



Online Comes Alive – Multi-media Adds Fun to Online Classes

As the number and popularity of online classes continues to increase, the Online Services team is adding even more interactive components to online classes at San Juan College.

Utilizing multi-media components such as 3-D animation, flash, video, Unity (a physics engine), positional audio instruction and music, students taking online classes will find they have an opportunity to learn at their own pace, while being engaged in the learning process. The multi-media components are the work of Curt Rogers, web technician/ animator, while the online services instructional designers develop the course content.

In a recent example, Sam Bachert, an instructional design specialist, teamed up with Rogers to build the Commercial Driving License (CDL) permit preparation online class. Currently being beta tested prior to going live, the online class literally “comes alive” for students – providing them with virtual-reality training sessions.

“Knowing how to do to a truck inspection is only one of the components of the eight-week CDL online class,” Rogers explains. “We’ve incorporated a three-dimensional view of a semi-truck. As the students take the virtual walk around the truck, an instructor’s voice explains each inspection component and what the student should look for.”

“Following the inspection, students then take a quiz to test their knowledge,” Bachert continues. “As they take the test, they know automatically whether or not they answered correctly.”

However, the learning process doesn’t stop there. A display comes up on the screen to tell students where the information is discussed in the New Mexico Department of Motor Vehicle CDL manual. “This

helps students to retain the information by reviewing several ways,” Bachert adds. “This also provides an opportunity for them to review any concepts that they may be having difficulty with as often as they feel necessary.”

Adding more interest to the online classes is the focus for Bachert and Rogers. “When we’re handed an idea from an instructor, we work with them to energize the online presentation and get all of their senses involved, Rogers says. “The online classes aren’t just documents you read on the computer – they’re interactive and a lot of fun to take.”

Bachert and Rogers say, they, along with their fellow online team members David Penrose and Marty Hill, will customize the specific curriculum and multi-media use for each individual online class. The online classes are also user friendly and can be programmed so instructors can update the information by uploading video or copy changes without having to take the entire class down. Once the new online class is completed, the Online Services team will provide a continuum of assistance.

Instructors interested in developing a new online class should check with the dean of their respective school to obtain a request form. For further information, contact David Penrose, manager of Online Services, at ext. 3350.



Sam Bachert (left) and Curt Rogers (right) are helping to build more interaction into online programs.

Who Ya Gonna Call?

How about a Technology Boot Camp Cadet? This summer, a pilot Technology Boot Camp marched to the beat July 23-27. Members of the Support Staff Development (SSDC) committee served as test pilots before the first open Boot Camp occurs the week of November 12. Over the five-day Boot Camp, the curriculum was tailored so that participants would be qualified to take the Microsoft Office Specialist Exams for Word and Excel 2003. Their training commitment celebrated a 136 percent improvement in their MS Word knowledge!

During the week, the cadets wrote their “Ah-hahs” (quick tips) that will be shared in Tech Update throughout the academic year (see right). For more information about the boot camps, call Jennifer Martinez-Maestes, SSDC committee chair, at 326-3503.

Ah-hah! So, that’s how you do it!

Angelique Martinez, Technology Boot Camp cadet, shares a tip:

Shortcut keys help provide an easier and quicker way of navigation and using computer software programs. Shortcut keys are commonly accessed by using the Alt, Ctrl, and/or Shift in conjunction with a single letter.

A shortcut I find useful in my daily Microsoft work for repeating the last action performed is to hit Ctrl Y or F4. For example, this would be helpful if you wanted to indent multiple blocks of copy in segmented areas of a document. Here’s how: Highlight the first block of copy and adjust your tabs to the desired indent. Then highlight the next block of copy, and hit Ctrl Y or F4. Give it a try – it’s a very handy trick!

Technology Leaders

Welcome back – I hope the semester is going well for everyone. OTS has been busy this summer planning and implementing projects that are designed to increase the efficiency of technology and services on campus. Over the summer, the OTS Data Center was redesigned and outfitted with new server racks, uninterruptible power supplies, and new computer room air conditioners. The increased rack space and cooling will facilitate server expansion for the future.

OTS also installed Pharos, a print management system that manages the printing in open labs on campus. The system is being piloted this semester to gauge the effectiveness in reducing paper and toner waste. In recent years, large numbers of “unwanted” pages were printed in the computer labs and thrown away, and many computer lab print jobs were simply left unclaimed. Print management software has shown to reduce “unwanted” print jobs and helps reduce waste and save resources. For more information on Pharos, please see our website at www.sanjuacollege.edu/pharos.

As a customer service organization, OTS is dedicated to providing excellent customer service to everyone within the San Juan College community. Thank you for your support, and please let us know how we can improve our services to you.

Tim Warren



Vice President for Technology Services



Back to the Future

SJC Donates Computers for Robotics Class

For students in Mike Gordon’s Robotics class at Piedra Vista High School, the 16 computers that San Juan College donates means they can continue to compete with other math and science wiz’s across New Mexico and the country.

The College’s Instrumentation and Controls program, coordinated by Rick DeLaBarcena, receives state-of-the-art computer workstations every three years from Intel, and then passes down the outgoing computers, which would otherwise be discarded.

Through Intel’s “Leap Ahead Education” plan, the College this year received 23 dual processor Dell computers and monitors. “We receive these for our highly technical program,” explains DeLaBarcena. There is even a monitor for students who are visually impaired and another workstation for students with physical disabilities.



Mike Gordon, Piedra Vista High School teacher, (far left) receives computers for a Robotics class from Rick DeLaBarcena, coordinator of Controls and Technology, and Josh Johnson, PC specialist.

Mike Gordon, who is a math and science teacher at Piedra Vista, explains that his Robotics class would not exist without these donated computers. “The Farmington school district supports only Macintosh computers, which are not compatible with the software programs we use in Robotics. These PC computers allow our high school students to get good preparation for technical careers and allows them to compete at robotics competitions in New Mexico and throughout the country.”

“This partnership is essential. And, the donation of these computers is a crucial aspect to our ability to offer this kind of class.”

Students in the class are mostly juniors and seniors and must meet the math and science prerequisites to take Robotics. It attracts students who have a knack for computers, with the added perk that they learn to operate robots and get to compete with other students.

“The Instrumentation and Controls program is one of those we target and encourage our students to explore. This class gives kids competition experience, allows them to work on mechanical devices and learn to work as teams. The competitions allow them to see what others are doing,” says Gordon. “It is good preparation for any technical career.”

Tech Tip

What is a Wiki?

A wiki is a website where users can add, remove, and edit a page using a web browser. Wikis are becoming known as the tool of choice for collaborative projects. A great video to learn more about Wikis is located at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnL00TdmLY> “Wikis in Plain English”.

Below are some other resources to explore and learn more about Wikis:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki_Definition
- <https://wiki.umn.edu/view/Main/WebHome> University of Minnesota’s Community Wiki
- <http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?WikiInEducation> “Wiki In Education”
- http://ocw.usu.edu/Instructional_Technology/new_media/wikis.htm Wikis tutorial
- <http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2006/07/07/what-is-a-wiki.html?page=1> “What is a Wiki (and How to Use One for Your Projects)”

TECH Update is the bi-monthly newsletter of OTS. Our goal is to keep our customers informed and seek input. If you have questions or comments, please write to: TECHUPDATE@sanjuacollege.edu or call 566-3166.