The Distance Education Faculty Orientation has been implemented to present the faculty of DeSales University with strategies and effective practices needed to succeed in the online environment. The Instructional Technology Department is offering this online orientation for any faculty teaching an enhanced, hybrid or online course. The orientation is two weeks in length and delivered through Blackboard. Offered 100% online, participants will be guided through the orientation to learn more about teaching styles and methods, best practices and policies and procedures for teaching in the online environment.

Register now for the next available session, as registration is limited.

Go to: www.desales.edu/blackboard and select Information for Instructors, then select Distance Education Faculty Orientation to register.

Faculty members are having great experiences participating in the Distance Education Faculty Orientation. Read some of the responses below.

“This was a great experience and a stepping stone to online classes for me.”

“My anxiety was immediately dismissed by the Instructional Technology Specialist running the orientation.”

“I picked up a lot of good ideas from other participants and from the Instructional Technologist. The course was designed to “show off” various techniques for communicating educational material in an online setting.”

“I have been using Blackboard in many courses that I teach. There are several things I will take away from this orientation that will be incorporated into my classes. It certainly has been a positive experience. Thank you!”

“The orientation was fantastic!”

“I only have positive comments!”

“Thank you for all of the work you do to make online teaching just as effective as traditional teaching here at DeSales.”
Elluminate LIVE!

Last issue, we brought you information about Elluminate LIVE!, a live virtual classroom that allows instructors and students to meet online.

For a live demonstration, please contact Colleen Kramm at 610.282.1100 extension 1689 or colleen.kramm@desales.edu. You will be given a link to join an Elluminate classroom where the software will be demonstrated for you. The software is very user-friendly and all are encouraged to consider this software for upcoming online sessions. Virtual classroom space is limited, just as our traditional classrooms; therefore virtual classrooms are available on a first-come first-serve basis.

Elluminate LIVE! is a real-time eLearning and web collaboration environment. With Elluminate, one could expand the boundaries of the traditional classroom, promote active learning and improve student performance.

Elluminate makes it easier to create online communities and enhance the level of education with this dynamic interaction.

Media Services

As we continue to deliver more educational content through Blackboard, instructors may find an increasing need for Media Services.

Eric Karol, a Media Support Specialist, can help instructors who want to add enhanced content to Blackboard. Some of the services that Media Support provides is:

- Filming/producing high-quality recordings of lectures or demonstrations
- Converting educational material into digital format for electronic delivery via Blackboard
- Placing digital content on a streaming server for easy delivery in Blackboard

For more information about the services and fees associated with the services that Media Services provides, please contact Eric Karol at 610.282.1100 x1362 or email eric.karol@desales.edu.
As you may know, Microsoft is in the midst of releasing Office 2007. Microsoft Office is a suite of productivity programs that includes Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint and other programs. Earlier versions have been referred to as “suites;” however the later versions are being referred to “systems” as they may include servers.

With the debut of Office 2007 comes a substantial renovation of the look, feel, and file formats of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and other Office programs. The applications are completely new, and the differences will impact all Office users, regardless if they upgrade.

With this new release, Microsoft introduces updates to features seen in previous versions as well as the addition of some new features. With the launch of a new interface, Office 2007 organizes program features according to the tasks that the user is currently working on and reveals additional features when they can be applied or used. Microsoft also unveils the ribbon which replaces the menu and toolbars of previous versions. A new graphics engine has been incorporated which is supposed to make it easier to work with graphics and produce high-quality documents, spreadsheets, and presentations.

Another notable addition to the system is that users can now create fixed-format documents, which means that they can distribute them to users who do not have the application that created the document.

It is difficult to predict the impact that the new Office release will have on DeSales University. The Instructional Technology Department is anticipating any impact by becoming familiar with the essential concepts of the new system, as many instructors will use the new version to create content for Blackboard.
Lingo & Buzzwords

Beta - the term used to describe products that are still in a test, or preview, version before they are officially released.

RSS - Really Simple Syndication allows Internet users to subscribe to the information that appeals to them online, such as updates to a blog or web site they like. Once they subscribe to an RSS feed, they can receive real-time updates. It is like having a personalized newspaper that is updated 24 hours a day.

Phishing – In computing, phishing is a criminal activity using social engineering techniques. Phishers attempt to fraudulently acquire sensitive information, such as passwords and credit card details, by masquerading as a trustworthy person or business in an electronic communication. Phishing is typically carried out using email or an instant message, although phone contact has been used as well. Attempts to deal with the growing number of reported phishing incidents include legislation, user training, and technical measures.

Tagging - Internet tagging helps people categorize information on the Internet. With so much to find online these days, this is a useful tool for discovering relevant information. Tagging is similar to the bookmarks people make on their personal Web browsers, except that tagged web pages are stored on the Internet and can be accessed from any computer at any time.

Each issue, the Instructional Technology Department highlights new terms used most recently in the technology and computer world. These are terms that you may have heard or even used, but are not certain of their exact meaning. We do our best to bring you the most recent and up-to-date information.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for future articles, please contact Colleen Kramm 610.282.1100 x1689 colleen.kramm@desales.edu

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