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.

CONTINUED PAGE 4

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.”

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.
**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 *Julie & Julia*, 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 FORCECHOSES BLACKBOARD**

*By Susan Knight, Learning Management System Team Manager*

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

- **Fall Semester**: Training for remaining faculty
- **Summer**: Training of Lead Faculty
- **April 1**: Testing, Preparation of Training Documentation
- **March 1**: Release of Blackboard 9.1

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://orlin2.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 toppped 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, you can use any PDF or Word Document and upload 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.

**ROLLING OUT PODCAST PRODUCER**

*By Susan Knight, Learning Management System Team Manager.*

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.

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**PAGE 2 | Connections**

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**SPRING 2010 | PAGE 3**
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- Fall Semester: Training for remaining faculty.
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Digital media on the move
by neil torda

task force chooses blackboard
by susan knight, learning management system team manager

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WHAT'S NEW WITH WEBCAT
by donna roger

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Welcome new staff

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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 except for university holidays.

Anna T. McFadden
Director and professor

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

Dr. John LeBaron
Jay M. Robinson Distinguished Professor of Educational Technologies
At a drop-in reception
Tuesday, April 27, 5:00-7:00
UC Multipurpose Room

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

Dr. John LeBaron
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Anna T. McFadden
Director and professor
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 entitled “Major SOTL Research: Implications for Designing Further Research” will work with STEM faculty, 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 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. The CFC is pleased to bring to Campus an 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.

SOTL SCHOLAR TO WORK WITH FACULTY

Craig Nelson, SoTL Scholar, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University

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 whltdb@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 withreservation of the Consultation Room. Go to http://sandbox.wcu.edu/page_id=2385 to reserve a time.
Began the week of February 8th.

Registration extending the horizons of their students workshop will help faculty to think about complicated issues that we face in the world today. This three day intensive encourages our students to be reflective about how to provide instruction that classroom and of traditional disciplinary learning to include experiences outside of a University asks us to extend teaching and 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 moral implications for designing further research.

The CFC is pleased to bring to Campus President's Medal for Excellence at Indiana University and was the First President of International Society for 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/

Supporting Communities of Scholarship

The CFC is pleased to bring to Campus SoTL Scholar Craig Nelson. The event is open to all WCU faculty and 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/

Craig Nelson, SoTL Scholar, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University

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.

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 Couter 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