

# BOSSIER PARISH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

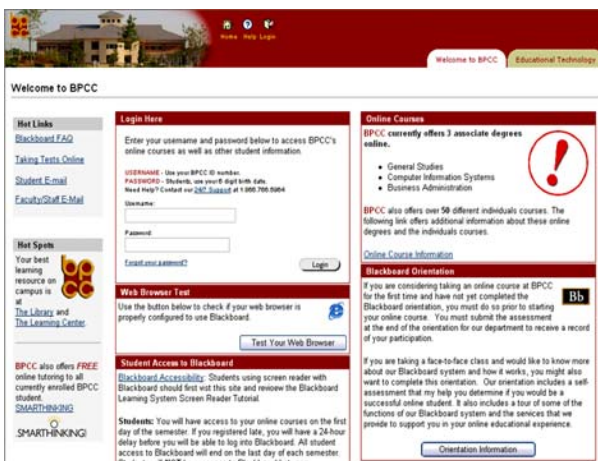
# EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWS

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2  
SPRING 2008

## Blackboard Upgrade

At the end of this semester, we will upgrade to Blackboard version 7.3. While this is a major upgrade, we should be able to do everything we could do with version 6.3 without taking a lot of time to learn Blackboard over again. Some of the new and improved features & tools include:

- New Discussion Board
- New design for login page (*see screenshot below*)
- Windows Vista Compatible
- SafeAssignment (*an anti-plagiarism tool*)



## E-Learning Eat & Meet Gatherings

Bring your lunch and join us as we discuss various e-Learning topics during our series of Brown Bag Eat & Meet Gatherings. Upcoming topics include:

- "A New Course Design Template"
- "Best Practices in Utilizing Discussion Board"
- "Best Practices in Utilizing Multimedia in the Online Environment"

Please see our division webpage for the schedule. Our summer '08 training schedule is also available on our division webpage.

<http://www.bpcc.edu/edtech/trainsch.htm>

## Professional Updates

- In December 2007, **Gary Ware** completed an extensive certification training for system administrators in Blackboard Level 7.
- **Kathleen Gay** and **Luke Dowden** presented on the 2007 SELECT Grant at the 2008 eLearning Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida.
- **Kathleen Gay** and **Ed McGee**, eLearning Coordinator at Delgado Community College, co-presented at the LCTCS Conference in April. The topic of their presentation was "**Quality Does Matter.**"
- **Charley Cameron** and **Gary Ware** have designed and developed a new **Course Design Template** for online courses. The new template will be offered to online instructors this summer.

## Congratulations to Chris Rondeau!

Chris recently participated in a "Quality Matters" Course Review in which a team of experts from "Quality Matters" reviewed his CIS 105-92 online course. After making some revisions to his course, the "Quality Matters" team gave his course their stamp of approval. This course now meets the standards of the national "Quality Matters" rubric.



The Educational Technology Division is so very proud of Chris' accomplishment. This is not only a prestigious honor for Chris, but for the college as well. **KUDOS Chris!**

### Educational Technology Staff:

**Kathleen Gay**, Director  
**Charles Cameron**, Assistant Director  
**Gary Ware**, Instructional Technology Specialist  
**Jennifer Legaux**, Administrative Assistant

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## Tips for Developing & Teaching Online Courses

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- ◆ Gain the attention of your learners early, ensure that students are ready to learn and participate in an online environment. Provide them with resource links such as tutorials for using the features of Blackboard, as well as other helpful information found on the Educational Technology website.
- ◆ Provide your students with practice self-quizzes and allow them to take multiple times for reinforcement.
- ◆ Ensure that your online students understand what they need to know and that learning/unit objectives are written from the students' perspective.
- ◆ Provide organization and relevance to your lessons.
- ◆ Use the learner's experience by asking student recall relevant information.
- ◆ When applicable, animate your course content.

## Outstanding eLearning Educators!

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We would like to commend **Becky Nohse** and **Carol Adkins** for implementing SoftChalk into their online courses. As a result, their students now have additional learning activities to help them comprehend and retain lesson content. Becky also supplements her lesson material by effectively using Blackboard's Discussion Board to create student to student, student to instructor, and instructor to student communication that is so very important in the online environment. Additionally, Carol has been utilizing the new podcasting capability in order to post lecture material. Thanks Becky & Carol and to all of our instructors who are using these tools to enrich the online experience for our BPCCC students.

We would also like to recognize all of our instructors who are teaching classes via compressed video. They are **Ty Bryan** (*Anatomy*), **Alison Martin** (*English*), **Rona Leber** (*Speech*), and **Pam Stogsdill** (*Algebra*). We appreciate the dedication these instructors regularly demonstrate to make it possible for students in other areas to take BPCCC courses.

## Coming Soon!

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- ◆ An online version of our Blackboard Training. We hope to launch this online training during the fall 2008 semester. We will still offer Blackboard training in a face-to-face setting for those who feel like they need it, but on-site training will be limited in the future.
- ◆ We are also working on a separate student orientation for BPCCC's CALL Fast-Track Program. We hope to launch this new orientation by spring 2009 or before. CALL participants have different needs than perhaps our traditional online students. Adult Learner needs will be our focus for this new orientation.