UWG ONLINE

January 2013

UWG ONLINE · *Thinking Outside the Box* ·

Associate Dean's Corner

with Dr. Jason Huett

Happy New Year and welcome back to campus!

The Huetts made their annual 3000-mile car trek to Texas and back and are only slightly the worse for wear. I do, however, have a deeper appreciation for the phrase "holiday drama."

I hope that your holiday break was a good one.

We are a little late with this semester's first newsletter because, as you may well imagine, we have been pretty busy over here with the transition to D2L CourseDen. Thanks to our dedicated faculty and crackerjack staff, I would call the transition a success. There were some rough patches, but on the whole, things are rocking along pretty smoothly. Winston Churchill was quoted as saying, "There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction." In this case, the change was in the right direction. D2L is a better system.

Education is a world of perpetual change and fast-paced innovation. It can get overwhelming and frustrating at times. If you feel this way, come see us and let us help. Our motto at the FDC for 2013 is "adapt and overcome," and that is what we are here to help you do. If you need help with cutting-edge or novel approaches to educational delivery in order to help shape new online courses or programs, we are your team. If you are looking to improve

the quality of your current online course offerings, we can help with that as well. Right now, the important thing is that you are thoughtful and proactive when it comes to exploring how your courses and programs will meet the challenges of the current educational marketplace. Rest assured that if you don't do it, someone else will… and potential students will notice. So, come see us and let's start the conversation.

On with the newsletter!

In this newsletter, we meet Ashley Perkins—an Education Programs Specialist, Kentuckian, busy mom of two, and marathon runner who is getting her doctorate in School Improvement at UWG. Our new casual labor employee and wonderful newsletter editor, Amy Waldrep, is profiled in our "Meet the Staff" section (Welcome Amy!). And we hear from Kim Holder, a passionate economics instructor and online educator, about her experiences with online teaching and learning.

As usual, the rest of the newsletter is filled with some great information. And if you have any feedback or ideas for inclusion, please send them our way.

Here is wishing you a happy, rewarding, and most of all healthy spring term!

Cheers,

Jason Huett

Associate Dean of Online Development and USG eCore

UWGONLINE
thinking outside the box

Meet the Staff

Amy Waldrep

Casual Labor

My name is Amy Waldrep, and I am proud to be a member of the staff at UWG|Online. I was born in Carrollton and have lived here my whole life. I attended West Georgia after graduating from Central-Carroll High School in 1992. I enjoyed being a student at UWG and graduated with a B.A. in English and minors in Spanish and Secondary Education before giving birth to the first of my three boys.

I have worked at several jobs over the years in between staying home with my children, including church secretary at my home church, assistant head teller at a local bank, teaching preschool, and substitute teaching. I began working at UWG|Online this past December, and it has been wonderful to be back in familiar surroundings and become reacquainted with faculty that I have not seen in years. I am amazed at the things that have changed, including the availability of online courses that were not an option for me.

I have always had a desire to teach and have been quite impressed with the UWG|Online courses that I have become familiar with over the past few weeks. I felt like a student myself while learning to navigate the D2L system. One of my favorite duties in the online department is compiling and editing the newsletter. It has given me an opportunity to meet and interview members of the online faculty, as well as many of the online students. They have shared their views and enthusiasm about online courses, and I have enjoyed hearing about their positive experiences. And editing the newsletter has given me an opportunity to put those hard-earned grammar skills to use.

Outside of work, I love spending time with my three sons more than anything else. I love to read the classics when I have quiet time, which does not occur often with a teenager and elementary age twins in the house. I also enjoy baking and decorating cakes.

I look forward to meeting and working with each and every one of you. If you would like to contact me, please send me an email at amylynnshugart@gmail.com or give me a call at the FDC. I will be happy to assist you in any way that I can.

Online Around Campus

- **E-Core**

    Congratulations go out to Dean Clay and the eCore staff for their innovation and dedication and for creating a system that showcases excellent online teaching, learning, and student support. Others out there are really taking notice of eCore. Take a look at the Education Sector article that highlights eCore at West Georgia.

    http://www.educationsector.org/sites/default/files/publications/ESS_ECore_1.pdf

    For more information about eCore, please visit: ecore.westga.edu

- **iApollo**

    The iApollo list serve has been reactivated for discussion, announcements, and D2L tips and tricks, a separate tab on our web page will be dedicated solely for iApollo activities, and we will be claiming the D2L Clubhouse for iApollo purposes. In January, we will begin the new iApollo Clubhouse Collaborate Sessions for UWG|Online faculty. The purpose of this 'lunch and learn' clubhouse is to share success stories, discuss the latest trends in online education, and offer tips and tricks for increasing student achievement in the online environment.

    Please join us for iApollo on the following dates and times:
    1/24/2013 and 2/14/2013 Time: 12:00-1:00p.m. Location: D2L Clubhouse/Collaborate
    https://sas.elluminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012076&password=M.E9C9107420C99671ED6C267801CEFC

Online Teaching Tools

- **Respondus 4.0:**
    Respondus 4.0 is a powerful tool for creating and managing exams that can be printed to paper or published directly to Blackboard, Desire2Learn, Moodle, and other learning systems. Exams can be created offline using a familiar Windows environment or moved from one LMS to another. You also have access to thousands of Respondus-compatible publisher test banks free if you have adopted a participating textbook. For more information on this valuable tool click here. Also, the FDC has laptops and netbooks with Respondus pre-installed for you to try. This is a free tool for all faculty to download and use. Once downloaded, contact the FDC at 9-5289 to obtain registration information.

- **TechSmith Camtasia:**
    A great video editing software program for beginners, Camtasia combines simple screen re-corder software and basic video editing functionality to give you the tools that you need to custom-ize and edit your own videos. You can record on-screen activity, add imported media, and share your videos in HD with your students. They can then watch these videos anytime, on nearly any device. Camtasia is a great option for the novice video editor to use for incorporating short 10-15 minute videos into your CourseDen courses. The Faculty Development Center has several laptops and flip cameras available for check out so that you can try out this great piece of software, and we have a very knowledgeable staff to help you get started with your video project.

Online News & Notes

Online Learning News: Drexel University is among the first to install vending machines in the library that dispense MacBooks instead of drinks and snacks. After the library began opening for 24 hours, security became a concern among administrators. The solution? Vending machines that lend out the 15-inch Mac-Books for a maximum of 5 hours, and all of the laptops must stay in the library. Once returned, the kiosk automatically recharges the computers for the next user. _The Chronicle of Higher Education, Wired Campus_

If you only _Try One Thing_ this month, try this: 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.

If you are _Adventurous_ check out: Poll Everywhere is a tool that allows student polling via text-messaging. The poll results can be watched live by the audience. This tool has been used to gain a better insight into students' understanding of key concepts and for evaluations, which can lead to informative classroom discussions and further explanations when needed.   Try it out at the following link: http://www.polleverywhere.com/

Professional Development

- **Registration for the Spring 2013 Cohort Certified Online Instructor Training ($1000 stipend available)**: The Spring 2013 Cohort is now accepting applications. This intensive semester-long training experience is designed to enhance skills at online design, development, and teaching. It will begin on February 11th and culminate on April 19th, with a final product of several modules for an online course. If you are interested in participating, please take the survey at this link to apply.

- **iApollo**: iApollo was started as a list serve/ lunch meeting/ award to allow the faculty in Distance Learning to come together in order to share ideas and best practices.   With both the introduction of the Cohort Model for advanced faculty training for UWG|Online faculty and an increased emphasis on social and collaborative learning, we are now ready to re-introduce the iApollo mission.   We are reactivating the iApollo list serve for discussion, announcements, and D2L tips and tricks, a separate tab on our web page will be dedicated solely for iApollo activities, and we will use the D2L Clubhouse for iApollo purposes. The purpose of this 'lunch and learn' clubhouse is to share success stories, discuss the latest trends in online education, and offer tips and tricks for increasing student achievement in the online environment. Currently, we are planning to meet on the second and fourth Thursday from 12 – 1pm from the comfort of your home or desk using Blackboard Collaborate.

   1/24/2013 and 2/14/2013 Time: 12:00-1:00p.m. Location: D2L Clubhouse/Collaborate
   https://sas.elluminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012076&password=M.E9C9107420C99671ED6C267801CEFC

UWG ONLINE: Happenings, etc.

January/February Training, Workshops, & Events

Introduction to D2L

1/23/2013 Time: 1:30-3:00p.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1926&Iid=18635&Frm=O
1/31/2013 Time: 9:00-10:30a.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1932&Iid=18641&Frm=O
2/5/2013 Time: 1:30-3:00p.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1934&Iid=18643&Frm=O

D2L Discussions

1/29/2013 Time: 9:00-10:30a.m. Location: TLC 1110
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1930&Iid=18639&Frm=O
2/12/2013 Time: 9:00-10:30a.m. Location: TLC 1110
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1940&Iid=18655&Frm=O

D2L: Dropbox and Rubrics

2/14/2013 Time: 1:30-3:00p.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1942&Iid=18657&Frm=O
3/4/2013 Time: 1:30-3:00p.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1950&Iid=18665&Frm=O

D2L: Gradebook

1/22/2013 Time: 1:30-3:00p.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1892&Iid=18609&Frm=O
1/30/2013 Time: 9:00-10:30a.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1894&Iid=18611&Frm=O
2/7/2013 Time: 1:30-3:00p.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1938&Iid=18647&Frm=O
3/14/2013 Time: 1:30-3:00p.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1956&Iid=18671&Frm=O

D2L: Quiz Builder, Question Library, StudyMate Class, Respondus Test Creator, and LockDown Browser

2/18/2013 Time: 9:00-10:30a.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1948&Iid=18663&Frm=O

UWG ONLINE: Happenings, etc.

Did You Know… Collaborate and Virtual Classrooms are here?

1/24/2013 Time: 1:30-3:00p.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1928&Iid=18637&Frm=O
2/20/2013 Time: 1:30-3:00p.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1944&Iid=18659&Frm=O

Did You Know… Who's Online?

2/6/2013 Time: 1:30-3:00p.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1936&Iid=18645&Frm=O
2/26/2013 Time: 1:30-3:00p.m. Location: FDC
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1946&Iid=18661&Frm=O

Did You Know… CourseDen (D2L) has an Intelligent Agent?

3/6/2013 Time: 9:00-10:30a.m. Location: FDC (Faculty Development Center)
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1952&Iid=18667&Frm=O

Did You Know… StudyMate Class and TurnItIn are here?

3/12/2013 Time: 9:00-10:30a.m. Location: TLC 1110
http://events.westga.edu/EventRegistration.aspx?Rid=1954&Iid=18669&Frm=O

Open Education and Copyright Workshop

2/13/2013 Time: 12:00-1:00p.m. Location: Online
http://www.usg.edu/facultyresources/faculty_development/workshops/category/
academic_year_2012-2013

Be sure to check out the UWG|Online Desire2Learn page for the latest information on D2L with step-by-step tutorials, information on how to get one-on-one assistance, and an up-to-the-minute training calendar!
 Click Here

Online Faculty Kudos

The UWG|Online Department would like to thank all of the faculty for your patience and effort during the transition to our new Learning Management System!

Thank you for helping us make the smoothest transition possible!

Online Faculty Spotlight

Kim Holder

Lecturer, Economics

Kim Holder is passionate about teaching, and she credits much of that passion to her mother, who was also a teacher. As a UWG Alumnus, Professor Holder is happy to be a part of the UWG faculty. She is currently teaching Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics, and Health Economics and is developing an Introduction to Business class for the fall semester. This is her first semester of teaching the Principles of Macroeconomics course online.

Professor Holder enjoys teaching online courses, and she took 9 eCore classes herself while attending UWG, including the General Chemistry sequence with online labs. She believes that any face-to-face course can be taught online. Her online course is 95% online, and she works diligently to find new and innovative ways to integrate social media into her online course, as well as in her face-to-face courses. Rock-o-nomix, the course-related Facebook page, has had a positive effect on her online students. Students are able to post information, coordinate study groups, and even post positive quotes for each other near exam time. A favorite project among students is the music video competition each semester, in which they post "Weird Al" type song parodies using rewritten lyrics that display their knowledge of economic principles. Professor Holder states that "it helps solidify information," and students appreciate the fact that she tries to engage them in their learning experience.

Professor Holder's personal experience as an online student began when she returned to college to complete her degree. She had young children and experienced the necessity of online course availability first-hand. "If I had not had access to online education, I would have had to put it off. I live an hour away, and school would not have been financially possible. Access to online education allowed me to return to school and showed me the importance of offering it to help people stay on the path to their degree. College is an access point for people… if you deny access, you deny them the opportunity to attain a certain lifestyle. When you open it up, they can get a degree when they otherwise would not have been able to."

Professor Holder researches new and inventive uses of several online tools and social media outlets in order to keep students engaged. Her unique activities are "just as beneficial for people who test well but need to come out of their shells as it is for the ones who need the points to improve their grade." She incorporates art projects, music, and interactive class polls using Pinterest, Twitter, Facebook, and Poll Everywhere. She is also experimenting with scheduling office hours through YouCanBookMe, a website that coordinates with Google calendar. "I take my cue from the fact that over 50% of my students come in with headphones… [Media is] the way they engage."

(Kim Holder graduated from UWG and the Honors College in 2008 with a B.S. in Economics and minors in Chemistry and Biology. She earned a M.A. in Economics from GSU in 2010. She and her husband of eighteen years have two boys, ages thirteen and nine.)

I Am West Georgia

Ashley Perkins

Online Doctoral Candidate in Education

UWG|Online Student

I decided to go back to school when I hit that place of being, for lack of a better word, bored. I had grown comfortable in my content, comfortable in my job, and knew I was ready to become *uncomfortable*. However, all of the milestones (undergraduate, master's, NBCT) on my educational pathway had been achieved pre-children, and I wasn't sure how I would manage school as a working mom.

I did my research. I searched for programs that would offer a hybrid approach to instruction. I knew that face-to-face relationship-building would be critical to me as a learner, while at the same time I knew I could not commit to seat time in a program where I was required to be present most weekends. (I spend most Saturdays on the sidelines of a soccer field or leading a Girl Scout Daisy troop.) I also did not want to ignore my areas of expertise by settling on a program unrelated to my professional interests. The search continued for months. And then it happened. I was reading an Ed Leadership issue and saw an ad for the UWG Ed.D. in school improvement. I read the program description closely. I emailed specific questions. I applied.

UWG|Online recognizes that the face of education needs to offer a non-traditional design in order to meet the needs of adult learners. I appreciate the autonomy of being able to self-regulate my time and work late at night or early in the morning (often times in my pajamas), determined by life and all that it throws my way. I also appreciate the accessibility of the UWG professors. Being a part of an online community takes real strategic design in making sure that relationships are cultivated, and this program creates an intimacy that has me excited to be a part of a collaborative online learning community.

The cohort that I am a part of uses Facebook as the social media outlet by which we communicate away from the classroom. We have a private group where anxieties, reflections, and celebrations are shared with fellow cohort members. We are an assorted group with members from Alabama, California, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Nova Scotia, and Washington. We are of diverse professions with media-specialists, educational consultants, classroom teachers, principals, and technology coordinators speckling our experiences. We vary in interests including running, sports, cats, nature, cooking, and music. And I love this group. Truly. I have spent just a couple of days with them face-to-face but many, many days with them via distance learning from and with them. I look forward to being reunited with them in May, which is just another illustration of how online learning does not have to equate to isolated learning. I credit the faculty for their intentional design in facilitating opportunities for us to interact and engage.

(Ashley Perkins is earning a Doctorate in School Improvement at UWG. She is currently an Educational Programs Specialist in Louisville, KY. She has been married to a fellow educator for nine years, and they have two beautiful daughters and a white boxer named Luna. Ashley and her family lead very active lives and enjoy hiking, traveling, board games, reading, running, baking, and project-based learning experiences. She ran her first ½ marathon last April and is currently training for her second. She is a member of two book clubs. She is the president of the PTSA at her daughter's school (a PreK-12 independent public school) and also her Daisy Troop Leader.)

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 Amy Waldrep:

amylynnshugart@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 is the motto of the Faculty Development Center for 2013?**

2. **What is the name of a great video editing software program for beginners?**

3. **Name two tools or sites that Kim Holder uses in her online courses.**

Please email amylynnshugart@gmail.com*, list your full name, contact information and your department. All questions must be answered correctly. Items awarded are for faculty.*

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