What's New?

Greetings and welcome back from the break! Much has happened over the summer and with the start of the new school year upon us, we wanted to share with you some of the accomplishments of the past year and preview what we have planned in terms of upcoming training opportunities, seminars, events and activities:

- **Helping New Online Students.**
  A key obstacle for students new to Online Learning at Sacred Heart University has been the lack of training available on using Blackboard. This past summer, the Office of Instructional Technology developed a new 0-credit 'Introduction to Online Learning' course to allow new students the opportunity to learn and practice with the Blackboard environment prior to the start of the semester. Students who have registered for their first online course are now sent a letter welcoming them to online learning at SHU and describing how to access this new course. In use for the first time this fall, the Digital Learning support line (365-7613) has noticed a marked decrease in the number of support phone calls logged during the first few weeks of the semester!

- **Making eReserves Easier.**
  This summer, members of the OIT Staff and the Ryan-Matura Library worked to develop a new system to allow faculty to request electronic reserve materials directly online. Using a new online form, faculty may request specific articles and/or book chapters to be made available to students enrolled in their courses. With this new system, access to the requested eReserve materials is provided directly within the requestor’s Blackboard course(s), making it easier for students to obtain the materials. To submit your eReserve request, visit [http://OIT.sacredheart.edu/ereserves](http://OIT.sacredheart.edu/ereserves). Please forward any questions you have on this new system to Cindy Li ([lix@sacredheart.edu](mailto:lix@sacredheart.edu)) in the library.

- **New Resource from Educause.**
  Starting this fall, members of the Sacred Heart community now have access to the full catalog of resources available through the Educause Learning Initiative ([http://www.educause.edu/elri](http://www.educause.edu/elri)). These resources include white papers, articles, monthly briefs and scholarly publications designed to assist you in the planning and adoption of various instructional technologies to enhance your classroom. You will first need to create an Educause profile (free; visit [http://www.educause.edu/Login/603](http://www.educause.edu/Login/603) and select the option to create a new profile) in order to access these resources. Please contact David Demers ([demersd@sacredheart.edu](mailto:demersd@sacredheart.edu)) with any questions you may have about this new resource.

(continued on Page 3)

Are you interested in developing an Online Course?

If so, you may be eligible for an online course development stipend. In order to receive a stipend, you will first need to submit a completed [Online Course Development Agreement](http://OIT.sacredheart.edu/dltcp) prior to the development of the course. You can download the form at: [http://OIT.sacredheart.edu/dltcp](http://OIT.sacredheart.edu/dltcp). Stipends range from $500-$2,000. For additional information, please contact David Demers ([demersd@sacredheart.edu](mailto:demersd@sacredheart.edu); x8369).
Clinical Paper Case Studies Become Digital!

by Christopher Neidig

As in most schools, when teaching Sociology and case studies, it is hard to replicate the 'real world' environment. Instructors have a major hurdle to overcome when trying to get students to understand people and their backgrounds. Race, gender, and social status are all major factors when dealing with people and families involved in domestic violence.

In the past, students were handed sheets of paper which already had the status of a case such as who the people are, how old they are, and how much money they earn in a year. This was a problem that plagued Dr. Annette Bailey. She wanted to enhance the learning experience by making case studies more personal and interactive for students. With help from the Media Studies Department, The Office of Instructional Technology, and a grant supported by the ACT, her vision has now become an effective learning tool for students.

Dr. Bailey submitted a project proposal which involved videotaping live 'actors' portraying a family involved in domestic violence. Interviews with individuals were recorded as if they were talking about their own personal lives with a social worker in an actual home setting. Dr. Bailey then created fictitious information about each member of the family along with various documents relevant to the case such as a restraining order and police report. Video footage was then combined with the case study information in a new interactive website created specifically for this project. Students now have electronic access to all of the resources available for this case just as if they were working in a real-world situation.

Dr. Bailey has received positive reviews for her electronic case study from both students and faculty. She is currently working to create additional content for the case in order to broaden the applicability of the resource to additional departments and disciplines.

You can view this resource at [http://oit.sacredheart.edu/socialworkcs](http://oit.sacredheart.edu/socialworkcs).

Podcasting Now Available In Blackboard!

by Christopher Neidig

If you are teaching a course using Blackboard here at SHU, you may have noticed the new ‘Manage Podcast’ link available through the Control Panel. Learning Objects®, a third-party vendor of Blackboard plug-ins, has recognized the popularity and effectiveness of Podcasting for education and has simplified the process of delivering Podcasts directly through your Blackboard course(s).

To deliver a Podcast using Blackboard, you now only need to know how to record in MP3 format (faculty laptops have a program installed which will perform this function) and upload your recorded file into Blackboard. It’s that easy! If you have ever attached a document to an email or uploaded a document into Blackboard, you can now do the same with a recorded MP3 file - Blackboard automatically organizes and creates a “Podcast” for you.

If you would like assistance in creating a Podcast, please consider coming to the “Podcasting in Blackboard” Workshop offered by the Office of Instructional Technology. During this workshop you will learn how to create and record audio using a program called Audacity. You will also learn how to upload recorded MP3’s into Blackboard and use the “Manage Podcast” feature.

The Podcasting in Blackboard Workshop will be held multiple times during the Fall term. Please consult the OIT workshop schedule for dates and times. If you are unable to attend the workshop or need personal assistance, please contact the Digital Learning Support line at 365-7613 or email Christopher Neidig at neidigc@sacredheart.edu.
e-volution: The Next Generation of Book
by Shawn Fields

Are you tired of hearing the same old excuses about a lack of good sources from your students? The Ryan-Matura Library has a new solution to the age-old problem of getting college students to use quality sources in their research, and getting them to cite those sources properly. The Library has purchased over 35,000 ebooks over the summer. The new collections hold digitized books from publishers such as Oxford University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, and Yale. Most academic disciplines are covered. These ebooks can be accessed from any computer, and are easy to read and modify. After loading ebrary reader software (available when you enter a book and easy to load), users can create their own bookshelf in the ebrary system. A student or faculty member can then pick a book, highlight text, make notes, or bookmark pages. The changes will be saved in the ebrary system on the individual’s bookshelf. Text can be copied, and when pasted, the system will automatically cite the source (different styles are available)! A hyperlink to that page from the book is also provided with the copied text.

While the romance of holding a bound classic in your hand can never be replicated, the new ebooks are easy to use, easy to see, and can be modified to enhance scholarship. Students working in their dorms at two o’clock in the morning can now access full-text volumes from reputable publishers. It is harder for them to plagiarize material as pasted passages are automatically cited. Multiple students can also access the same book at once, solving problems created by our small print collection. 35,000 ebooks plus over 70 databases filled with scholarly material equals no excuses for students! Further information on ebooks, training sessions on their usage, and on the Library’s collections in general can be found on the library’s web page, or by contacting Shawn Fields (365-4841 or fieldss@ sacredheart.edu).

Did you know?
You can sign up for OIT Workshops and events right online! Please visit our website at: http://OIT.sacredheart.edu/workshops

(What’s New; continued from Page 1)
• Supporting the Common Core.
This past summer, a group of 16 colleagues from the College of Arts & Sciences participated in a week-long effort to develop a series of multi-disciplinary learning modules to serve the new Common Core Colloquia series. Employing the successful ITC Summer Workshop format, teams of faculty worked in collaboration to compile and develop a series of compelling modules which are now available electronically to the entire SHU community through Blackboard. For additional information on these learning modules, please contact Associate Dean Michelle Loris (lorism@sacredheart.edu).

We hope you will find this newsletter informative. Should you have any questions or comments regarding any of the information presented in this newsletter or on any of the services provided by the Office of Instructional Technology, please feel free to contact us! Our doors are open! Good luck and we hope your Fall semester runs smoothly!

David Demers – Director of Instructional Technology.
Helping Students Learn How to Study

This past year, the Office of Instructional Technology collaborated with Dr. Kirk Bartholomew (Biology) and a group of colleagues to develop an interactive 'Study Strategies Tutorial' application. This web-based tool guides students through a virtual lecture and asks them to review a set of lecture notes (a 'traditional' study strategy) prior to taking a content-based quiz. Upon completion of the quiz, students are then asked to utilize one of two different study 'strategies' to again review the lecture notes and content. For this second round, students are divided into two groups - a 'control' group is asked to simply re-perform the traditional study strategy while the 'test' group is provided with an alternate 'active' study activity. After completion of the second round of study, students are again asked to complete a content-based quiz. Results from all quiz attempts are stored in a database which allows for score comparisons between the two groups. So far, the results have been compelling and Dr. Bartholomew has planned to offer this tool to a second group of students this Fall.

Dr. Bartholomew will be providing an overview of his initial findings in using the application with Introductory Biology students at an upcoming 'Teaching with Technology' seminar. Please check the 'Workshop Schedule' at right for the date and time.

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Fall Workshops & Events

Below is a partial list of the workshops, seminars and events currently sponsored through the Office of Instructional Technology. For a complete listing or to learn more about any of these workshops, please visit http://OIT.sacredheart.edu/workshops.

ITC Brownbag Series

Last year, the OIT in conjunction with the Innovative Teaching Coalition initiated the 'ITC Brownbag Series', an informal setting in which graduates of the annual Summer ITC Faculty Workshop share their experiences and showcase their projects with the SHU community. We are pleased to announce that the ITC Brownbag Series will be back again for a second year! Please keep an eye out for email announcing these sessions. Currently, we have the following dates planned:

- Monday, September 24 (12:30-1:30)
- Wednesday, October 2 (12:30-1:30)
- Monday, October 15 (12:30-1:30)
- Wednesday, October 31 (12:30-1:30)
- Monday, November 12 (12:30-1:30)
- Wednesday, November 28 (12:30-1:30)

Teaching with Technology Seminar Series

The OIT's Teaching with Technology Seminar Series got off to a great start last June and we are pleased to announce the new Fall schedule which includes talks on a variety of subjects. The TwT Seminar is scheduled from 2:30-3:30 pm (unless otherwise noted) on the following Thursdays this semester (please keep an eye out for email announcing these sessions):

- September 27: 'evolution: The Next Generation of Book' – Shawn Fields
- October 11 (3:00 PM): 'Creating an Effective Training Curriculum for Faculty Who Teach Online' – Ekaterina Ginzburg & David Demers
- November 1: 'Interactive Study Strategies Tutorials for Introductory Biology Students' – Kirk Bartholomew
- November 15 & December 6: TBA

OIT Workshop Series

Providing training opportunities for faculty remains a primary objective of the OIT. We are committed to offering an abundance of workshops to assist you in enhancing your curricula through the effective use of technology. These workshops cover a range of topics from basic Blackboard skills to creating interactive learning modules to Podcasting. You may review a detailed listing of available workshops and register directly online by visiting http://OIT.sacredheart.edu/workshops. Don't wait! Seats are limited!

The Digital Learning Faculty Certificate Program Receiving Recognition

The DLFCP has continued to develop into an effective training curriculum for faculty interested in developing online courses. With over 30 full-time and adjunct graduates, the program has not only grown, but has also received international recognition. Members of the OIT Staff have been invited to present the design and content of the DLFCP to an international audience at the upcoming E-Learn 2007 Conference in Quebec City in October. Additionally, we have been asked to speak about the success we have had with the DLFCP at an upcoming NERCOMP Special Interest Group entitled 'Teaching Faculty to Teach Online' in Norwood, MA in April. For additional information on the Digital Learning Faculty Certification Program, please be sure to visit our website at http://OIT.sacredheart.edu/DLTCP.