

## Baby Blogs -- Perfect for Communicating with Parents

Blogging, My Space, Face Book – it’s all the new wave of technology, and Judy Hudson has found a way to integrate the tools into her Early Childhood Development class.

Hudson developed a blog as part of a class project to increase her students’ awareness of ways that they, as future teachers, can communicate with children’s parents and families. Through the blog, SJC students were required to post a picture of a child involved in an activity, and post a synopsis of what the child learned. The idea behind the project was that the parents could stay in touch with their child’s progress.

“Because so much of our communication is done via computer, I wanted my students to experience this as a possible option,” Hudson says.

Hudson closely supervised the blog ensuring that it was kept private and closed to protect the confidentiality of the students and the young children. “In the ‘real world,’ the child’s parents would have been invit-

ed to log in, view the blog and then comment on it,” Hudson continues. “At their discretion, parents could have also invited grandparents or other family members to look at the blog.”

However, a few of Hudson’s students received feedback from some of the children’s parents who are part of the Child and Family Development Center (CFDC) staff.

“Wow, this is just like what I do in My Space or Face Book,” one parent commented. “This is a great way to stay in touch with my child’s experiences on a more frequent basis, as well as share the progress with grandparents and other family members.”

At the end of the year, Hudson compiled all the blog entries and photos and printed it into a spiral bound book, providing parents with a portfolio of their child’s learning experiences. For a reasonable fee, [www.Blog2print.com](http://www.Blog2print.com) offers parents various options of having a blog book printed – from selecting a hardback or softbound book, to choosing their favorite cover photo.



*Student Trudy Begay (seated), looks on a “baby blog” entry with a youngster along with Judy Hudson, director of the Early Childhood Development Program.*

## It’s Hip to be Techno-Smart!

“CUL8R” – While this may look like the beginning ingredients of alphabet soup, it’s actually texting lingo translated to read, “See you later.”

Through an Encore class called *Communicating with New Technology*, seniors are broadening their “technological horizons” and finding ways to more effectively communicate with their grandchildren’s generation.

The class originated when former SJC board of directors member Larry Brewer mentioned the idea to Liesl Dees, Encore director. “From iPods and texting to webcams and Skype, there are so many great tools out there, that I thought it would be great to have a class that focused on this type of fun technology,” Brewer says.

Machell Day, SJC media technician, teaches the eight-week class, which will cover a variety of topics including cell phone texting and picture messaging; e-mail tips and creating e-mail accounts; web surfing; instant messaging; transferring VHS tapes to a DVD format; webcam and Skype; utilizing E-Bay and Overstock.com; taking and downloading digital photos, as well as working with Photostory and using iPods.

Encore will offer the technology class again on Wednesdays, March 11 – May 6, from 4 to 6 p.m. While Encore classes are tailored toward those who are 50 years of



*Encore students Larry Brewer (left) and wife Nancy (right) get a quick lesson in texting from Machell Day, SJC media technician, during Encore’s Communicating with New Technology class.*

age and up, the classes are open to anyone 18 or over. Students may take *Communicating with New Technology* as a one-credit class or choose to audit it. As Encore courses may be taken for credit, employees may use their staff tuition waivers. For further information about Encore classes or to register, check the Spring II Continuum schedule, call 566-3214, or visit the Community Learning Center.

## What's up in OTS?



Welcome back from winter break. I hope the semester is going smoothly for everyone. OTS continues to work on several projects this semester designed to increase the efficiency of technology services on campus. Here is a recap of the progress.

The first phase of the overhaul of the SJC website has been completed, which involved the development and maintenance of a uniform “look and feel” as well as uniform navigational elements to the main page levels of the College’s web environment.

The next phase, scheduled to start early this semester, will involve the formation of a web advisory committee of faculty, staff, and students that will oversee the functionality of the web as well as establishing policies and procedures to govern content management and information ownership on the College’s web pages.

The IT Strategic Planning committee met several times last semester to work on planning assumptions, mission and vision statements, and values for OTS. The committee will continue to meet this semester to work on a SWOT analysis, strategic goals development and strategy development. Look for the publication of the plan soon.

Active Campus, the new portal system from Datatel, is nearing completion. Active Campus provides seamless integration with WebAdvisor, Exchange, and other college applications. Look for a demo of Active Campus soon. Help for these projects has been provided by subject matter experts from SunGard Higher Education.

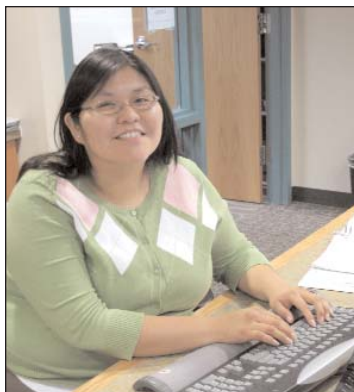
Thank you for your support, and please let us know how we can improve our services to best suit your needs.

Tim Warren



Vice President for Technology Services

## Librarian at a Click



*From the comfort of her home, Sevena Allen (right) can get quick answers to her questions from reference librarian Danielle Johnson (left).*

We all know you can scan the web for research material on just about any topic or book imaginable. But what happens when you’d really like to talk one-on-one with a librarian for help? You click into Meebo, that’s what!

Meebo is a form of instant messaging software that allows two or more people to communicate via the internet in real-time. Through Meebo, San Juan College reference librarians Christopher Schipper, Joseph Owen and Danielle Johnson are only a quick click away. Not only are they available to provide you with additional online reference assistance, but you can even renew a book that you may have checked out of the library.

“While some of our students continue to use the e-mail option, Meebo is more appealing to the younger students who may be a little less accepting of the delayed communication in e-mails,” explains Schipper.

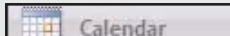
“The need for this type of communication is broad based,” Johnson adds. “We’ve assisted students while they were working in computer labs on campus as well as online students located in Washington, Oregon, and Tennessee, and we’re expecting the demand for this type of service to grow.”

In most instances the type of assistance that is needed (which is also most conducive to IM technology) requires simple and uncomplicated answers. Students, faculty and staff can access librarians through Meebo, during normal library hours, by going to [www.sanjuacollege.edu/lib](http://www.sanjuacollege.edu/lib) and clicking on the “Chat with a librarian” icon located on the right hand side of the web page. If a reference librarian is not logged on when a message is initiated, Meebo provides an option to leave a message and the librarians are then able to respond once they log on.

## Tech Tips

### ***Go Ahead – Drag Yourself to that Meeting!***

We all get (and send) emails to one another requesting an appointment or attendance at a meeting. There’s a simple and easy way to place that e-mail request on your Outlook calendar – Just Drag It!

Here’s how: After you’ve read the e-mail, close it and place your mouse pointer on the envelope icon. Left click and hold down the mouse button and drag to the calendar bar located at the bottom left of your Outlook Window. 

An appointment window will pop open. The content of that email is now displayed in the notes text box (provided the email text is not HTML). Type in the start date, start time, end time, location, and adjust the reminder time. Click on the save and close icon, and you are set! Now that the meeting is on your calendar, you can delete the email out of your inbox – (SHIFT + DELETE).

**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](mailto:TECHUPDATE@sanjuacollege.edu) or call 566-3166.**