



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

After a period of budget freezes, the CFC is now fully staffed and able to better serve faculty at WCU. With the

loss of a position last year, we reorganized and combined our associate director with a vacant instructional developer position. Dr. Laura Cruz, associate professor of history at WCU, was hired after a national search. Laura brings to the position an outstanding reputation as a teacher and former winner of the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. Also, as editor of *Mountainrise* and a SoTL scholar, she brings much to the Boyer and QEP campus conversations. In addition to working with faculty on course design and teaching improvement, Laura acts in the absence of the director.

On the IT side, we welcome our new Learning Management System Team Leader, Susan Knight. Susan comes to us from Horry Georgetown Technical College in South Carolina where she taught instructional technology and was president of the Faculty Senate. She also brings a strong business leadership background to help us with vendor relations and management as we migrate to Blackboard 9 for our new Learning Management System.

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Bill Papin's students measure heart rates, mood, calories burned, and impact on stress on a hike to Schoolhouse Falls in Panthertown. These activities are a result of Bill's work with the CFC to align his course to the QEP.

Instructional Development Support for the QEP

By Robert Crow, Instructional Developer

As a part of its strategic direction, the Coulter Faculty Center has incorporated an explicit directive to do its part to support the successful implementation and fulfillment of WCU's Quality Enhancement Plan. So what does this mean for faculty? It means that the CFC stands ready to support the needs of faculty in the design and development of student activities that embody the tenets of the QEP. Starting with the five QEP student learning outcomes, CFC instructional developers are available to collaborate with teaching faculty and graduate teaching assistants to match the learning outcomes with effective instructional strategies. In fact, some activities that faculty are already engaged in with their students align nicely to QEP learning outcomes.

One faculty member who recently completed development work of this type with Faculty Center instructional developers is Bill Papin from the department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation. "Oftentimes, as faculty, we might set limits on ourselves unnecessarily by underestimating what is actually possible," reflects Papin. The first step in aligning learning opportunities and events with the QEP is forethought in what you wish to achieve instructionally. The next step is to locate people on campus that can help you meet that need. Papin considers working with the Faculty Center staff as an opportunity and notices that the staff often become every bit as excited to develop a new teaching technique or craft an innovative learning activity as the faculty member.

At first Papin found the QEP daunting. His initial impression was "Implement the QEP? I don't know how to do it!" He remembers feeling that implementing the QEP on an individual basis was a sort of lone undertaking, but soon realized that there are people here on campus to assist you through the uncertainty. "We as instructors sometimes forget that we are connected," he said. Papin used the metaphor of the human body to describe the working relationship academic units have with the CFC – with each academic unit representing the extremities connected to the body. Papin also realized that he doesn't have to invent all the tools. "Resources available at the CFC have made my life easier, and I didn't have to reinvent the wheel," he said. Papin's suggestion to fellow faculty: "Let the CFC make your life easier, too."

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What's New with WebCat

by Donna Koger

Blogs and Journals are two new discussion formats now available within WebCat. Blogs have become quite popular among those who have joined the social networking revolution and feel the need to publish their every thought for the whole world to read. Meryl Streep just won a Golden Globe for her role in *Julia & Julie*, a film about a young blogger's determination to cook her way through Julia Child's cookbook. Faculty can now capitalize on this increasing awareness of collaborative discussion by incorporating blogs into course development.

Assignment strategies may include: reflection on exploratory research, peer-to-peer discussions, guided discovery, student collaboration for projects, and connecting students to guest lecturers or industry experts.

Blogs are designed for collaborative discussion while journals are designed for private writing between students and faculty. Both can be assessed with WebCat just like the more traditional form of discussion boards. Visit WebCat here to watch an instructional video on using these tools. Both of these tools will migrate easily into Blackboard 9.

TASK FORCE CHOOSES BLACKBOARD

By Susan Knight, Learning Management System Team Manager

In the last newsletter, you read about the charge given to the Task Force on Learning Management Systems. On December 16, 2009, the Task Force met with Provost, Kyle Carter and CIO, Craig Fowler, and presented their recommendation of upgrading WebCat to Blackboard 9.1, which was accepted. Planning is already underway for the migration and we are awaiting the release of version



9.1, as version 9.0 is the current release. We are committed to partnering with all the stakeholders that will be affected by the migration and are establishing an LMS Faculty Advisory Committee. Early faculty involvement is critical for the success of the project and this committee will work closely with the Coulter Faculty Center throughout the entire migration process. We have briefed the deans and the Faculty Senate on our roll-out plans and have invited the Faculty Senate to have a representative on the advisory group.

We expect the release of Blackboard to occur in early March. If Blackboard delivers on time, our tentative schedule is as follows:

- March 1: Release of Blackboard 9.1
- April 1: Testing, Preparation of Training Documentation
- Summer Semester: Pilot group will use Blackboard 9.1 for "live" classes
- Summer: Training of Lead Faculty
- Fall Semester: Training for remaining faculty
- Spring Semester: All courses offered through Blackboard

We are excited about the new tools and capabilities of Blackboard and look forward to staying in touch with you as we make progress and bring new users on board.

A NEW PLAGIARISM DETECTION TOOL

SAFEASSIGN

By Jason Ottie, LMS Team

The Coulter Faculty Center is pleased to announce the release of SafeAssign, a new plagiarism prevention software tool within WebCat, designed to assist in the teaching of plagiarism and properly referencing content in student research. The goal of using such a tool is to build integrity among students by designing your course so plagiarism isn't an issue. If students are taught the proper methods of research and assignments are designed in a way to foster motivation and interest, students will be less likely to plagiarize content.

SafeAssign does not replace faculty discretion and grading of assignments nor does it prove a student has plagiarized. SafeAssign allows for students to submit drafts of their work, which will provide the student and instructor with a report of possible copied content. This report can assist the student in learning what content should be referenced. The SafeAssign report will display possible sources for material, but it does not guarantee where the student borrowed content from nor does it take into account "common knowledge" that may be referenced (i.e. "the sky is blue..."). To use SafeAssign in your course, an approved disclaimer statement must be included in your syllabus (this can be found at: https://online2.wcu.edu/?page_id=624). SafeAssign is currently being tested with a pilot group and is scheduled to be available to all faculty for the Summer 2010 semester. Anyone who would like to learn more about SafeAssign is encouraged to sign up for one of the SafeAssign Office Hours listed on the Training Register <http://trainingreg/trainingregister7>. Please contact Jason Ottie (ext 2927) if you have any specific questions regarding SafeAssign.

Digital Media on the Move

by Neil Torda

WCU ON ITUNES U

Our podcasting server, WCU on iTunes U continues to expand and grow in downloads. The first month of the fall semester there were 50,000 downloads. The first month of the Spring semester topped 75,000 downloads of podcasts.

If you aren't familiar with iTunes U, it is a collection of free educational media from universities around the world. Take some time and browse the amazing amount of content professors from all over have made available to anyone, for free. You can get to our iTunes U site by going to <http://itunes.wcu.edu> and following the login prompts. Because the WCU on iTunes U presence is tied to Banner for authentication, you can set the permissions for your course any number of ways. It can be locked down so that only members of your course section have access, or open to just WCU students, or open to the entire world.

If you would like to find out more about WCU on iTunes U you can attend one of our workshops or contact Neil Torda for more information.

WIKI AND BLOG SERVICES

The number of faculty, staff and students who are using our collaboration services continues to grow; we currently have more than 300 wikis and nearly 360 active bloggers. Blogging and Wiki services are now self service. If you are interested in creating a blog for yourself or your students, just go to <https://media.wcu.edu/users> and click the "Create Your Weblog" button to get started. Faculty and students who want to create wiki's can visit <https://media.wcu.edu/groups/> and log in to access the Create a new Wiki button.

ROLLING OUT PODCAST PRODUCER

With our new Podcast Producer service, you can begin to automatically upload content to your own user blog on the media server. You can also use the system for more advanced media publication, but you will need to work with the Coulter Faculty Center to prepare a customized workflow that meets your specific needs. You can have separate workflows for each class you teach.

With the online web interface to Podcast Producer you can upload .mp4 video or .mp3 audio files, choose your workflow, and the server takes care of everything else. You can also take any PDF or Word Document and upload using the Montage workflow to create a slideshow movie of your document.

If you are a Macintosh user, it gets even better. Using the Podcast Capture utility that is built into Mac OS 10.5 and 10.6, you can do a live capture straight from your Macintosh. With 10.5 machines you can record audio, video from your built in camera or your screen with audio and the Podcast Producer server takes care of encoding and posting the content as soon as you are done. Users of 10.6 will be able to create a multi-input video, which will allow for Picture in Picture lectures with your face and slides automatically edited for you.

By using Podcast Producer in your classroom, you will be able to record audio or video of your lectures that is automatically posted to your wiki, blog or iTunes U course shell. For more information about this system visit the Coulter Faculty Center or sign up for one of our workshops.

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Dr. Laura Cruz has joined the CFC as Associate Director/ Instructional Developer.



Susan Knight has joined the CFC as the Learning Management System Team Manager.

Coulter Faculty Center Rolls Out Wimba MEETING for All Faculty and Staff

By John Hawes, Learning Management System Team

You've been collaborating with colleagues for months via email, but to bring the project to closure, you really need some quality "face time" with all concerned. You don't have any money in your travel budget, so why not use the Coulter Faculty Center's "virtual ticket"? With Wimba MEETING you have a room in cyberspace where you can see, hear, and talk with anyone in the world that has a computer with an internet connection, a webcam, and a microphone. Just like the WebCat Wimba Classroom tool, Wimba MEETING has the capability to share Adobe PDF documents, PowerPoint presentations, web pages, images, and even applications from your desktop. Everyone with WCU credentials will have their own room and inviting someone to a meeting is as simple as sending an email. Perhaps best of all, Wimba MEETING functions outside the WebCat LMS, so all members of WCU's administration and staff can take advantage of this "virtual travel" during these austere budget times.



Wimba MEETING is another one of the many ways that WCU keeps reshaping the boundary between technology, academics, and administration to maximize efficiency and the learning experience. If you want to learn more about Wimba

MEETING you can sign up for one of the Coulter Faculty Center's workshops, the office hours of one of our knowledgeable staff, or just give us a call. We're anxious to help you get the most of this intuitive tool to plan events locally or collaborate globally.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK CONTINUED

Dr. Barbara Jo White, assistant professor in the College of Business has stepped into Dr. Cruz's previous role as Senior Fellow for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Dr. White was last year's winner of the university SoTL Award and is working with faculty on SoTL projects and publication.

Sue Grider assumes an additional role as our data manager. For our data collection, we use Cherwell, a tracking/ticketing system that allows us to keep track of incidents and services to faculty. We use this data in several ways. One is to generate the annual letters for faculty for their AFE files that detail their participation in the CFC as evidence of their professional development in teaching. Another purpose of the data is to provide us with key metrics to focus on areas of need or attention. We review this data at weekly staff meetings and keep our Advisory Board apprised of our work.

The entire staff is excited about May's Summer Institute for Teaching and Learning May 11.13. Details are found in this issue. Many faculty see this event as a time of professional reflection and growth and a welcome chance to dialogue with colleagues from across campus. This year's theme, "Teaching the Tough Stuff" promises to engage faculty in meaningful reflection and collaboration on important classroom conversation and topics.

Visit us 8:00-5:00 year round expect for university holidays.

Anna T. McFadden
Director and professor

Please join the Coulter Faculty Center staff as we honor the retirement of



Dr. John LeBaron,
Jay M. Robinson Distinguished Professor of Educational Technologies

At a drop-in reception
Tuesday, April 27, 3:00- 5:00
UC Multipurpose Room

A CELEBRATION OF FACULTY

TUESDAY, APRIL 20



**JOIN THE COULTER FACULTY CENTER FOR A DROP-IN
WITH LIVE MUSIC AND GREAT FOOD AS WE HONOR
AND SAY THANK YOU TO FACULTY FOR THEIR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO WCU THIS YEAR**

DROP BY BETWEEN 5:00 AND 7:00

ILLUSIONS

THE UNIVERSITY CENTER

PLEASE RSVP AT THIS LINK

<http://www.wcu.edu/12817.asp>

Summer Institute for Teaching and Learning

by Laura Cruz, Associate Director

The Coulter Faculty Center is pleased to host our annual Summer Institute on Teaching and Learning, May 11-13, 2010. This year our theme is 'teaching the tough stuff'. We will be exploring different ways to teach material that is sensitive, controversial, ambiguous, personal, touchy, moral, and/or provocative. As our vision as a University asks us to extend teaching and learning to include experiences outside of the classroom and of traditional disciplinary boundaries, we are all thinking deeply about how to provide instruction that encourages our students to be reflective moral agents, to uphold ethical standards, to deal with sensitive situations, to show strong character, and to engage with the complicated issues that we face in the world today. This three day intensive workshop will help faculty to think about extending the horizons of their students and their learning experiences. Registration began the week of February 8th.

Annual Summer Institute on Teaching and Learning

“Teaching the Tough Stuff”

May 11-13 2010

Focus team topics will include such issues as:

- Teaching ethics
- Dealing with controversial subject matter
- Promoting character and personal development
- Creating supportive learning environments
- Using technology to mediate these conversations, and more.

The focus team facilitators for 2010 include Daryl Hale, Fred Buskey, Laura Wright, Leah Hampton, Tracie Rice, Barbara Jo White, and Lisa Bloom.



Craig Nelson, SoTL Scholar, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University

SOTL SCHOLAR TO WORK WITH FACULTY

The CFC is pleased to bring to Campus SoTL Scholar Craig Nelson, March 19. Dr. Nelson will work with STEM faculty, SoTL interest groups and present and future SoTL practitioners. Dr. Nelson will be giving a workshop entitled “Major SOTL Research: Implications for Designing Further Research and Teaching”. The event is open to all WCU faculty staff and will be held in Hunter 240 on Friday March 19th from 8:30-10:00. Please either RSVP to Laura Cruz (lcruz@email.wcu.edu) or register at <http://www.wcu.edu/7482>. asp. Dr. Nelson is a national leader in the

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. He served as a Carnegie Scholar, 2000-2001 and was named Outstanding Research And Doctoral University Professor Of The Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching / Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. He received the President’s Medal for Excellence at Indiana University and was the First President of International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Click for a link to Dr. Nelson’s vita: <http://mypage.iu.edu/~nelson1/> Contact Laura Cruz for more information.



Supporting Communities of Scholarship

The Coulter Faculty Center is supporting and promoting Communities of Scholarship on WCU's campus. "One of our themes for the year centers around the idea of productive SoTL," says Barbara Jo White, the CFC SoTL Faculty Fellow, "and it's the notion that we can simultaneously improve our teaching, our research productivity, and our students' learning with teaching and learning scholarship." To that end, the CFC is focusing on naturally-occurring communities, that can form in the same college or center around the same issue. An example of an issue-based community of scholarship is the QEP group already working on pilot projects. Pulling together their work in a journal publication helps them with their committee

report work as well as their research productivity. White is currently working with several faculty in the College of Business to form a Community of Scholarship. "Besides similar research interests, we're finding it's often easier to meet," says White, "especially informally, when we can pop into another faculty-member's office for advice or a quick question." College of Business dean Ron Johnson supports the community of scholarship that is forming. He feels that for any institution of education and higher learning, it's critical that all constituencies understand and are aligned with the mission--it's necessary, but not sufficient, says Johnson, "The effectiveness of the organization is measured by the

results that come from cross-disciplinary and cross-functional dialog. This is what a community of scholarship is all about--these communities add to the resilience of the university and strengthen the impact of the university's efforts."

Other communities of scholarship have organically grown from awards committees or in other colleges, such as the College of Arts and Sciences, to support each other's research objectives and productivity. If you are involved in or would like to start a community of scholarship, please contact Barbara Jo White, the Coulter Faculty Center's SoTL Faculty Fellow at 227.7193 or whiteb@email.wcu.edu.

CFC Consultation Room Gets an Upgrade

By Jason Melvin, Faculty Sandbox Manager

Thanks to a generous gift from Dr. John LeBaron and the J.M. Robinson Endowment Fund, the Coulter Faculty Center is pleased to offer a quiet, more private space for faculty to record audio and video podcasts. Located just inside Hunter 172, the Coulter Faculty Center's Consultation Room is a small meeting/recording space equipped with a Mac Mini and a 23" LCD display. Apple's iWork '09 and Microsoft Office 2008 are available along with Telestream's Screenflow software. Screenflow has been gaining popularity recently with WCU faculty, as it allows the user to create great looking screencasts quickly and easily. Not only can you record the desktop and mouse movements as they happen, an external camera and microphone can be attached allowing the user to record high-quality video and audio of themselves. Many faculty have been using Screenflow in the more private setting to record narrated Powerpoint lectures. Screenflow provides powerful editing tools to give your podcast a very professional look. Microphones and other accessories are available for use with reservation of the Consultation Room.

Go to http://sandbox.wcu.edu/?page_id=2385 to reserve a time.



THE COULTER FACULTY CENTER STAFF

