Welcome Back Faculty & Staff of DeSales University!

As a new semester begins, we would like to welcome back all full and part-time faculty and announce the latest news from the Instructional Technology Department. It has been an exciting summer as we have been updating, testing and implementing technologies for DeSales University.

We now have a live, virtual online classroom environment called Elluminate, which instructors can use to connect to their students over the Internet. Dr. Mohamed Latib, Ed Luttenberg, Matt Waite & Jay Lacke successfully piloted this software in their courses last semester. Both the instructors and the students, local and abroad, enjoyed the features and capabilities to connect live with one another. With this technology we can bring the traditional classroom experience to the online environment. To learn more about Elluminate, see the featured article in this newsletter.

Podcasting, a growing trend, is a thing of the near future as we work diligently to set up the resources needed to use this new technology at DeSales. Portable lectures or “anywhere/anytime” content is what we will be able to bring to our students. Our goal is to make this delivery method as user-friendly as possible. With great enthusiasm, we are happy to announce that we are in the final stages of implementing iTunes University. More information about iTunes U is to come.

In addition to bringing new technology to DeSales University, instructors will now be able to find complete Blackboard training on the DSU website by going to www.desales.edu/blackboard. From basic to advanced concepts, this resource will continue to grow. Suggestions for tutorial topics are always welcome and can be submitted to the Instructional Technology Department.

Lastly, we would like to extend an invitation to all faculty and staff to attend ongoing workshops and training sessions. The Instructional Technology Department conducts training sessions, “Tuesdays with More eLearning,” on the first, second and third Tuesday of each month. For more information about topics, dates and locations, go to www.desales.edu/technology and select the Instructional Technology Department in the center of the page.

Thank you, and all the best for a successful semester!
EdTech Magazine named Babson College winner of the 2006 IT Leadership Award for Pedagogy and Instructional Technology Practice. The award recognizes innovative use of technology on higher education campuses.

Babson outlined an initiative to make technology-based distance learning more interactive by integrating Blackboard and Elluminate. The program provides faculty with an online forum to draw out ideas, punctuate key points and facilitate high-quality case discussions typically only found in the traditional classroom environment.

Elluminate LIVE! is a live virtual classroom that allows instructors and students to meet online. With the use of computer headsets and microphones, instructors can conduct real-time conversations, lectures and demonstrations with their students. Like Blackboard, this is another way in which we can expand the traditional classroom to our distance education students. We can communicate with crystal clear, duplex audio, collaborate with shared applications and deliver a quality experience at any connection speed.

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.

Visit: www.elluminate.com and select “Community” on the menu at the left to see how other higher education institutions, such as Penn State, have used Elluminate successfully.

The Global Development Learning Network (GDLN), a worldwide partnership of independent learning centers established by the World Bank, will use Elluminate Live!® for training and collaboration among affiliates in selected countries. GDLN Affiliates enable organizations, teams, and individuals working in development worldwide to communicate, share knowledge and learn from each other’s experiences.
Remember, in order to connect via I2, you need to access these resources from campus. You can still access them from home, but you won’t get the fast connection that you would from campus, as you are using the regular/commodity Internet off-campus.

As you can see, not only are there many resources available for you to use, there are many I2 working-groups, projects and opportunities. You may lend your expertise, collaborate with colleagues in your field or even start a project of your own. Look at what other people are doing by visiting http://www.internet2.edu/working-groups.html and get some ideas about how you can put yourself and DeSales University on the I2 map!

Whether it is starting a project of your own or simply accessing I2 resources to present in your class, we would like to know. We will showcase any success you have using these resources, or creating resources or projects of your own on our website and in other forums. We would like to create podcasts, which will be available to the public, about what you are doing in the classroom and with I2. To submit ideas or stories of success, please contact the Instructional Technology Department.

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Showcase Your Classroom!

We want to know how you are using Internet2, but if there are no buttons that say “Click here for Internet2” or “You are entering an Internet2 Zone,” how can you really know when you are using I2 resources? You are using Internet2 when you access resources at an Internet2 site from an Internet2 site. So where can you find these I2 resources and why would you want to use them? Some of the places you can find I2 resources are:

http://www.learner.org/
http://uc.princeton.edu/
http://www.merlot.org/
http://www.internet2.edu/
http://www.researchchannel.org/
http://k20.internet2.edu/index.php
http://www.internet2.edu/working-groups.html

At http://www.merlot.org/ you will find, in the center of the page, online curricula to help you in your lectures and demonstrations. Under the “Physics” link, for example, you can find a showcase of interactive simulations and conceptual learning modules made available by the Physics Education Technology Group (PhET). Your students can construct circuits, work with a realistic mass and spring laboratory and even broadcast radio waves from KPhET!
Lingo/Buzzwords
What does that mean???

**Podcast** - Method of distributing multimedia files, such as audio or video programs, over the Internet using syndication feeds, for playback on mobile devices and personal computers. The term combines “iPod”, a popular portable media device, and “broadcasting,” although an iPod is not necessary to access or download podcasts.

**Blog (Weblog)** - A type of website where entries are made (such as in a journal or diary), displayed in a reverse chronological order. Blogs often provide commentary or news and information on a particular subject, such as food, politics, or local news; some function as more personal online diaries.

**Digital Media Player or Portable Media Player** - Electronic device, such as an “MP3 player”, which is capable of storing and playing files in one or more media formats. The iPod is currently the world’s best-selling digital audio player.

**VoIP** - Voice over Internet Protocol, is the routing of voice conversations over the Internet or through any other IP-based network. Elluminate is the VoIP program that we have recently implemented at DeSales University.


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**Tuesdays With More eLearning**

The Instructional Technology Department offers in-person faculty training on the first three Tuesdays of each month. Training is located in the Trexler Library.

**First Tuesday - Introductory Level Blackboard**
Two Sessions - 9-11:00 AM or 2-4:00 PM
Basic concepts and tasks demonstrated during this session.

**Second Tuesday - Advanced Level Blackboard**
Two Sessions - 9-11:00 AM or 2-4:00 PM
Assignments, gradebook and navigation concepts demonstrated during this session.

**Third Tuesday - Featured Technology Training**
One Session - 2-4:00 PM
The third Tuesday of each month will be dedicated to a different technology such as podcasting, screen capture, audio and video lectures, etc...

*Email Colleen.Kramm@DeSales.edu to sign up for any of these sessions.*