

IRM NEWS

APRIL 2006

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE	1
ELECTRONIC CLASSROOMS	1
"CLICKERS"	2
BLACKBOARD TIPS & TRICKS	2
TRAINING – APRIL 2006	3

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

Information Resource Management (IRM) would like to invite you to join us for an Instructional Technology Showcase to highlight innovative approaches to using technology in the classroom and beyond. We hope to stimulate your imagination as well as offer useful tips for incorporating technology into your course curriculum.

We're counting on you to help make the IT Showcase a success! We welcome presenta-

tion proposals on effective applications of instructional technology. All proposals will be reviewed and evaluated based on the relevancy of the topic, educational significance, value to participants and presenter knowledge and experience.

If you are interested in giving a presentation **please complete the online form** (http://www.itss.fau.edu/itshowcase_cfp.html) **by Monday, April 3**. You will be notified

by Friday, April 7 if your proposal has been accepted. (We apologize for the late notice!)

The IT Showcase will be held on Friday, April 21st from 9 AM – 3 PM (location: TBA). An e-mail announcement will be sent out soon with an RSVP form that you will be asked to fill out if you plan on attending.

ELECTRONIC CLASSROOMS

An additional twenty basic electronic classrooms will be installed in time for the opening of the Fall semester 2006 on the Boca Raton campus. The work will convert a traditional classroom to a basic e-classroom by adding one LCD projector suspended on a secure mount from the ceiling and connected to a networked computer on a new teaching console placed at the front of the room. Faculty will be able to show DVDs and VHS tapes through the new projection system.

IRM's Audiovisual Media Services will conduct scheduled training sessions and will be happy to give individual instruction once the systems are in place. The rooms were selected based on the number of scheduled deliveries of portable

electronic projection equipment over the past three years.

For additional information, please contact Willie Green of Audiovisual Media Services at 561-297-3707.

New Primary DNS Server

The FAU DNS structure has been improved with the addition of a new primary DNS server.

The DNS search order is as follows:

131.91.20.25 (new)

131.91.131.67

131.91.131.16

131.91.43.201

This addition boosts your network connectivity by resolving network addresses on the internet and within FAU faster than before.



“CLICKER” SYSTEM PRESENTATION

On Wednesday, February 15th IRM hosted a presentation on the Classroom Performance System (CPS), also known as “clickers”.

CPS is an easy-to-use interactive instructional tool that enables students to provide electronic responses to questions and gives faculty immediate feedback regarding student comprehension. Most large classrooms at FAU now have the CPS hardware (receivers) and software installed. Each student purchases a wireless remote control response unit (“clicker”) through the bookstore. The student then goes online to activate and register the clicker (using a unique serial number) in his or her professor’s course. The students use their clickers to select an answer and the receivers in the classroom transmit the responses to the instructor’s computer. The gradebook

within the CPS software then logs and tallies student feedback and can instantly display detailed graphs and reports to the entire class using a data projector.

CPS promotes student participation and active learning, especially in large classes. Many faculty members have seen improved attendance since starting clicker use.

Please send an email to itss@fau.edu if you are interested in using CPS in your classes. All upcoming training sessions will be announced on the Faculty/Staff Training website (<http://ecs.fau.edu/training>). If you agree to use CPS in your class you will receive a free Starter Kit and information on ordering student pads at the bookstore. A Starter Kit includes a test receiver, one test student pad, and directions for using CPS.

For more information about “clickers” please visit <http://itss.fau.edu/clicker.htm>



BLACKBOARD TIPS & TRICKS

Document Unpackager

This tool allows you to upload a zip (compressed) file containing multiple folders and files to Blackboard. The zip file is then unpackaged (opened) and used to create course content items with the files attached. The directory structure within the zip file is translated into folders within Blackboard. The advantage to using this is that you don’t have to go through the steps of uploading multiple items into Blackboard from your computer.

For additional information on this tool, go to http://itss.fau.edu/bbtools/doc_package.html.

Archiving Your Course

It is a good idea to make frequent back-ups of your course both during the semester and at the end of the semester. Although the Blackboard server is backed up once a day, these backups are made solely for the purpose of restoring the system in event of a failure. Instructors are solely responsible for their own course backups.

For archiving instructions please visit http://itss.fau.edu/bb_faq_contents.htm or go to the Bb online support (accessible through the “Help” icon in Bb).

Exporting Your Gradebook

You should also export/download your gradebook data to an Excel spreadsheet both during and at the end of the semester. To do so, simply go to your course control panel and click on gradebook then click on the download gradebook link and follow the instructions that are provided.



TRAINING SCHEDULE— APRIL 2006

To enroll in a training course or find out more about training available at FAU please visit <http://ecs.fau.edu/training>.

Blackboard Basics

Faculty must complete a two hour "Blackboard Basics" hands-on training workshop prior to using Blackboard at FAU.

April 12, 2:00 (Boca)

April 14, 1:00 (Boca)

April 18, 2:00 (Boca)

April 19, 2:00 (Boca)

April 27, 10:00 (Boca)

Blackboard: Beyond the Basics

The following courses can be taken after you have completed "Blackboard Basics" training. Each course is a two hour hands-on workshop.

Assignments, Turnitin & Gradebook

April 4, 10:00 (Boca)

April 5, 2:00 (Boca)

April 18, 10:00 (Boca)

Adding Interactivity to Bb

April 5, 10:00 (Boca)

April 11, 2:00 (Boca)

StudyMate: Self-Tests & Games

April 4, 2:00 (Boca)

April 25, 10:00 (Boca)

Respondus: Creating Online Tests

April 13, 10:00 (Boca)

April 26, 10:00 (Boca)

Group and Team Sites in Bb

April 25, 2:00 (Boca)

Computer Applications**Access Level 1**

April 6, 1:00 (Boca)

Access Level 2

April 20, 9:00 (Boca)

Excel Level 1

April 6, 9:00 (Boca)

April 7, 1:00 (Jupiter)

Excel Level 2

April 20, 1:00 (Boca)

PowerPoint Level 1

April 13, 9:30 (Davie)

April 21, 9:30 (Jupiter)

April 28, 9:00 (Boca)

Microsoft Word Level 2

April 28, 1:00 (Boca)

Photoshop CS Level 1

April 7, 9:30 (Jupiter)

April 14, 9:00 (Boca)

Publisher Level 1

April 13, 1:00 (Davie)

April 21, 1:00 (Jupiter)

April 26, 1:00 (Boca)



To enroll in a training course please visit <http://ecs.fau.edu/training>

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