

SABBATICAL LEAVE FINAL REPORT  
ED KELLY

My sabbatical work was accomplished during the 1999-2000 academic year. The two general goals to be achieved were, first, to upgrade my computer skills and second, to improve the interactivity of our online speech course.

Professional Meetings and Conferences:

30 Weekly University of Illinois College of Commerce and Business Administration Brown-bags including presentations by the Oracle Corporation; the Illinois Virtual Campus, Distance Learning Library Services; Video Conferencing; Using Course Management Tools for Grading, Online Student Retention, Online Note-taking

Front Page workshop at Parkland College

Netscape Page Composer Workshop at Parkland College

Presenter at the 1999 Illinois Higher Education Distance Learning Conference at Illinois State University: Using Authoring Tools for Online Courses

Illinois Online Network Workshop, "Strategies for Teaching at a Distance"

Department of Distance Education and Virtual Learning Workshop, "Best Practices in Online Course Delivery"

Parkland College workshop, "Plagiarism Online"

Asynchronous Learning Networks Annual Conference, University of Maryland, "ALN's in Community Colleges", "Lectures on Demand", "Learning Assessment in ALN"

BlackBoard and WebBoard Workshop, Parkland College

Upgrading my computer skills:

In the process of improving the interactivity of our online speech course, I learned the following software applications or computer-related technologies:

PowerPoint, FrontPage, Powwow, WebBoard, video imaging, video editing, streamed video, Hoot, Roger Wilco, Macintosh and PC operating systems, Blackboard, WebCT

Upgrading the interactivity of our online speech course:

The key upgrade was the addition of streamed video to the online speech course, which allows online students to see student examples of performance work required in the course, which was otherwise not available to them.

The college's videographer and I shot approximately 135 five-to-seven minute student speeches. I reviewed the speeches and selected clips which provided real living examples

of the points being discussed in online text lectures. Online students can now view samples of the work of other students. Prior to this innovation, online speech students had no way to view the work of other students.

After the clips were selected, I scripted appropriate introductions and conclusions to each student clip and recorded them on video tape at the Parkland College television studio. Mike Coulter (videographer) and I edited the introductions and conclusions with the appropriate student work. The digitized video files were then compressed to make them more easily streamed on the internet. Finally, the video files were uploaded to a Parkland College server where they are now accessible to anyone enrolled in an online speech course.

Since my classroom students now use the online text lectures, they also have the benefit of the streamed video examples of student work. This outcome saves each speech student about fifty dollars, since there is now no text to buy.

To view the speech course and the examples of streamed student speeches visit

<http://courseinfo.blackboard.com/courses/SPEECH101>

user id: skelly

password: 4000

If you have any difficulty accessing the course, please reach me at [ekelly@parkland.cc.il.us](mailto:ekelly@parkland.cc.il.us)

Since this is the only guest access to the course, you may have to try several times until you are the only guest.

The other key upgrade was to add online testing and grading. This was achieved by using Blackboard, a course management system which incorporates a testing module. Both the midterm and final exams are taken online. When students log in to take the exam, the software selects 25 multiple choice questions from a pool of 100 questions. The student then has 30 minutes to complete the exam. The exam is graded and returned to the student with feedback on each question missed. The student's grade is also recorded in an online grade-book.

I believe that both the streamed video speech examples and the auto-testing bring our online speech course into line with the best in online course offerings. I believe that both Parkland College and I benefited significantly from this one year sabbatical.

Presentations:

IPIC (Illinois Prairie Internet Consortium), "Video Streaming: Is It For You?"-two 90-minute presentations at Parkland College on 10/28/00

"Digitized Video Workshop" for Parkland College faculty, 12/05/00

Ed Kelly  
11/05/00