Picture a young woman shopping in the grocery store while listening to a lecture from her history class. Picture an adolescent uploading his presentation for his communications class on YouTube. Envision having the resources to bring in guest speakers from all over the world. Fortunately, these aren’t just figments of my imagination—they are the way we can teach in the 21st century.

Distance Education has certainly changed the way I teach and learn. It is important to me that I convey the message to my students that distance does not mean absence. I continue to be amazed by the endless possibilities that a virtual classroom can present. I have found distance education to enhance the quality of my courses, and research supports the idea that faculty can utilize a variety of pedagogical approaches in an online environment that can improve communication between students and faculty, increase student motivation to learn, and provide an environment that can be tailored to meet the needs of students with different learning styles.

Incorporating innovative teaching strategies in an online environment is critical to the process of course development. As I continue to teach online, I learn new techniques each year that enhance the quality of my courses. I have found that incorporating audio and/or video lectures, for example, provides students with the opportunity to feel like they are in a more traditional classroom while being in the comfort of their own homes. This year I have focused on enhancing the learning communities within my distance courses.

Although online learning communities present their own challenges, research supports the notion that the first line of support for a college student is from that of a peer. As students learn to connect in an on-line environment, they become part of a class, rather than being a single individual in an online course. One of the first steps in a learning community is to provide an opportunity for students to get to know one another.

This semester I challenged my students to use the wimba voice board to record their own introductions. To my surprise, students jumped on the opportunity and put their technical skills to the test. I was thrilled to hear that one student had recorded his audio using a playstation, but even more excited to see the feedback that he received as others quickly replied, “How did you do that?” Throughout the semester, students have continued to work together to formulate group responses in discussion boards and have benefited from the opportunity to learn from one another. Most would report that the learning communities have also made the course more enjoyable.

As the need for distance education courses continues to rise, it is important that faculty work together to increase the number of online courses we offer and that we continue to focus on the quality of the online instruction that we provide. In so doing, it is essential that we continue to incorporate the latest technologies and trends that make online course delivery current in a continually changing learning environment.
**Academic Notes by Dave Hellmich**

As a young English professor, I typically found myself getting into a funk at this point of the semester. I had begun the semester certain I had made just the right changes to my syllabi and had incorporated just the right new teaching techniques so that this would be the semester when I successfully connected with and motivated all of my students. I could no longer deny my failure at this point of the semester.

Once again, there were those students who never gave my classes a chance and disappeared weeks ago; once again, there were those students who still sat in my classes but had underachieved to the point that a passing grade was an impossibility. I never expected I could convince every student to pledge his or her academic future to English, but I did expect I could convince every student to do his or her best.

My funk would last a week or two until Kathy Turner, Barbara Sloan, and other colleagues would get me excited about changes I could make to my syllabi and new teaching techniques I could incorporate into my classes so the next semester would be that perfect semester.

I never did experience that perfect semester as a professor.

This semester, I know, is less than perfect for many... and, I know, my recent email about 2008-2009 workload is partly to blame.

The deficit comes at a horrible time: we are still early into our CKTC/LCC merger; we are faced with uncertainties about our future Lexington campus location; and we have a major SACS visit on the horizon. With all of our challenges, a deficit is the last thing we need.

Seventy percent of the college’s budget goes to academics; thus, academics has to play a significant role in working toward a balanced budget. All other areas of the college will be contributing their share as well.

We are living in the proverbial “interesting times.” With all areas of the college coming together to work toward a balanced budget, I look forward to a time, not too many months from now, when the most interesting part of the day is trying to figure out the right changes to next semester’s syllabi and talking with colleagues about new teaching techniques. I will be actively engaged in these conversations as I get advice on how to improve the online section of ENG 101 I will be teaching in the fall and in the spring.

**Faculty Council Report by Mike Binzer**

Faculty Council is continuing to work on several issues that seem rather small but are actually important in principle. The first issue is the KCTCS Eligible to Serve List, which determines the number of Senators our college will have in the KCTCS Senate. The confusion comes in on whether Full Time-Temporary Faculty not replacing an existing faculty member should be included on this list. Including these faculty would give a better reflection on the college’s size, but these faculty would not be able to vote and are not expected to participate in faculty governance; so should they be included on the list?

The second issue we are working on is what kind of documentation a program going from pilot status to permanent status should be expected to provide for approval. One side of the issue is that in final approval of a program only the condition of the curriculum is being evaluated. The other side, however, is that FC should be able to express concerns about offering a new program when funding is insufficient to properly fund existing, healthy programs. Pat Lefler is working with a subcommittee on a form to alert coordinators to the questions FC will expect to have answered in this step of the process.

The final principle issue I will mention here is trying to put the real curriculum flow process into language. Jennifer Pevely is leading a group to try to express this process in “layperson’s terms.” This is a very convoluted process, and the group has already identified several places in which the actual process does not follow the written documentation both within the college and in the system. The next step will be to either reflect the actual process or try to change the formal documentation.

To view faculty council pages go to:

http://www.bluegrass.kctcs.edu/employees/faculty_council/

Up-coming Meetings:
All meetings at 3:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

May 5, 2008 - Time & Site TBD

Contact information:
mike.binzer@kctcs.edu

5-6518 (on campus)
SAC’s Timeline & Up-Dates 2009 Reaffirmation by Sandy Carey

Check out the new SACS site on ITES:
https://www.bluegrass.kctcs.edu/ites/

Add to the list of possible topics or discuss a topic being considered for the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

As the SACS reaffirmation process begins again, we need to remember the value of accurate and honest self-examination. The more we understand about our institution and how it operates, the better the institution can become. As the SACS Steering Committee closely examines evidence to determine our level of compliance with each of the accreditation standards, we will know more and more about the institution—from the inside out.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Compliance Certification Report</th>
<th>QEP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Steering Team Meets Reports to College</td>
<td>Compliance Certification Report Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td></td>
<td>QEP Topic Selected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Steering Team Meets Reports to the College</td>
<td>Draft Compliance Certification Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td></td>
<td>Continue Electronic Evidence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Committee Reports

Arts on Campus Committee (Teresa Tope, coordinator) – is pleased that the college has been awarded a $40,000 W. Paul and Lucille Caudill Little Foundation Grant, which will support and enhance the theatre arts and filmmaking programs, and that the college’s chorale was selected to sing the National Anthem at a Lexington Legend’s game at Applebee’s Park; the choir, under the direction of John Stegner and supported by piano accompanist Alice Green, is busy preparing for the April 25 spring concert at the Lexington downtown library and for a BCTC graduation performance.

General Education Committee (Jan Holland, coordinator) – is involved in the process of learning to read assessment progress notes/reports in WEAVEonline, the new college database, and will send comments to assessment coordinators in the various general education program areas as part of our charge to monitor assessment practices; the committee has also been involved with formulating assessment questions for the Graduating Student Survey.

Rules Committee (Chad Mueller, chair) – made editorial changes to the Rules of the Faculty that removed outdated language; decided against adding rank or experience requirements to serve on the Curriculum Review or other standing committees; held a special election to replace our Board of Directors member; approved a change clarifying that our faculty automatically grant permission for a student to withdraw from BCTC courses past the mid-term date, if the student is withdrawing from all classes; proposed a rule change classifying full-time temporary faculty as non-voting members of the BCTC Faculty; and set up the spring series of college-wide and division-level elections.

Staff Council (Kathy Shoemaker, chair) – revised its bylaws, held a human resource meeting for staff about a wide range of HR-related questions, planned a week of events for faculty and staff during spring break, and reviewed the state budget issues.
Division News & Reports

The Allied Health Division (Greg Zoll, Assistant Dean) reports that the Selective Admissions Committees for most of the Allied Health Programs have been very busy; the applicant pool has been very strong with many more highly qualified applicants than can be accepted due to limited spots. Also, Joanna Aalboe and Laura Justice have received Dr. Julian’s approval to submit the grant proposal “Wisdom of Oral Health: A Healthy Smile at Every Age,” which, if funded, will be the third grant that the Dental Hygiene Program will have secured through the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and will provide increased accessibility to low-cost preventive dental hygiene care to the geriatric population in the Lexington area. Finally, Laura Justice was accepted to participate in the ADEA Allied Dental Faculty Leadership Development Program at the Coeur d’Alene Resort in Coeur d’ Alene, Idaho. ADEA has a rich set of leadership opportunities for a wide range of members, and this program is one in which there is a lot of institutional pride. Applications for the program are put through a rigorous screening process. A robust application pool made for a vigorous selection process to determine which candidates would receive the 21 slots in the program.

The Nursing Division (Carolyn Lewis, Assistant Dean) continues to work with the Adult Education Department on an Adult Based Education Career Connections project that is funded by a $75,000 grant from the Department of Education; the goal of this project is to improve and expand the Nursing Career Lattice Program to strengthen career pathways for ABE participants to enter and advance in the nursing profession. The division is proud that its most recent Kentucky Board of Nursing pass rates are as follows: Leestown PN program 93%; Cooper RN program 91%; and Danville PN program 100%.

Besides the routine craziness with wrapping up another semester, the faculty in the Natural Sciences Division (Tammy Liles, Assistant Dean) have many projects occurring in the month of April. The Science Outreach Committee is partnering with the Lexington Public Library to offer three science programs (Blood and Guts, Exploring Energy with Dr. Z and Physics Petting Zoo) for elementary and middle school children during Fayette County School’s spring break.

The Environmental Science Program (Jean Watts and Tracy Knowles) is working with UK’s Environmental Research Lab and Friends of Wolf Creek to determine the origins of fecal coliforms in the Wolf Creek watershed. The biology and chemistry areas are busy organizing the new Winchester Campus science lab that will open in fall 2008. Natural Sciences (Norm Strobel and Bill Luyster) will host the SCI 295 Mid-year Conference on April 25 in AT lobby; we expect over 60 faculty and students from KCTCS to attend. Finally, the Science Excel Scholarship program is accepting applications from science majors until April 30.
Teaching & Learning Notebook Conference Presentations

Tim Davis gave two presentations at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Chattanooga, TN. The first workshop/panel discussion, *Teaching an Old Script New Tracks*, dealt with putting a new directorial concept on older, traditional material and used the BCTC production of *Working* as a main discussion point; Darren Michael form Austin Peay State University was a co-presenter. The second workshop, *Outdoor Drama Survival Skills*, dealt with what young actors and technicians should expect when signing on to an outdoor drama; Darren Michael and Rob Fox, the head of the Institute for Outdoor Drama located in Chapel Hill, were co-presenters.

Claude Gross conducted a session on Construction Safety Management at the January 2008 Kentucky Governors Conference in Lexington. He will present on the same topic in Louisville in May.

Kelly Hagan has written the following articles published in the *Visually Impaired Preschool Services Newsletter*: *Sleeping Difficulty in Visually Impaired Preschoolers, Holiday Stress and Depression, Managing Tantrums, and Parenting Children with Difficulties*. The sleeping and parenting articles were published in Indiana and Illinois, respectively, for distribution to families that have children with disabilities.

Becky Haley presented *Fulfilling Dreams in Adult Education: Managing the Multi-Level Classroom* at the College Teaching & Learning Conference, Lake Buena Vista, Florida in January 2008; her manuscript was chosen for publication in the *Journal for College Teaching & Learning*.

Carolyn Lewis and Laura Fraebel had abstracts accepted for presentations at the New Horizons conference and the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Conference. These presentations will highlight the work being done by BCTC’s Nursing Division in conjunction with several public and private partners taking a proactive approach to provide increased access to all levels of nursing education and implement career mobility pathways which will have a positive impact on the healthcare workforce in the region. Carolyn also was the keynote speaker for Children’s Hospital in Washington, DC on the importance of specialty certification in nursing.

Bonnie Nicholson and Sandra Mullins conducted a session of *Leadership During Change* at Ashland Community and Technical College’s conference in October. The material covered in the session included the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997, the formation of KTCS, and the identification of leadership behaviors that may lead to successful mergers.

Clovis Perry is presenting *Teaching Methods in Human Geography* at the Spring 2008 Kentucky Geographic Alliance pre-service teacher workshops for Western Kentucky University pre-service teachers in Bowling Green, Kentucky, on April 18 and is presenting *Creating Learning Objects for the E-Learning Environment* at the 2008 KY Council on Post Secondary Education Conference in May 2008. Also, he has been selected as a contributing writer on the issue of Geographic Education/Pedagogy in the bimonthly newsletter entitled *Perspectives* published by the National Council for Geographic Education.

Leif Rigney presented *Yardsaling to Byzantium*, at the Kentucky Philological Association conference on March 7, 2008; this short story is about the complex relationship between two aimless, small-town men who burglarize yard sales.

Lynn Roser co-authored the article *Knowledge, Attitudes, Barriers, and Adherence* that was published in the 2008 issue of *Progress in Cardiovascular Nursing*.

David Wachtel is presenting a paper to the 15th Annual Conference of the Midwest Institute for International and Intercultural Education in Cleveland Lorain County Community College on April 19, 2008. The paper addresses challenges ranging from behavior in class to the role of the teacher and gender issues that are faced by international students when they come to our campuses.

Up-Coming Events:

May 10 (noon until 8 pm) at the 2008 Peace and Global Citizenship Fair, BCTC Cooper Campus Grounds, Lexington.

KY Wine and Arts Festival at Talon Winery

June 14th, 11:00 am-7:00 pm and June 15th, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Milestones

Jennifer Brocato recently earned her Masters of Nursing.

Jessica Cruse received the “Teachers Who Made a Difference” award from The University of Kentucky College of Education on March 29.

Erin Howard has been notified that BCTC is being awarded a $10,000 grant from the KY College Access Network, a partnership that includes CPE & Prichard Committee with funding from the Lumina Foundation; the purpose of the grant is to encourage expansion of college access programs throughout the state.

The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Representative Susan D. Westrom recognized Jeanne Humble as an outstanding educator. Jeanne was described as “a fireball of energy and power” and praised for her high standards.

William (Carey) Lake recently earned his Masters of Nursing.

Carolyn Lewis has been asked to serve on an international task force that will report to the Board of Directors for Sigma Theta Tau International, the international nursing honor society.

Karen Mayo has been awarded the PTK International Paragon Award in recognition of distinguished service by chapter advisors who are serving in their second to fourth year. The award was given out at the 90th International Convention of Phi Theta Kappa, which was held April 2-5, 2008, in Philadelphia, PA. Margo Hamm, Kentucky Regional Coordinator, accepted on Karen’s behalf.

Cheryl Puckett served as specialty reviewer on four OB/Pediatric textbook for Lippincott and FA Davis.

Dan Schuman was awarded a BELL Grant (British Experience in Living and Learning) to study and reside at Regent’s Park College of Oxford University during the Summer of 2008. During his stay at Oxford, Dan plans to study the history of British Philosophy with particular emphasis on the role that philosophers at Oxford have played in the development of Anglo-American thought. He will also use his experience at Oxford to supplement his various philosophy courses, particularly his courses in the history of philosophy.

Jim Tibbatts has been elected chair of I-CAR, the national collision repair training association.

Submit us your ideas for future issues!

Send ideas, photos and/or submissions to
Dave Hellmich
david.hellmich@kctcs.edu

or
Barbara Hoskins
barbara.hoskins@kctcs.edu

BCTC is an equal opportunity employer and education institution.