

Stitch by Stitch

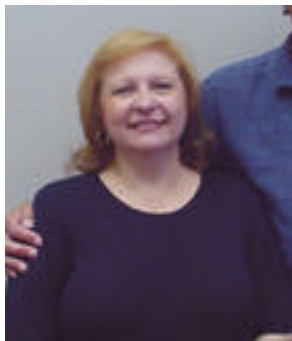


September 2001



"It was nice to set aside time to explore further with Web page development and ask questions." Jennifer Fabbi (CML)

"Excellent! Thanks for making me a believer in technology." Rebecca Nathanson (Special Ed.)



"This was the best workshop I've attended. Great instruction and help and enough time to actually learn how to do it!" Sherri Strawser (Special Ed)

Summer 2001 Training Institute a Success!

Thank you to everyone for helping us deliver another successful training institute! This summer we provided a variety of technology-related workshops for UNLV faculty, mini-grant recipients, and student teaching field supervisors. These seminars covered topics including productivity tools, technology integration, WebCT, and website development.

The workshops were attended by 28 mini-grant recipients, 7 other College of Education faculty, 2 graduate assistants, and 8 field supervisors. Over the course of three weeks, there were a total of 197 registrations for the 21 sessions. Project THREAD's aim was to support individuals who are integrating technology within their courses as well as those who are working with pre-service teachers.

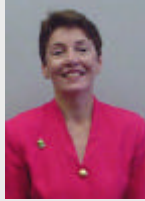
By participating in the Summer 2001 Training Institute, faculty and student teaching supervisors developed their experience with technology and will pass this knowledge on to the students with whom they work. The workshops were offered during the final three weeks of May, during summer session 1. Faculty who were unable to attend can obtain learning materials through the Project THREAD web site:
www.unlv.edu/Projects/THREAD

No Longer Your Grandma's Library: New Technology Resources in the CML

The CML offers many resources that can help faculty and students infuse their teaching with technology. Among these resources are CD-ROM software, online databases covering a broad spectrum of content, and computer hardware that is available for use at the CML.

As a partner with Project THREAD, the CML now houses over 150 CD-ROM programs, covering many subject areas in the Pre K-12 curricula. Two iMac computers are available solely for the purpose of CD-ROM preview, and programs can be put on reserve for courses or checked out for 3-week increments. To access the database of titles, click on "Library Catalog" from the UNLV Library web page (www.library.unlv.edu), click on "course reserves" (either course name or professor/instructor name) and type in "cml cd". Most of the CD-ROM programs are supported by both PC and Mac platforms.

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Mini-Grant Minute

Each issue, we would like to take the opportunity to briefly describe a mini-grant recipient and their project. Our first mini-grant profile involves a team within the College of Education. Aimee Govett and Cynthia Hernon team taught their secondary mathematics (ICS 416) and science (ICS 414) methods courses and were looking for a way to use technology for problem solving, management decision-making, and instructional design. They used their mini-grant to purchase six Texas Instruments Computer-Based Lab (CBL 2), science lab equipment, and a TI 83 Plus Silver Overhead View Screen Package. With this equipment, they were able to require pre-service teachers to use graphing calculators and CBLs to collect data and explore concepts as part of a student inquiry-based lesson design.

In addition to using the CBLs, Aimee and Cynthia worked to integrate other uses of technology into their curricula. Their pre-service teachers used productivity tools in order to analyze and interpret data collected during field trips and then present this as a research-based experience. They also introduced their students to a variety of subject-based educational software, such as Geometer's Sketchpad, Algeblaster, and Fathom. Finally, they required that their pre-service teachers use digital and/or video cameras as well as various productivity tools to create multimedia presentations to address different learning styles for diverse student populations. Aimee and Cynthia's hope is that through their courses, supported by Project THREAD's mini-grant program, they will affect change in the teacher education curriculum and help future educators learn to integrate technology into their teaching. To learn more about this and other mini-grant projects, please visit:

www.unlv.edu/projects/THREAD/mg

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The UNLV Library has purchased subscriptions to many online databases and indexes that can provide full text resources right at your fingertips. These resources can be accessed from anywhere on campus or from home... great for those WebCT courses!

EDRS E*Subscribe offers access to the entire ERIC document database from 1966 forward and full-text electronic document images from 1993 forward. Documents may also be searched through ERIC FirstSearch to link with E*Subscribe for document access.

Professional Development Collection provides a highly specialized collection of nearly 440 full text journals, designed for professional educators.

SIRS Discoverer is an interactive tool that strengthens research, reading, writing and computer skills. Because it includes middle and elementary curriculum topics, Discoverer can be easily integrated into classroom activities.

World Book Online includes full text articles from the most current print edition of World Book Encyclopedia, 1800 additional articles, web links, multimedia features, teacher & parent resources. **Available only in the CML.**

New! Kraus Curriculum Development Library Online provides PDF reproductions of the more than 300 complete curriculum documents that make up the 20th edition of this resource. These documents have been developed by experienced curriculum specialists from school systems throughout the English-speaking world and cover all disciplines, subjects, and grade levels found in Pre-K through 12th grade education and Adult Basic Education. Also includes access to the Cumulative Index, 1983-2001.

New! Discovering Collection is comprehensive, cross-curricular reference source combining thousands of biographies, topical overviews, critical analyses, plot summaries, events, and media elements into a single database that supports K-12 classroom learning.

To access these resources, click on "Research and Information" from the UNLV Library web page (www.library.unlv.edu), click on "Find Journal Articles" and find the title you are seeking in the alphabetic list. To connect from home, follow the instructions from the link at the top of the "Find Journal Articles" page.

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Weaving Field Supervisors Into our Learning Community

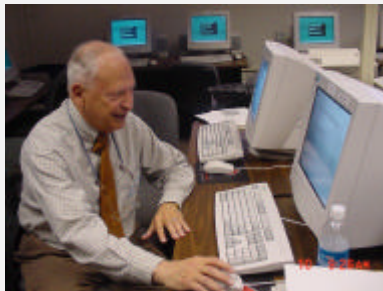
In addition to working with faculty to support infusion of technology into their courses, another goal of Project THREAD is to develop the skills of field supervisors to assess technology use during practicum and student teaching placements and to support students' efforts. To accomplish this task, we conducted a needs assessment with field supervisors this past spring. Results of that survey were used to design a series of workshops to introduce the supervisors to a range of technology uses in the classroom. The workshops focused on presentation software, productivity applications such as spreadsheets, and introduction to digital still and video cameras.



The supervisors' initial trepidation about using technology soon gave way to enthusiasm as they learned how to add graphics and customize text in presentations. They saw the power of technology as they learned how to input data in spreadsheets, and easily transform those numbers into colorful graphs. They also explored the empowerment of technology as they learned how to insert digital pictures into documents to tell their own stories.



Altogether, 20 field supervisors participated in our first series of workshops. The hands-on practice time and one-on-one support helped develop their personal skills with technology. In addition, Project ENTICE videos were used to provide a framework for understanding and "seeing" what technology use looks like in K-12 classrooms. This combined approach of enhancing personal skills and providing a framework for understanding is a key piece in developing their capacity for assessing technology use during practicum and student teaching placements and supporting the efforts of their students. The impact of these workshops was best summed in a comment from one of the participants: "Technology will have a major impact on education...I feel fortunate to be able to participate in this worthwhile project. As a supervisor of student teachers, I need to have as much knowledge as possible to be able to help them out in the field."



Technology: Beyond Computers

As computers become more and more familiar in the classroom environment, teachers are beginning to embrace other technological tools to deliver the type of high-tech instruction necessary for the twenty-first century student. No longer are students in awe of PowerPoint presentations and VHS movies. The stimulus in their daily lives far outweighs that of the straight lecture classroom.

Participants in Project THREAD mini-grants have begun to get creative and have dramatically enhanced their course content to include useful and interesting tools for instructional modeling. Several multi-media projects included the use of digital still images and video clips.

Projects in the science department integrated microscopes attached to computers as well as hand-held data collection devices. One course will now incorporate the use of an electronic personal response system to survey the students and determine the degree of retention during lectures.

Many participants created interactive Web pages and on-line communities to stimulate discussions outside the classroom. We will be offering 24 College of Education mini-grants next summer. Look for the RFP in March 2002.

New Technology Integration E-Handbook

Part Time Instructors in the UNLV College of Education have been at a disadvantage when it comes to using technology to teach their courses. It has been difficult to know what technology is available, how to access it, and how to find support to both set it up and to trouble shoot problems.

Now there is on-line help. The "E-Handbook" is an electronic handbook that provides necessary information on locating and reserving technology for use in teacher education courses at UNLV. Part Time Instructors receive a two-page hard copy handbook that introduces them to essential technology services. The handbook provides a web address that offers additional information on technology requirements, course content standards, and accessing technology. The E-Handbook also provides samples of activities and related web addresses that instructors can use in individual, small-group, or whole-class instruction. Samples of rubrics for performance assessment are also provided.

The E-Handbook links to the C & I web page, which includes criteria and models for syllabi development, as well as resources for part time instructors to more efficiently meet their needs.

To visit the technology E-Handbook page, go to:

<http://www.unlv.edu/projects/THREAD/ehandbook/index.html>

To go directly to the C & I web page that provides information on designing course syllabi, content area standards, and assistance for instructors, go to:

<http://www.unlv.edu/Colleges/Education/CI/ehandbook/index.html>

Meet the THREAD Staff:



Angela Nickels

Angela is the Senior Technical Assistant for Project THREAD. She is a Secondary Education major, and joined THREAD in January after attending ICS 234, Computers in the Classroom. As part of her position, Angela has learned how to create I-movies, burn CDs, digitize videos, as well as numerous tips and tricks for various software applications. She has created many of the instructional materials found on the THREAD Web site. Her outside interests include reading, baking, and crafting. She also loves raising her three-year-old daughter, Olivia. For technical assistance, Angela can be reached at 895-2513 or through e-mail at angela.nickels@cmail.nevada.edu.

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Finally, the CML has acquired all new computer workstations with access to Microsoft Office 2000 Premium software and a color printer. In its updated classroom space, complete with a SMART Board, CML staff are able to provide orientations for Education classes, which can be scheduled by calling x3593 or from the CML web page. These orientations can be tailored to meet the individual needs of your students.

Don't forget to check out the CML web page, especially the "Web Resources" portion at www.library.unlv.edu/cml/webresources.html. Any feedback or suggestions for web links are much appreciated! Please direct any questions to Jen Fabbi at x3884 or jfabbi@cmail.nevada.edu.

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Project THREAD staff office: CEB 399J/895-2706. **Web site:** <http://www.unlv.edu/projects/THREAD>.

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