Partnerships in Education

Partnerships are a hot topic in higher education across the country this year. When the National Learning Infrastructure Initiative, a major resource for teaching and learning with technology, settled on a theme for its annual conference earlier this year, it chose Innovative Practice, Policy, and Partnerships: A New Alignment. A nother interesting exploration of partnerships in education is Jossey Bass's recently published book, Partnering in the Learning Marketplace. This issue of the IT Times features some exciting educational partnerships forming on the UC landscape. The Educational Technology Partners program, the newly combined efforts of the California Digital Library with Berkeley Electronic Press, and other exciting educational forums like the Teaching and Learning Technology Center and Educause (featured on page 2 of this issue) encourage cooperative learning as they transform the educational technology experience into one of shared innovations.

Innovations in Publishing

The California Digital Library (http://www.cdlib.org) is pairing up with Berkeley Electronic Press (http://www.bepress.com) to bring University of California one step closer to effectively using the Internet in scholarship.

The year-and-half old California Digital Library (CDL) makes ebooks and other scholarly materials available online to UC students, faculty, and staff. As a "co-library" in the UC system, the CDL takes on the task of applying technology to the distribution, storage, and creation of materials and knowledge.

Berkeley Electronic Press (known as "bepress") is the enterprise of three UC Berkeley professors who have set out to reform scholarly journals. The result is a suite of tools that facilitate Internet publication, review, and cataloging of knowledge. bepress also provides tools that allow for online review, and tracking of authors and reviewers.

The partnership of CDL and bepress will take advantage of the CDL's ability to provide the UC with widespread access to the publications and tools that bepress facilitates. A such, it is a valuable resource for scholars, researchers, teachers, and publishers.

Innovations in Publishing

The power of publishing was once held only by a few select publishing houses. This power was radically democratized with the advent of the Internet, and then rapidly complicated by a slew of pros and cons:

- Making "unpublished" material available as soon as it is written is great for getting up-to-the-minute information and reactions, but lousy for quality control.
- Making "unpublished" material available plays havoc with copyright and intellectual property rights.
- Finding information has become a challenge that more often results in discovering the URL of Britney Spears' most recently released album rather than relevant, scholarly work.

A smushed as the anarchists among us believe that we should all continue to shout loudly in hopes of finding others of similar interests on the ever-widening World Wide Web, it is great to see that the CDL is coming to our rescue with a little organization and an interesting set of tools from bepress.

Educational Technology Pairs Students With Faculty

Unique Pilot Program Underway

By E. Cayce Dumont

Editor's note: The Educational Technology Partners Program (ET Partners) pairs a faculty member with a specially trained student for one-on-one technology training. The goal is to help instructors implement educational technology effectively. This article is part one of a three-part series which will outline each phase of the ET Partners program. In phase one (fall quarter) the ET Partners Program prepares the student partners for their winter quarter pairing with a faculty member. Preparations consist of a quarter of rigorous training...

When sophomore Elizabeth Upton came to UC Davis to major in communications and anthropology, she planned on studying differing interpersonal communication styles in order to better inform her future goals of studying and documenting global cultures. What she may not have expected is that her own communication skills might lend themselves to an entirely different occupation: helping her instructors use educational technology. Elizabeth is one of 12 students employed by the pilot program, Educational Technology Partners program (ET Partners) initiated by Mediaworks, an instructional technology and digital media service on the UC Davis campus.

Chris Sarason, the ET Partners program manager, and Harry M. Matthews, Mediaworks director, collaborated with UC Davis lecturer, Mary Jacob, who designed the innovative curriculum that would both follow the lead of other universities around the country that are experimenting with like programs, and improve upon these models to suit the Davis campus. Compared to other universities that are implementing this kind of program, "UC Davis stands out, because we offer the students a broader training focusing dually on technology and interpersonal communications," Sarason explains. The strong emphasis on communications training by the Davis program is part of a concerted effort to make the technology-learning process time-effective and frustration-free for busy instructors. Sarason explains that the faculty desire to learn educational technology is ever-present, but that the process can be time-consuming and cumbersome. They hope that when faculty are paired with student technology-users, they will see how technology can be incorporated into their teaching without frustration.

To utilize Davis students for this program is to tap a very rich resource on campus. Not surprisingly, the newest generation of UC Davis students are sharp and enthusiastic when it comes to technology. "Computers are almost a sixth sense for members of my generation," says Lenora Cheung, another of the ET students in training. Like Elizabeth, Lenora is a sophomore who is busy undergoing the fast-paced training by a collection of Mediaworks staff and Davis faculty this quarter, in preparation for the partnership with a faculty member to be arranged in the winter quarter. Students are learning the teaching applications of basic tools such as Excel, Word processing and MyUCDavis, but are also being introduced to the uses of e-mail, Web page development, and digital media tools for creating and editing multimedia presentations.

To participate in this unique pilot program, faculty members are required to make a commitment to the program by signing an affidavit agreeing to implement educational technology in their courses. Faculty members are also required to schedule a meeting with the ET partners during the pilot quarter to discuss their needs and goals before being assigned a student partner.

The ET Partners program has opened its doors to select faculty in a variety of disciplines. The fall quarter meeting for the ET Partners program is scheduled for January 23 at the University Union. The following quarter meeting is scheduled for April 27.

See Pilot Program on p. 4
Virtual Center Bridges UC Campuses

The Teaching and Learning technology Center (TLC) is a new initiative from the UC Office of the President. Its two major components, a grant program (http://www.ucop.edu/acadinit/tltc/tltccall0102.htm) and a “webzine” (http://tltc.sme.org) were designed with the primary aim of showcasing the educational technology being employed at UC and facilitating further use of technology in teaching and learning. The lowercase “t” in TLC is not a typo; it is an intentional message announcing the program’s emphasis on teaching and learning, with technology as a tool, rather than an end in itself. Given the cost and time required of faculty and staff to deploy educational technology, it makes sense to share information and resources among campuses. The “Center,” bridging all UC campuses, is virtual, which means that it exists in cyberspace at http://www.ucop.edu/acadinit/tltc. It provides timely, useful information about the TLC Webzine and Online Forum and the TLC grants program.

A webzine is a magazine published on the World Wide Web. The TLC Webzine and Online Forum (http://www.uctltc.org), launched November 28, is a news and communication hub about educational technology that spotlights innovative people and projects, as well as resources and services in the UC campuses. This site is brimming with helpful information and links, providing a clear sense of how UC instructors are collaborating across departments and campuses and promoting innovative uses of technology in the classroom. The site will maintain a database of UC faculty members using educational technology. Faculty members can be listed individually on a voluntary basis so that they can share educational technology applications with other UC instructors.

The TLC’s impressive grant program is intended to foster the broader use of educational technology by supporting the migration of successful educational applications from one UC campus to the others. Two types of grants are offered: Feasibility or Planning Grants of up to $5,000 are intended to help faculty from different campuses meet and plan; Implementation Grants of 3 years are for planning and disseminating valuable educational technology among two or more UC campuses.

The deadline for the Implementation Grants is April 18, 2002. The deadline for this year’s Feasibility/Planning Grants was November 15, 2001, but it is expected that there will be another round next year. If you would like to apply, email hmatthews@ucdavis.edu as soon as possible.

For more information, read the complete version of this story on the IT Times Web site.

Consortium Provides Opportunities

Technology has changed many things in our daily lives; how we work, play, communicate, and now how we learn. It’s hard enough trying to keep up with the various macro changes in technology, but it becomes especially difficult applying those technologies in meaningful ways at the micro level. What makes sense or best fits our situation, our budget, and our needs? Sometimes the problem rests with where to even begin...

...Enterprise portals, distance education, digital video, wireless networking, computer security, web-based instruction, digital copyrights... We find ourselves needing guidance on how to improve learning and administrative operations. We often ask, “how are other institutions doing it?”

Even for those who are short on time or budget, there is a resource available: EDUCAUSE. This is an academic organization focused on using technology to meet pedagogical goals, and fuel educational technology exploration.

EDUCAUSE (http://www.educause.edu) was formed on July 1, 1998 through the merging of two like organizations, EDU COM and CAUSE, whose combined experience in the IT higher education field amounted to sixty years. EDU COM was primarily focused on instructional technologies that can help faculty improve learning. CAUSE was primarily focused on how to use technologies to improve the student learning process and/or organization. Eventually, it made sense to consider how technology was blurring these distinctions, since improvements by faculty, librarians, or administrators could affect one another. A such, EDUCAUSE became a “non-profit consortium of colleges, universities, and other organizations, dedicated to the transformation of higher education through the application of information technologies.” To meet this goal, EDUCAUSE provides to its constituents a variety of opportunities and valuable resources including:

• conferences and networking opportunities.
• professional development programs.
• regular publication of the journals EDUCAUSE Quarterly, EDUCAUSE Review, and other “white papers” which focus on an array of educational technology topics, policies, perspectives and opportunities. (Many of these publications invite you to submit articles for publication.)
• online information resources (web site, listserv, e-tools).

For detailed information about these resources and publications coming from EDUCAUSE read the complete story on the IT Times Web site.

Repro Graphics Joins Office of Administration

No disruption in services anticipated

Vice Provost John Bruno and Vice Chancellor for Administration Janet Hamilton reached agreement in early November for Repro Graphics to transition to the Office of Administration. The transition was made effective December 1, 2001.

Dave Shelby, Assistant Vice Provost and Chief Operating Officer for Information and Educational Technology (IET), helped plan and coordinate the transition. Echoing a sentiment shared by IET and Office of Administration leadership, Shelby noted that “aligning Repro Graphics more closely with some of the units within the Office of Administration will foster even greater opportunities of partnerships that will benefit both the departments and the campus community.”

Repro Graphics provides copying, printing, design, and publishing services to all members of the campus community. The production facility is expected to remain in its current location at Chiles Road for the foreseeable future. Contact information remains the same: (530) 752-COPY, or reprographics@ucdavis.edu. The newly-redesign Web site can be found at http://reprographics.ucdavis.edu.

For more information, read the complete version of this story on the IT Times Web site.

Setting Up Absence Email and Voice Mail Messages

Before you leave for your holiday break, an important item on your checklist should be the management of electronic and phone messages during your absence. This can prevent a backlog of email or voice mail messages, particularly if you subscribe to email lists with heavy traffic or if you are a list owner. Visit the UC Davis email Web site, http://email.ucdavis.edu/vacation.html for more details on how to check your mail away from home.

For step-by-step instructions on setting up email or voice mail absence notification messages, read the complete version of this story on the IT Times Web site.
UC Davis Technology Resources for Faculty
http://ftg.ucdavis.edu/
If you’re an instructor and you’ve been searching all the different avenues for building a course Web site, or you just need help using the equipment in your classroom, the Faculty Technology Guide Site is an essential tool. Designed to help you navigate the vast landscape of instructional technology resources on campus, it will also keep you updated on educational technology news and events that are useful to you.

Want to Go Wireless?
http://wireless.ucdavis.edu/
UC Davis campus affiliates have been able to enjoy wireless network access since January 2000. This fast connection speed allows access to the Internet and email without having to use Ethernet cables. The new Wireless Web site includes practical info like how to register your laptop to access the wireless network and where to find the areas with wireless connectivity. The site also offers a draft of a wireless network policy regarding security issues.

Campus Video Archives
http://video.ucdavis.edu/
The Media Distribution Lab in 1101 Hart Hall houses a diverse videotape library that includes everything from popular films to campus-produced educational videos. Classroom Technology Services has created an online videotape database to help instructors search for and locate available videotapes to show in their classrooms. The easy-to-use database allows users to conduct searches by title, director, description, or subject. A dding to its convenience, the database provides the length, location, and a brief description of each film.

The Web often serves us by offering access to information and resources but, as we have seen since September 11, it can also serve as a kind of community. The following UC Davis Web sites provide meeting places where our concerns and questions are met with outlets of support and education in the aftermath of September 11th.

Community responds to Sept. 11 Crisis
http://www.new.s.ucdavis.edu/sept11_response/
The terrible events of September 11 have affected all of us. Among the actions that UC Davis has taken is the creation of this Web page, which serves as a clearinghouse of information and resources for the community in the wake of the tragedy. You’ll find a schedule of public forums on campus that examine various aspects of terrorism. A list of conferences and workshops related to September 11, information on the Middle East, and counseling resources here on campus. Also, there’s a “How You Can Help” section where you can learn about financial or blood donation.

9/11 Education Forum
http://currentcrisis.ucdavis.edu/
A list created after September 11, this page is the home base for “an informal collective of faculty, students and community members, who began meeting in early October.” The page has information about the “Monday Night Series” of presentations, discussions, teach-ins and films designed to educate the community about the historical and political context of the events. There’s also a listing of classroom materials available to instructors, including films, videos, and books about such topics as Afghanistan, Islam, the Taliban, and media representations of the Middle East.

Academic & Staff Assistance Program
http://www.hr.ucdavis.edu/Quality_of_Work_Life/04_Staff_Support/02_Counseling/asap
The Human Resources Division’s Academic & Staff Assistance Program (ASAP) provides a resource for any university employees needing help resolving a personal or work-related problem. Among the site’s offerings is a list of community resources we can use in time of crisis and a variety of presentations and workshops on such topics as “Self at Midlife: The Challenges of Change” and “Holiday Blues.” A list available are a number of support groups which aim to provide a safe environment where you can learn about financial or blood donation.

Diverse Campus Team Aces Bid for Biophotonics Center
Mediaworks Plays Integral Role
BY JEFF VAN DE POL

In a bid for a new Center for Biophotonics, Science and Technology, Mediaworks recently assisted a cross-disciplinary team of UC Davis researchers prepare for what turned out to be a “flawless” review by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Biophotonics is the science of using light and other energies to analyze and measure biological issues. It offers the ability to diagnose and monitor diseases (such as breast cancer) nearly at the speed of light. Future uses of this technology will severely minimize, and in some cases virtually eliminate, the hospital time and long recovery periods that current procedures require.

Recognizing the revolutionary impact of biophotonics, over 150 different academic institutions applied for the 40 million dollar grant offered by the NSF. UC Davis was chosen as one of the 11 finalists to undergo a “site review” on October 23rd by the NSF committee who will award the funding in Spring 2002.

A letter from Dr. Dennis Matthews, head of the UC Davis proposal, Mediaworks and UC Davis proved ready for the challenge, as the site review went exceptionally well. “The presentations, organization, food service, transportation, panels, posters, student luncheon, audio visuals, and computer services were accomplished without a single detectable glitch,” says Dr. Matthews.

to make the NSF visit a success, effective collaboration was needed between a wide variety of departments and individuals. “I worked with eleven different presenters and their colleagues and staff. We put together a full-day presentation to showcase the work already done by these high profile individuals. We wanted to demonstrate how all their disciplines, research and discoveries would come together in this new Center to benefit the campus, students and humankind in a shared environment,” offers Steve Ording, an artist in Mediaworks. The final result involved integrating eleven different PowerPoint presentations with video, movies and animations into a single presentation. Matthews is pleased with the effort of Mediaworks and the UC Davis team: “I feel very content that we did the best possible job of exhibiting our potential to host a Biophotonics Center.”

For more information on Biophotonics or the Mediaworks staff involved in the bid, read the complete version of this story on the IT Times Web site.

Campus Works to Repel Network Intrusions
BY ROBERT ONO, SECURITY COORDINATOR

The campus enjoys access to high-speed Internet connections, which are critical for UC Davis to meet its broadcast research, teaching and public service mission. However, the campus network we use is also attractive as a target of computer virus infections and intrusion attempts. As a result, in late fall, Information and Educational Technology initiated a project to review the advantages and disadvantages of using intrusion detection technology within the campus. Intrusion detection systems help repel unwanted network and host intrusion activities by noticing specific patterns, or signatures, of suspicious activity and responding to the activity by terminating the connection or offering an alert.

For more details about the intrusion detection project, see the IT Times Web site. If you have any questions, you should contact Robert Ono, the project chairperson, at raono@ucdavis.edu. The project’s recommendations will be published in late spring.
Alliance  
continued from page 1

A Broadening Horizon

Computer technology has already had a major impact on libraries, and is beginning to have an impact on library materials. We are moving beyond the significant yet primitive step of converting a card catalog to a searchable electronic database and entering the realm where the library itself is available electronically. The partnership of the CDL and bepress hopes to change the way that journals and scholarship work by providing a forum that organizes, distributes, and communicates research findings. bepress tools are designed to allow authors to upload their work into a database which then tracks that work as it is processed, evaluated, and adjudicated by reviewers and editors, and made available to subscribers.

Initially this might sound like the traditional journal process dressed up in new clothes; however, bepress does begin to try apart the model by allowing scholars to share almost unlimited additional materials (such as data sets and illustrations) that do not fit within the covers of a traditional journal.

Teaching Applications

The review and tracking tools may be of particular interest in the teaching and learning applications of this technology. A class size increase, more faculty are turning to a system of peer review for writing exercises, having students read and comment on each other's drafts. This has the dual benefits of giving students insight into the editorial process and reducing the number of drafts that the instructor must wade through. Yet this process saddles the instructor with the time-consuming task of managing the reviews and reviewers. This tool could be used to assist a class in managing such a peer review process.

Greg Tananbaum, bepress Vice President, confirms that the database tool does not discriminate between the types of documents it is organizing. It can be used to create an online journal, a repository of theses and dissertations, or a collection of undergraduate term papers.

As we see with almost any innovation, the immediate uses and predictions are rarely the most interesting or influential. It will be exciting to see what is waiting around the next bend. This might be the beginning of a major change in how we learn. We are very lucky to find the fruit of this partnership ripening on our very own doorstep.

Editors Note

As the Program Coordinator of Educational Technology at the Teaching Resources Center, Victoria L. Cross offers her expert perspective on this innovative alliance between the California Digital Library and Berkeley Electronic Press.

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Pilot Program

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writing skills and software programs (such as Photoshop, Dreamweaver, PowerPoint, and Fireworks) which will allow them to help faculty create course Web sites and digital lecture presentations. The other half of the three-weekly training sessions covers communication skills, role-playing, and problem solving scenarios.

The students in training represent a diversity of majors—everything from pre-med, to computer science, to psychology. Between the 12 students, 8 different majors are represented. Sarason explains this hiring choice: "In selecting the students, we thought the combination of their different backgrounds would create a team of students who can complement each other's strengths."

By the end of the quarter the students will be ready to pair up with their assigned faculty members. Sarason explains the vision of the partnership: "We want our students to guide the mouse rather than have it guide them. It is truly a meaningful learning experience and partnership." The faculty member will guide the partnership determining the projects to be undertaken, with the student providing the support and coaching necessary to carry out the goals. Sarason notes that both faculty member and student partner will find this experience rewarding. "The role reversal will be a good experience for the students, some of whom are interested in going into teaching."

The individual rewards for the program participants (both faculty and student) are obvious. But Elizabeth and Lenora, both extremely intelligent and articulate, are quick to outline the benefits that the ET Partners Program will offer the campus as a whole. Lenora explains, "the biggest reward of this program is that many people on campus will become more educated both immediately and in the future." True to the program's intent, Elizabeth explains that widespread familiarity with technology can have meaningful results: "Technology can enhance learning, because it accommodates all the types of learners—auditory, visual, tactile, kinesthetic. To be able to look at an image, hear a professor discussing it, read it, see text displayed, hear sounds—all these elements will help a student absorb information and knowledge."

A long with so many faculty, students and staff on the UC Davis campus, Elizabeth says she constantly imagines how they might “enhance the learning experience.” The ET Partners Program, she ventures, "will be very beneficial" in achieving this shared goal.

In the next IT Times, we’ll catch up with Elizabeth and Lenora in the midst of their faculty partnership. In the meantime, find more information about the ET Partners program by visiting http://mediaworks.ucdavis.edu/ where you can also get a glimpse of Program curriculum and application process for spring quarter.