

 **September**  
**2011**

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**take a look**

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• **UWG ONLINE** *Thinking Outside the Box* •

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### *Associate Dean's Corner*

*with Dr. Jason Huett*

John Lennon sang "Life is what happens while you're busy making other plans." I had certainly planned to have this newsletter out sooner. In fact, I had planned a lot of things. Unfortunately, those plans were cut short on September 1 when, while attending a work-retreat to plan for the coming year, I was crossing a pedestrian bridge when it collapsed into a rocky ravine (Insert weight joke here; Go ahead, it's a freebie). I was left with a punctured lung, four broken ribs, two broken vertebrae, and an assortment of sprains, strains, and contusions. In fact, I am writing this now from my recovery bed.

As bad as this sounds, (and trust me, the pain has been something akin to a religious experience), I am still a glass-half-full kind of guy and cannot deny that I learned some valuable lessons. First, all bridges should be regularly load-tested for safety. Second, I have an amazing UWG family. As the first lesson is fairly self-explanatory, it is the second lesson I would like to focus on.

My wife and I are from Texas and all of our rather enormous and extended families still reside there. Though we have been here for five years, Georgia has never really felt like "home." However, literally from the moment I hit the bottom of that ravine, I have been surrounded by caring UWG folk.

Administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and retirees, have all rallied to the aid of myself, my wife, and our kids. We haven't had to cook a meal in two weeks, necessary medical equipment has been delivered, the yard has been mowed, needed furniture has been supplied, the kids have made new friends from babysitting adventures, visitors have been in and out to raise my spirits, and the house is full of cards, gifts, and flowers. Honestly, it chokes me up to think about how wonderful everyone has been and how lucky we are to have such an amazing support network. It is a lesson I will never forget. Thank you all so very much. Your kindness means more than you will ever know.

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**contact**

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Distance Learning  
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**678.839.6248**

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**678.839.5289**

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**678.839.6587**

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**678.839.5300**



### *Dean's Corner Continued*

Ok, on to business. In this newsletter, you are introduced to our newest casual-labor staff member, Dr. Debra Robinson. Debra was a lucky catch for us as she has years of experience in online teaching and learning. She is going to be one of our key people for helping faculty design, develop, and evaluate their online courses. We also have a spotlight section on Dr. Brad Prince, one of our campus online leaders. Moreover, make sure to take the time to read through all the training and workshop opportunities as there are some great ones!

I have gotten a few questions from faculty asking exactly who we are and what we do. So, I thought I would take a moment to clarify. Most of you are probably familiar with the Distance and Distributed Education Center (DDEC) here at UWG. The DDEC is well-known for its collaboration with administrators, staff, university colleges, schools, and departments and for its ability to support and facilitate quality distance instruction, technology-enhanced learning, faculty and student support, and other distance learning initiatives.

With the rapid, and some might say exponential, growth of online learning at UWG, it became obvious that the DDEC needed to formalize an office that would be responsible for faculty support in online teaching and learning endeavors. I was hired as an associate dean to manage this area of need. So, now, under Dr. Wagner, Dean of the Honors College and Extended Degree Programs, there are two associate deans: Dr. Melanie Clay and myself. Dr. Clay and her director, Janet Gubbins, and their staff, form the UWG Online Support Team and focus on just-in-time online support, marketing, student support and services, and many other critical administrative areas dealing with online teaching and learning on this campus.

I, along with my director, David Lloyd, and our staff, form the UWG Online Development Team and focus on local online program and course development as well as supporting faculty and administrators interested in online teaching and learning. What that means for you is that online *student support issues* are handled by Dr. Clay's UWG Online Support Team. If you are a faculty member or administrator looking for help with online teaching and learning, my team is here to help. Together, we form *UWG Online*, one of the best distance education support teams in the country!

Best wishes for a great month, and here's hoping I see you around the campus soon.

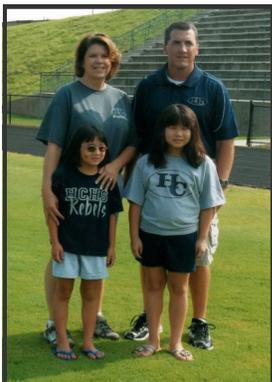
Cheers,

Jason Huett

*Associate Dean of Online Development and USG eCore*



## *Meet the Staff*



**Debra Robinson, PhD**  
*Online Instructional Designer*

I am a native of Georgia and currently living at the foot of the Appalachian Mountains in Bremen. I received my BS in Recreation and Leisure Studies from Georgia Southern University in 1985; my M.Ed in Physical Education and Health with a concentration in Adapted and Elementary Physical Education from the University of Georgia in 1996; and in 2009, I completed my PhD in Leadership and Educational Administration from Capella University.

I have over 17 years' experience in K-12 in both classroom and administrative roles and am currently teaching graduate level courses in Integration of Technology in Teaching, Use of Data Systems for School Improvement, and Classroom Management.

I am a new member of the UWG Online Faculty Development Center team, working with faculty and staff to develop and increase the effectiveness of our online courses.

I am passionate about online learning and increasing the success of instructional practices using technology in both face-to-face and virtual settings.

My favorite web 2.0 tool is [LiveBinders](#). I use it to scaffold and differentiate both my face-to-face and virtual classes. The cloud format allows 24/7 access from any Internet connected device. There are various privacy and sharing settings which allow me to meet the standards of [fair use](#). In addition, the presentation mode works perfectly for my face-to-face encounters, giving me the ability to instantly access additional information as needed based on student feedback.

I am married to a fellow educator, and we are the parents to two amazing girls adopted from China. I am an avid reader and enjoy a wide variety of genres.

Please feel free to contact me via email at:

[uwg.debra.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:uwg.debra.robinson@gmail.com)



## *Online Around Campus*

### ***Psychology Department***

Currently, most faculty within the Psychology Department use *CourseDen* to support course curriculum, and five members of the department will offer at least one course online over the next year. While at this point Psychology has no plans to offer a complete degree online, we will offer some upper level courses. Current plans include courses in Developmental Psychology, Social Psychology, Neuroscience, and Mind/Body Psychology.

The Psychology Department is hosting a new *Interdisciplinary Certificate in Integrative Health Studies*. The plans are to move this innovative certificate program completely online over the next year. The College of Social Sciences and the Psychology Department are also sponsoring a conference on “The State of Integrative Health in Georgia” on May 26th, 2012. This signature event will, among other things, serve as the formal debut of the Integrative Health Studies Certificate program.

-Donadrian Rice, PhD  
*Professor of Psychology, Chair*

[Department Website](#)

## *Online Teaching Tools*

### **Google Knol for Education**

#### **Google Knol (Check it out!)**

Anyone with a [Google Account](#) can create a Knol and share it with the world. The idea is that independent experts construct content for a specific topic, creating an abundance of material that can be utilized as resources, keeping in-line with the fast-paced nature of ideas and innovation seen within education and instruction today. Featured Knols are based on authors’ credentials and the authority of the article. To get started on creating a Knol, go [here](#).

### **Skype**

#### **Skype (You should be using this tool!)**

Use this application to make free peer-to-peer voice and video calls over the Internet. In order to use this free and versatile software, all potential participants must [create a Skype account](#). Skype is easy to use and can facilitate many aspects of your online course, such as with office hours or group work. Try additional features such as instant messaging and file transfers.

### **Dropbox**

#### **Dropbox (Manage your files more effectively!)**

*Dropbox*, in its free version, provides you with 2GB of cloud storage, allowing you to upload photos, documents, and videos anywhere and share them easily. This Web-based file hosting service uses [cloud computing](#) to enable users to store and share files and folders with others across the Internet.



### *Online News & Notes*

**Online Learning Factoid of the Month:** Our audience is changing! In the current P-12 system, three quarters of public schools are already offering online or blended courses with 66% of school districts reporting they expect to significantly increase their online enrollments in coming years. Some projections expect more than one-half of all high school courses to be delivered online by 2020.

**If you only Try One Thing this month, try this:**

Create a Google account. Try Google's version of email, documents, instant messaging and many other applications: get started [here](#). Google allows you to prepare and share easy-to-access information, as well as promotes collaboration among students in an online environment. With Google, creativity can be employed within assignments and tasks allowing for complex yet easy-to-use applications like as [Google Sites](#).

**If you are Adventurous check out:**

Free to educators and students, [iCyte](#) lets you save and annotate entire webpages. Think bookmarks, but better. This web management research tool allows you to highlight the useful text directly on the saved webpage, tag, search, comment, and securely share your saved content with others. Check out a [video tutorial](#) and join [here](#).

**Attention! News for faculty, chairs, and program coordinators:**

Please remember that all international students *may take only one online course per semester*, as required by law. This is of course, if they are physically present on campus. They can complete a degree online if they are out of the country.

### *Professional Development*

**Reaching Students With Special Needs Through E-Learning**

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 2:00p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

Students with special learning needs often benefit from different and more personalized ways of mastering classroom material. More virtual education opportunities are now available to help meet the academic needs of children with cognitive or physical disabilities. Educators are trying to balance the potential of virtual learning with the need for face-to-face instruction for these groups of students. They are finding that assistive technologies, social-networking tools, and multimedia curricula are helping to build e-learning programs for students from special populations that can help improve academic achievement. [Register here](#).

**Embedded Media: A SoftChalk Short Course**

*Monday, September 26, 4:00-5:00 p.m.*

In this one-hour Short Course, you will learn how to embed media into a lesson, into a text popper, into a quiz and in a sidebar. The media used will be both local and web based media. You will also be introduced to the "Widget Tool" in SoftChalk. [Register here](#).

**Online Teaching, Streaming Multimedia, Copyright—and all that Jazz**

*Wednesday, October 19 3:00-4:00*

Imagine teaching music fully asynchronously. How do you resolve the copyright issues with so much of this material? What kind of software can be integrated with SoftChalk to make an even richer experience for the students? Where do all the media reside and how are they integrated? These are a few of the questions our presenter will discuss as he describes how he uses SoftChalk to create engaging and effective learning experiences. [Register here](#).



*UWG ONLINE: Happenings, etc.*

**Training, Workshops, & Events:**

***Did You Know...Shift Happens!***

Explore ways to increase your instructional effectiveness using CourseDen and other Web 2.0 Tools

9/30/11 @ 10-12 pm

For more information & to sign up:  
Contact Debra Robinson  
@ uwg.debra.robinson@gmail.com

***CYA's (Cover Your Assessments)***

Explore the purpose and function of Assessments and Assignments in CourseDen. Are you ready to "Go Digital"?

10/5/11 @ 10-12 pm

For more information & to sign up:  
Contact Debra Robinson  
@ uwg.debra.robinson@gmail.com

***Audio Lite***

Increase the effectiveness of your online class components using Wimba voice tools, iSpring, and Impatica.

10/6/11 @ 10-12 pm

For more information & to sign up:  
Contact Matias Marabotto  
@ matiasmarabotto@gmail.com

***1st Respondus***

Go deeper with assessments using CourseDen tools and Respondus.

10/7/11 @ 10-12 pm

For more information & to sign up:  
Contact Matias Marabotto  
@ matiasmarabotto@gmail.com

For an extensive day-by-day account of upcoming available **Training Sessions & Workshops** offered by UWG Online [click here](#) and select *UWG Online* from the category list.

*Online Faculty Kudos*

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

**Carol Wilson, Ph.D., Professor of Nursing**

An avid user of [Wimba Live Classroom](#), Dr. Wilson gives her online courses a collaborative and stimulating edge, facilitating a sense of community, as well as curriculum with real-life connections.

**Chris Gellar, Ph.D., Instructor of Economics**

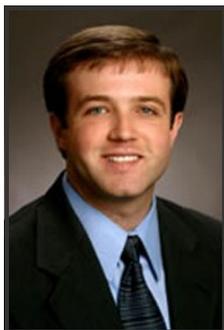
Dr. Gellar is practicing advanced online instructional design through the incorporation of recorded face-to-face lectures with preparatory recordings using [Relay](#). Dr. Gellar's process includes splicing video and audio components together with his home recordings to create developed online lecture presentations.

**Susan Boes, Ph.D., Professor of Counselor Education**

Dr. Boes has recently ventured into a multitude of assistive instructional applications, such as [Wimba Live Classroom](#) and [iSpring](#). Dr. Boes is utilizing [Google Docs](#) to promote ease of planning and access to office hours, either online via [Blackboard Instant Messaging](#) (was Pronto), or in a face-to-face format.



### *Online Faculty Spotlight*



**Brad Prince, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Professor, MIS*

I am an associate professor of Management Information Systems in the Department of Management in the College of Business. I've been here at UWG since August of 2003 and have been involved in online classes the entire time. I live in Wedowee, AL with my wife, 3 kids and 2 dogs. For the past 5 years, I have been involved with the Georgia WebMBA Program and now serve as the Course Lead for the MIS Course. My goal for teaching online is the same as my goal when I teach in the classroom. I believe that if my students haven't learned then I haven't taught. Therefore, my goal is for the students to walk away from the course, having enjoyed a challenging experience that will enrich their career as they move into the future.

There are very many options for structuring an online course, and I believe some of those could be streamlined. Not to take away the ability to go outside the "norm," but rather to create an environment where students know what to expect. Many things are simply "given" in traditional courses that are not so set in stone for online courses. A few years ago I came up with the idea (at least I think I did...it may have been someone else so maybe I shouldn't take credit) of creating a "syllabus quiz." When I use this it requires my students to read the syllabus and select a series of correct answers dealing with it before the rest of the course is available (using the selective release). This way I have them basically admit that they read course policies and are aware of everything, and I have proof!

I use CourseDen extensively as well as [Camtasia](#). I also use an iPad App called [Screen Chomp](#). It is a free app from TechSmith (same company that built Camtasia) that allows you to make short videos directly on the iPad that you can allow students to view in CourseDen. I have also used [FuzeMeeting](#) for the occasion when I teach multiple sections of the same course. This allows me to hold one "town-hall" type meeting and invite all students from all sections to attend virtually. My favorite technology is the iPad. I have found it specifically useful when I am grading work submitted in the dropbox. Its browser functionality makes viewing documents a breeze without having to download and open and switch between programs.

I want to thank everyone on campus involved with Distance Education for their support. Recently, I was interviewing candidates at a conference for a position opening in our Department (we had people retire and others take new positions...don't anyone get upset because we are hiring). As I spoke with candidates from other colleges, I realized how nice we have it here. The collegiality I have experienced with other faculty engaged in distance learning and with the departments that support our work far exceeds the support many others have access to. So, thanks for all that you do!



### *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](mailto: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 application allows you to make free peer-to-peer voice and video calls over the Internet?**
- 2. How many online courses may an international student enroll in each semester?**
- 3. What is the name of the certificate program the Psychology Department plans to make available completely online in the next year?**
- 4. Name Dr. Gellar's software of choice in creating online lecture presentations?**

*Please email [rheazerr@gmail.com](mailto:rheazerr@gmail.com), list your full name, contact information and your department. All questions must be answered correctly and previous winners are **ineligible** (we are trying to spread the love around.) Items awarded are for faculty use and will be transferred to department inventory. Thank you!*

