects. Khan Academy has over 2,400 instructional videos and many interactive exercises to facilitate and assess learning. The videos and information also serve as a great model for developing your own unique instructional resources.

Atomic Learning
www.atomiclearning.com **(Go here first!)**
Atomic Learning provides a plethora of software training and support resources pertinent to teaching online at undergraduate & graduate levels. AL offers instant, simplified answers to technical and usage questions, as well as thorough step-by-step training videos and documents regarding a huge array of tools, workshops, and resources applicable to changing and contemporary aspects of teaching online. Also, help students overcome tech-fears by sharing this resource. Free for UWG Faculty!!! Sign in with: *Username*: UWG. *Password*: college

YouTube EDU (Watch this!)
www.youtube.com/education?b=400&s=pop
Check out YouTube Education: videos and channels from college and university partners across the country providing a global perspective on information and learning. Locate resources regarding past and present issues and events by subject area and encourage students to utilize this resource when presenting or collaborating within an online learning environment.

Online News & Notes

***Online Learning Factoid* of the Month:** In terms of growth numbers and projections across the country, the 2010 Sloan Survey of Online Learning reveals that enrollment of online post-secondary students rose by almost one million students in one year. Across the country, online enrollments are increasing at rates exceeding 21% annually. This is far greater than the 2% growth of traditional site-based programs.

If you only *Try One Thing* this month, try this:
Glogster and Glogster EDU are free online "postering" tools that allow teachers and students to create electronic posters/project/presentations. Glogster utilizes a drag and drop interface to add images, video, audio, animation, etc. In addition, Glogster projects can be imbedded directly into CourseDen, webpages, wiki's or shared via email. (Link for Glogster in 90 seconds:)

If you are *Adventurous* check out:
LiveBinders is a free data storage, collaborative, and web based presentation tool that acts similarly to a standard 3 ring binder. Binders can be embedded into webpages, or shared via email. In addition, creators have the option of establishing privacy settings which allows for control over copyright issues. Here is a link to a binder created to share Online Development Tools.

Professional Development

- **Adobe Connect** is a complete online conference or virtual classroom solution that facilitates increased attendance, participant response rates, and overall interest through rich and engaging, highly-interactive and impactful online events. "Getting Started with Adobe Connect: Online Training Webinar Series": presents webinars regarding Adobe Connect basics, tips, and extensive functions, available free and fully online until September 2. For specific topics, dates and times, as well as how to register, see here. For a free trial of Adobe Connect, see here.

- **Blackboard Collaborate** provides simple and accessible web conferencing, instant messaging, and voice authoring tools, which can be easily integrated into your Learning Management System. This webinar presentation will provide practical tips and tricks for successful lecture capture and will also share numerous real-life examples of how instructors utilize this effective tool. Join in on this informative webinar set for September 16 from 12-1 pm: register here.

- **Google Apps EDU** Overview Webinar: held September 15 at 12 pm. This webinar provides an overview of Google's free offer for solutions to email, calendar, and documents for those who participate in online instruction. Google Apps for Education is specifically for integrating communication and collaboration within online teaching. See here to register for the event (make sure to register for the correct time zone). See Ten Reasons to Choose Google Apps!

For an extensive day-by-day account of additional, available **Webinars** in the upcoming months please click here.

UWG ONLINE: Happenings, etc.

Training, Workshops, & Events:

Getting Back into Gear: Fall Semester Student Orientations & Help

- **August 15-29, Monday-Friday 8 am to 5pm**: in addition to our open-door policy semester-long, encourage your students to drop by for CourseDen Orientation as the semester begins: **COE Room 243B**

- Please contact Matias Marabotto for additional information regarding regular and after-hours in-class CourseDen orientations; a student help and resource Learning Module is also available, upon request, for incorporation within your CourseDen course: students can access resources, tutorials and more at their own pace. mmarabot@westga.edu / 678-839-5295

Additional Resources:

uwgONLINE Faculty Wiki: Providing you with resources, tutorials, workshops & more to help facilitate and engaging online learning experience for both the student and the instructor. We hope this resource promotes self-paced learning regarding basic and extensive aspects of instructional design, including how to use CourseDen, as well as how-to's and the benefits of branching out and expanding your online instructional repertoire.

uwgONLINE Student Wiki: Support your student's online learning experience with this resource. CourseDen help and resources, multimedia resources, and free download-able software are available.

uwgONLINE Downloads: This page contains important downloads for use with CourseDen. Each download will contain an explanation, say its importance to CourseDen, and link to the file.

Online Faculty Kudos

We would like to commend the following faculty on their efforts and achievements!

Neill Korobov, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Psychology*, taught the first UWG online Psychology course since 1996! Dr. Korobov taught *Social Psychology* this Summer semester 95-100% online.

Marjorie Snipes, Ph.D., *Professor of Anthropology*, has taught her first fully online course this Summer semester at UWG: *Myth, Magic and Religion*.

UWG Gains Grant to Improve STEM Education: faculty from the College of Science & Mathematics and the College of Education, led by Dr. Myrna Gantner and Dr. S. Swamy Mruthinti, have been awarded the following grant: "University of West Georgia Instructional STEM Excellence (UWise)" by the UWG Board of Regents. The focus and goal of the grant is to increase the success of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors, as well as advancement for science and mathematics teachers.

Online Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Mary Hooper
Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership

Dr. Hooper came to UWG after working in and with public K-12 schools for 17 years. Prior to joining faculty at UWG, Dr. Hooper served as a middle school teacher and school leader, a district level leader in HR and Professional Learning, a state-wide trainer for the Georgia Teacher Evaluation Program, and a consultant. Dr. Hooper has also served as a member and the chair of the Carroll County Board of Education.

All of the courses Dr. Hooper teaches are at least 75% online. This summer she taught the Leadership Residency course for current school leaders and will continue to work with these leaders in the Fall. This fall, as part of the EDLE team, Dr. Hooper will be developing several new courses that will be 100% online. EDLE faculty are excited about building new courses and transforming several traditional courses into a new method of delivery that will include both live interactive online seminars and asynchronous, self-paced work. Dr. Hooper uses CourseDen to manage all of her classes and has recently begun using SoftChalk in order to easily design learning modules that can be uploaded into CourseDen.

Dr. Hooper writes, "I think working in 'the cloud' has transformed my ability to collaborate with colleagues! No longer is geography a barrier to shared collaboration on research, teaching, and program development. My students utilize all sorts of interesting cloud tools to collaborate and to communicate their learning through various projects and assignments." Dr. Hooper utilizes Wordles, an online tool for making word clouds, and is an effective way for students to review key ideas. Dr. Hooper has also been utilizing Glogster with her students, in order to facilitate 21st Century digital poster sessions. With Glogster, the students create an interactive poster and then the link to their posters can be sent out to the to a select or specific audience for review and interaction. Students also create presentations using VoiceThread which is another tool that enables asynchronous interaction with both audio, video, and still images. Dr. Hooper shares, "...there are so many great ways to engage students with content that are free and easy to use! These tools are also useful for faculty collaboration... We model 21st century engagement by USING the tools for our own work."

Dr. Hooper is currently using a wiki to organize and collaborate on a book chapter about technology leadership with UWG professor Dr. Danilo Baylen. The EDLE department also uses Google Docs as a means of managing student recruitment and admissions as well as for collecting assessment data The impressive new UTeach West Georgia program is governed by a Faculty Administrative Coordinating Team (UTeach FACT); organization and planning is done within the Wiki.

Dr. Hooper has lived in the Carrollton area for over 20 years and is very happy to be working at UWG, within her own community. Dr. Hooper's favorite pastime when not working is spending time at home with her husband Duane and two children (Randy, 20 and Megan 15).

Questions & Submissions

For questions, suggestions, or items to include in the next newsletter such as:

*Upcoming Events, Workshops, & Trainings
*Publications & Other Achievements
*Online Teaching/Learning News & Insights

Please contact Rhea Wojcik:

rheazerr@gmail.com

We look forward to learning about and sharing your experiences and achievements.
Thank you for your contributions!

UWG ONLINE **CHALLENGE**

The first three people to email the correct answers to the following questions will win something cool!

1. What are two things that make the new B.S. in Criminology unique?
2. What is the name of the website that offers the UWG community free online tutorials for a number of software programs?
3. What are two jobs David Lloyd held before becoming our new Director of Online Faculty Development?
4. Where are our offices located?

Please email rheazerr@gmail.com*, list your full name, contact information and your department.*
All questions must be answered correctly. Items awarded are for faculty use and will be transferred to department inventory. Thank you!

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