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CITations

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No. 40

CITations is a report featuring information technology-related news of interest to UNC-Chapel Hill faculty members, graduate instructors and the staff who support them. *CITations*, published twice a month, is an electronic service of the ITS Center for Instructional Technology.

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CIT OFFERS FACULTY ADDITIONAL SERVICE HOURS

At the beginning of the semester, the Center for Instructional Technology will be offering weekend service hours for faculty consultations and questions. From 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. January 13-14, a CIT consultant will be available to assist you with pedagogical and technical issues. The consultant will be especially prepared to field any questions regarding the integration of Blackboard's CourseInfo, CIT's discussion forums, or WebCT. For assistance during these times, call 962-8256.

CONFERENCE ON MAKING DISTANCE EDUCATION MATERIALS ACCESSIBLE

Academic Computing Policy, in conjunction with the Center for Instructional Technology, is offering UNC-Chapel Hill faculty the opportunity to participate in a half-day conference to discuss the accessibility of distance education materials and web pages to individuals with disabilities. Attendees may choose to attend the conference either January 29, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. or January 30, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. The conference will take place at the Friday Center.

Keynote speaker Norman Coombs will introduce faculty to accessibility issues to be considered when designing distance education materials. Coombs is CEO of EASI (Equal Access to Software and Information; <http://www.isc.rit.edu/~easi/>), a non-profit organization that helps institutions use technologies in ways that remove barriers for students and staff with disabilities. Participating faculty will be provided with the resources, knowledge, and support to make their distance learning classrooms accessible to everyone, whether disabled or not. All participants will be eligible to receive a follow-up consultation to help them prepare accessible distance education materials. The consultations will be provided by the CIT and scheduled at the faculty member's convenience during the Spring 2001 semester.

For more information contact Jeanne Smythe; email: jeanne_smythe@unc.edu; tel: 962-5322.

BLACKBOARD COURSEINFO HELP FOR YOUR STUDENTS

The IT Response Center (ATN Help Desk) is prepared to help your students with common CourseInfo problems, especially difficulties with access. ITRC can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 962-HELP.

CIT has updated its handout introducing students to CourseInfo. To customize it for your class, you can download a copy at <http://www.unc.edu/cit/courseinfo/QS/studentinstructions.doc>

ENROLLING STUDENTS IN COURSEINFO

Course rolls for Spring semester are now available, including the specially-formatted files used when adding students as course users. Instructions for batch enrolling students and links to the course roll download are available at <http://www.unc.edu/cit/courseinfo/enrollment/>

Instructions for individually adding users to your CourseInfo site are located at http://www.unc.edu/cit/courseinfo/QS/Enrolling&Dropping_Students_QS.htm#BEnroll

NEW ACCESS OPTIONS IN CIT DISCUSSION FORUMS

The CIT is pleased to announce an improvement to the CIT Discussion Forum. You now will be able to restrict a course's forums to participants who have Onyen Ids. If you choose to restrict access by Onyens, you will also be able to require that messages in a certain course be identified with the participants' names. To access your account for these new options and to print the new documentation, go to <http://www.unc.edu/cit/disforum/index.html>

UNC-Chapel Hill'S FUTURE DIRECTIONS WITH BLACKBOARD

Blackboard's CourseInfo has proven to be an easy-to-use tool for many faculty and TAs on campus who are looking for ways to create websites for their courses. This fall, in fact, over 250 courses actively used CourseInfo to supplement face-to-face classes or to deliver online courses. Information Technology Services (ITS) is pleased to announce that we are building on our relationship with Blackboard in order to bring you Blackboard 5 Level 3.

Blackboard 5 Level 3 will maintain the easy-to-use teaching and learning platform that you are familiar with in CourseInfo, but it will also integrate with administrative systems. Once Blackboard 5 Level 3 is implemented, you will not need to request a course. You will not need to enroll or add students. Courses with enrolled students will be created automatically each semester, but they will remain inactive and invisible to students until instructors activate them. In future versions of Blackboard, this level of their product will also include content libraries so instructors can easily reuse content from semester to semester.

Currently, ITS is in negotiations with Blackboard to arrange this deal. Once contracts are signed, we expect that the integration between administrative data and your Blackboard courses will take between six and nine months to initiate. Blackboard 5 Level 3 is only one option for faculty who want to create websites to supplement or deliver their courses. Campus computing services remain committed to supporting several choices for creating web-enhanced courses. We will continue to support a central set independent tools and services, in addition to Blackboard products, to foster customized course websites.

For more information about Blackboard 5 Level 3, contact Kathy Thomas at the Center for Instructional Technology; email: kdt@email.unc.edu; tel: 962-6042.

CAROLINA RECOGNIZED AS A COMPUTING PIONEER

UNC-Chapel Hill is one of eleven U.S. higher education institutions that received a Pioneer award at the Fourth Annual Ubiquitous Computing Conference sponsored by EDUCAUSE. The Pioneer is awarded to colleges and universities that made early commitments toward offering students ubiquitous access to technology and have consistently participated in the Ubiquitous Computing Conference.

MICROSOFT SQL SERVER CLASS

The Carolina Technology Consultants (CTC) is offering a System Administration for Microsoft SQL Server 7.0 class on February 19-23 for CTC members. For details on course content and registration information, link to <http://www.unc.edu/ctc/upcoming.html>

For more information about the CTC, go to the CTC website at <http://www.unc.edu/ctc/>, or contact: Elaine Tola, CTC Services Coordinator, Academic Technology & Networks; tel: 962-9434; email: elaine_tola@unc.edu

SPSS FOR STUDENTS

All ATN labs have SPSS installed for student use. Students who need SPSS on their personal computers have a wide array of purchase options through the UNC-Chapel Hill Ram Shop:

One-Semester Option -- \$37.00

This option gives students one semester's access to a full version of SPSS for the PC. Students purchase this version at the Ram Shop. Option includes an installation CD for their own computers and upgrades during the semester. They do not receive a manual.

Classroom Version Option -- \$72.00

This is a "limited base edition" put out by Prentice Hall for the PC; it includes only 1,500 cases and 500 variables. This option is recommended for introductions to statistics but nothing more involved. Although this option offers less functionality, a manual is included, and students' access extends beyond one semester.

Graduate Student Version Option -- \$175.00

This license option includes full version and a manual, and it extends beyond a semester but does not include upgrades. For this price graduate students can choose from a PC, Mac, or business version. The business version focuses on the regression modules and business analysis tools.

For more information contact Sue Wexler; email: swexler@store.unc.edu; tel: 962-3760.

SAS-UNC GRANT PROPOSALS REQUESTED

During the summer of 2000, the SAS Institute awarded the University of North Carolina system a \$3 million, five year draw-down grant. Much of the grant money is being used to cover the costs of SAS software licenses for the UNC campuses for the period 2000-2005. Some \$500,000 in draw-down funds will be distributed in 2001 in response to proposals submitted from the various campuses. You are invited to prepare and submit a proposal.

UNC General Administration has provided information about the draw-down proposal process at <http://www.northcarolina.edu/ir/procurement/sas/info.cfm>

Note that proposals can be submitted online, as detailed at the site referenced above, and the proposal deadline is 31 January 2001. Proposal requests should not exceed \$50,000-\$60,000.

Please share this information with SAS users in your departments. If you have questions about the grant proposal process, contact Amanda Mancuso; email: mancuso@ga.unc.edu

If you have other SAS grant-related questions, contact Ruth Marinshaw, ATN Applications Support Group Manager & SAS grant point-of-contact; email: ruth@email.unc.edu; tel: 962-4314.

For information regarding acquiring SAS licenses and software at UNC-Chapel Hill, see <http://help.unc.edu/software/sas.html>

DECEMBER 2000 ISSUE OF CIT INFOBITS

CIT Infobits is an electronic service of ATN/CIT. Each month the CIT's Information Resources Consultant monitors and selects from a number of information technology and instructional technology sources that come to her attention and provides brief notes for electronic dissemination to educators. To subscribe see:

<http://www.unc.edu/cit/infobits/index.html#subscribe>

The latest issue is available on the Web at <http://www.unc.edu/cit/infobits/bitdec00.html>

Articles in this issue include:

Pitfalls And Challenges of Internet Research Assignments

Should You Publish in E-Journals?

The Perils of Distance Education

Fall 2000 Education Statistics Quarterly

What's in a Name? Depends on Whom You Ask

Professor to Get Computer Chip Implant

Recommended Reading

THE TECHNOLOGY SOURCE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2001 ISSUE

The January/February 2001 issue of *The Technology Source*, a free refereed Web periodical, is now available online.

The purpose of *The Technology Source* is to provide thoughtful, illuminating articles that will assist educators as they face the challenge of integrating information technology tools into teaching and into managing educational organizations. Issues include commentaries, case studies, reports on faculty and staff development, articles on the virtual university, and links to higher-education websites. You can read *The Technology Source* at <http://horizon.unc.edu/TS/>

The Technology Source seeks articles that will assist educators as they face the challenge of integrating information technology tools in teaching and in managing educational organizations. Please review the call for manuscripts at <http://horizon.unc.edu/TS/call.asp> or contact James L. Morrison, Professor of Educational Leadership, UNC-Chapel Hill School of Education; email: morrison@unc.edu

CITATIONS TIPS ARCHIVE

The ITRC, CBT, and Lyris tips published in *CITations* are archived on the Web so you can locate tips without having to search through all the back issues. The tips archive is at <http://www.unc.edu/cit/citations/tips.html>

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keep informed about technology conferences with the CIT's "Education Technology and Computer-Related Conferences" at <http://www.unc.edu/cit/guides/irg-37.html> and "Calendar of World-Wide Educational Technology-Related Conferences, Seminars, and Other Events." The calendar is on the Web at <http://confcal.unc.edu:8086/>

2001 CITATIONS PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

January 26
February 9 & 23
March 9 & 23
April 6 & 20
May 11 & 25

CITations welcomes announcements from all UNC-Chapel Hill campus organizations involved in instructional and research technology. To have an announcement considered for publication in *CITations*, send email to Carolyn Kotlas, kotlas@email.unc.edu or call 962-9287. The deadline for submissions is noon the day before the publication date.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE OR UNSUBSCRIBE TO CITATIONS

CITations is published twice a month by the Center for Instructional Technology. Back issues are available on the CIT website at <http://www.unc.edu/cit/citations/>

For more information about the CIT, see our Website at <http://www.unc.edu/cit/> or contact our office at 962-6042.

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