

Webmasters Attend Summer Camp

There won't be cookouts or canoes, but webmasters representing 35 university departments will attend two week-long "camp" sessions this summer to enhance their Web design and development skills.

The camps, running from July 17 to 21 and July 31 to August 4, are facilitated by the Office of Information Technology and funded by the Provost's Office. Nineteen webmasters will participate in session one and seventeen in session two.

"Originally we were just going to do one camp with fifteen participants," notes Robby Seitz, university webmaster. "When we received so many applications, the Provost's Office approved additional funding to accommodate as many applicants as possible."

Presentations by Seitz and other speakers will cover a range of topics, including design concepts, dynamic content, add-ons, and accessibility.

"Making Web-based information accessible for people with disabilities is federally mandated," explains Stacey Reycraft, assistant director in the Office of Student Disability Services. "There are many people who use assistive technologies like screen readers, enlargers, and eye-gazing systems on their computers. This is a great opportunity for us to share information with camp participants on how to

ensure their Web sites are accessible to all users."

Sabrina Brown, director of University Publications, will address the camps on the importance of presenting a quality image of the university on the Web.

"So many prospective students get their first impressions of universities from Web sites. That impression can be good or bad, depending on the quality of the design and content of every page of the site," says Brown. "These camps are an important part of a larger effort to make sure that, no matter how deep visitors go into the Ole Miss site, they get the message that this is a first-rate institution."

Each participant's department will receive a package of books and software worth almost \$500.

"We want to help departmental webmasters stay up to speed and learn some new techniques and to move the various Web pages on our domain toward a more common look and feel," states Associate Provost Maurice Eftink. "We know departments usually want to personalize their Web sites to a degree, but it's increasingly important for our Web pages, including departmental Web pages, to appear crisp and to contain some standard information and navigational tools."

Visit www.olemiss.edu/depts/it/webcamp for more information.

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GALTNEY CENTER
ACADEMIC

Incoming students register for courses in the Galtney Center for Academic Computing's student lab. Some 3,000 students registered as part of the eight freshmen and two transfer student orientation sessions held in June. In the rush of registration, IT worked to ensure that the technical process ran smoothly for every student.

Check IT Out

The Office of Information Technology's Web site is sporting a new look these days. Designed by Amy Evans in University Publications, the site features colorful photos, clear links for easy navigation, and a clean layout of information specifically aimed at user groups such as students and faculty and staff. Check IT out at www.olemiss.edu/depts/it.

For Barbara Dougherty,

The Use of Technology Adds Up

“What were you thinking?!”

That’s the question Barbara Dougherty says she has heard most often since joining the School of Education’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction last year.

“I came here from the University of Hawaii,” Dougherty explains. “I guess people can’t imagine leaving there, but I don’t regret the move whatsoever. The priority here on making sure that faculty and staff are supported in their work is just incredible. Whenever I need something, I just pick up the phone and somebody responds immediately. It’s really amazing.”

Much of Dougherty’s work as a professor of secondary math education has involved the use of technology. This includes research funded by grants from Texas Instruments to study the effects of using the TI Navigator system on student achievement in algebra.

The Navigator system facilitates wireless communications between students’ graphing calculators and an instructor’s computer which can display problems and individual or collective results using a projector.

Dougherty is employing the Navigator system as part of Project DELTA (Developing Effective Leadership and Teaching Alternatives), a math/science partnership grant for training 70 5th through 8th grade teachers from 19 north Mississippi school districts.



Barbara Dougherty at a Project DELTA workshop

“We want to model how one form of technology can impact student discourse and enhance student engagement,” explains Dougherty. “We’ll also be using X-Power Interactive [www.x-power.com], a software package that teaches algebra with animation. It was developed with a \$3 million Department of Defense grant and is distributed to schools on pocket drives containing 120 hours of instruction.”

Dougherty plans to develop instructional video segments that will be podcast (or more accurately, “vodcast”) to Project DELTA teachers throughout the coming year.

Other projects of Dougherty’s involve such technologies as video analysis, iPhoto and iMovie software, and motion detectors and other calculator-based lab devices.

This extensive use of technology didn’t always evolve easily.

“I wrote my doctoral dissertation on the first Macintosh, that little cube-looking thing,” Dougherty recalls. “The night before I defended my dissertation plan, a virus hit through the system, and I lost everything. So I vowed I would never use computers again in my life.”

Just after joining the University of Hawaii faculty in 1989, Dougherty began a project that changed the way she looked at technology.

“We started using graphing calculators to teach algebra, and that’s when I realized the kids were leaving me behind,” explains Dougherty. “These 8th and 9th graders were coming in with some really cool things they had figured out on their own. The graphing calculator extended their math learning because it allowed them to do things they couldn’t have done with just pencil and paper.”

In 1993, Dougherty experienced a shift in thinking that has informed her use of technology ever since.

“I realized we could purposefully use technology to capture data and do assessments,” she remembers. “My focus shifted to student learning, and by making that the cornerstone of the work, the technology became just another instructional tool to use. Instead of focusing on who got the right answer, it became more about how to observe things like patterning and answer even bigger questions. In our work, there is a lot of writing and other elements linked with the technology. It doesn’t just stand alone as a piece of the educational practice.”

Get to Know the CERÉ

On July 1, Barbara Dougherty became the director of the School of Education’s Center for Educational Research and Evaluation (CERÉ).

The Center serves as a resource for university departments and degree programs, as well as other agencies such as colleges and school districts. Its projects and evaluations include the Barksdale Reading Institute, AmeriCorps, the North Mississippi GK-12 Project, and the Alliance for Graduate Education in Mississippi.

“We are delighted with Dr. Dougherty’s work and the many positive contributions she is making to the School of Education,” states Dean Tom Burnham. “Her presence has rejuvenated efforts toward securing external grants and placing an increasing emphasis on academic excellence.”

For more information, visit www.olemiss.edu/cere.

About Facebook

by **Rebecca Bertrand** in the Office of Orientation Programs

Started by three Harvard students in February 2004, www.facebook.com now lists itself as the seventh most popular Web site in the U.S. and reports having 7.5 million registered users.

I created my Facebook profile after a friend introduced me to the site in fall 2005.

Other Ole Miss students discovered Facebook in much the same way, through e-mails and word of mouth, and its popularity on campus spread like wildfire.

Unlike other online communities such as myspace.com, Facebook requires a university e-mail address to create an account. The vast majority of users are students, but faculty, staff, and alumni can register as well.

Facebook is a means of communicating with friends and making new acquaintances. Searching groups and lists let you find members with the same political views or favorite movies, books, or music. Many users post photos or list their relationship status.

Since there have been incidents of online stalkers and even marketers obtaining information from Facebook, privacy is a concern. Each user determines how much information to provide in his or her profile and who can see it. Everyone in the entire Facebook community at Ole Miss may have access or just a few listed friends. Even with minimal access, though,

it's smart not to list phone numbers or addresses.

Several recent media reports have focused on the use of Facebook by prospective employers to assess job applicants or the police to investigate campus infractions. Students may not realize that questionable comments or embarrassing photos, even if posted in jest, may be seen by more than just a small circle of friends.

Facebook offers a Pulse feature which monitors trends and characteristics of the student body. Top ten lists and interesting factoids about Facebook users are updated daily. Who knew 95% of Ole Miss students prefer reading "The Great Gatsby" over "Lord of the Rings?"

The University of Mississippi Alumni Association recently launched Rebel Network, a more grown-up version of Facebook available to all alumni and association members, at <https://rebelnetwork.olemissalumni.com>.

Rebel Network members can post personal interests, academic histories, and professional resumes. Features of the site include job listings, discussion forums, groups based on geographic location and interests, and a bulletin board for posting events.

Interested in learning more about or even joining a virtual community? Check out Facebook, Rebel Network, and the many other social networks now available online.

Go with Google (Earth and Maps)

by **M.K. Smith** in the Office of Information Technology

I don't know about you, but I google almost every day. The world's most popular search engine is my favorite way to track down all sorts of information needed at work or home.

And now, whether I'm planning a trip or just want to locate an address, I find that Google Maps is the way to go. This free service offers dynamic draggable maps, which means you can easily zoom or move around an area using a mouse, directional arrows, or onscreen slider bar.

You don't have to know an exact address to find things with Google Maps. You can type in a region, city, or zip code to get started. If you want to find a business, type the name or type as well. You can do a broad search like "restaurants in Memphis," and you'll get a map with little balloons designating businesses that you can click for more information. As with many online maps, you can also get driving directions.

Google Maps offers three display modes. You can look at an area using a street map view, satellite and high-resolution aerial photography, or a hybrid of the two.

Google Earth takes map elements and satellite views a step further by incorporating topographical data that lets you see some features in three dimensions. You can also "fly" around

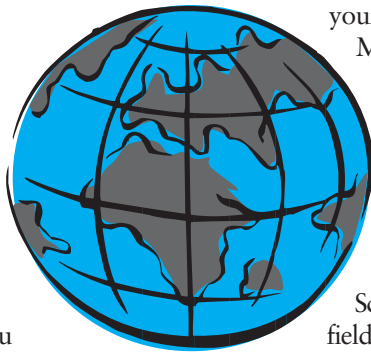
an area, viewing it from various directions and perspectives. There are many layers of information you can choose to display, including 3D representations of buildings for some major cities.

It's hard to beat Google Earth for armchair traveling. Preset destinations you can visit with a mouse click include the Grand Canyon, the Eiffel Tower, and China's Forbidden City. You can also find and mark your own special locations, such as your home, office, or favorite vacation destination.

Many users post placemarks as part of the Google Earth Community feature of the program or at unrelated sites such as Google Earth Blog or Google Sightseeing.

I've created a few placemarks of my own, including the very distinctly visible farms, or "crofts," belonging to my cousins on the remote island of Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. With Google Earth, I can see their houses, fields, and even the peat bogs they dig, making the miles between us seem not quite so vast.

Go to google.com to link to these and other Google services. Or use wikipedia.org (another favorite site previously described in *TechNews*) to get some interesting background and in-depth information on Google Maps or Earth.



Redwood Has Grown...

The Mississippi Center for Supercomputing Research (MCSR) recently added 32 processors to its newest and largest super-computer, an SGI Altix 3700 known as "Redwood," increasing its size to 224 CPUs with 224 GB of memory. A collaborative grant obtained with Greg Tschumper, Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, from EPSCoR (the Environmental Protection Agency's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) and the National Science Foundation made the upgrade possible. Members of Dr. Tschumper's research group shown with the supercomputer in its new Data Center location are Adel Elsohly, Cynthia Shaw, Brian Hopkins, and Julie Anderson (l-r).



News from FTDC

by Penny Rice in the Faculty Technology Development Center

Macromedia Software Licenses Now Available

Since Adobe Systems, Inc. acquired Macromedia, we have added the latter's software titles, including Dreamweaver, Authorware, and Flash, to the list of software available for departmental purchase at FTDC. To see all our offerings and the current price list, visit www.olemiss.edu/depts/ftdc/software.html.

Ole Miss an Official iTunes U Campus

We've been approved and are working with Apple to set up our iTunes campus site. We'll be providing more information as well as training opportunities in podcasting soon.

Academic Technology Enhancement Week

Our annual Academic Technology Enhancement Week will be held again this September. Among the workshops to be offered are Introduction to Blackboard, Using the Blackboard Gradebook, PowerPoint, Virus Free Computing, Imaging and Scanning Basics, Macromedia Dreamweaver, Creating DVDs, and Introduction to High Performance Computing and the MCSR. These workshops are free and open to all faculty, staff, and graduate instructors. For more information, see www.olemiss.edu/depts/ftdc/workshops.html.

The FTDC (www.olemiss.edu/depts/ftdc) is located in Weir Hall. Please visit, call 915-7918, or e-mail us at ftdc@olemiss.edu.

Attention, Mathematica Users!

The recent renewal of the university's Mathematica license means users will need new passwords for the year starting July/August 2006. Visit www.mcsr.olemiss.edu/mathematica or e-mail mathadm@olemiss.edu for more information.

www.olemiss.edu/technews

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