

# The Office Of Extended Learning



## Fall Newsletter

### Instructional Design Services

Are you interested in updating your Blackboard course or developing a new one? Do you wonder how to convert components of your face-to-face instruction into a format efficient and engaging in the online environment? Have you heard about Elluminate Live! but are not sure how to integrate it into your teaching? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, you may want to contact our instructional designer, Andrea Becker, who can assist you with course design, provide instructional design consultation, and help set up Elluminate Live! workshops for your department.

Andrea can be reached at [anbecker@umflint.edu](mailto:anbecker@umflint.edu) or 810-523-7390. You may set up an appointment or just stop by her office for a consultation on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

### Don't Forget to Back up Your Course!

At the end of the 2009 fall semester, OEL will begin limiting course archives to a period of three years. This process will reduce the annual capital expenditures for additional servers and will improve efficiency in archiving and retrieving courses. Courses older than three years will be purged from the system. You should begin now to prepare for this change. Please make sure that you have at least one copy of your course files saved somewhere outside of the Blackboard system. Course files can be saved to disks, to your computer's hard drive or to a portable drive.

For more information, please call our helpdesk at 810-237-6691 or register for a workshop at [www.umflint.edu/oel](http://www.umflint.edu/oel) → workshop schedule



### Brown Bag Lunch Sessions Resume

Please join us for our upcoming Brown Bag Lunch Sessions, where you will gather with your colleagues and expert members of our staff to discuss relevant topics in online instruction. Upcoming sessions include Elluminate, discussion-based online teaching, and more! Come away with a wealth of knowledge, ideas, and inspiration. All you need to bring is your lunch!

### Upcoming Workshops

#### Synchronous Class Meetings via Elluminate

Friday, October 30  
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
Online  
Andrea Becker

#### Backing Up Your Course

Tuesday, November 3  
11 a.m. - 11:59 p.m.  
3153 WSW  
Krista Heiser

#### Discussion-Based Online Teaching

Wednesday, November 4  
12:01 p.m. - 1 p.m.  
Happenings Room  
UM-Flint Faculty



#### Add Excitement With Audio Blogs

Wednesday, November 18  
12:01 p.m. - 1 p.m.  
TBA  
Deb White



*And More!*

To register and view the complete workshop schedule, just go to:

[www.umflint.edu/oel](http://www.umflint.edu/oel) → workshop schedule

## Chronicle Article Highlights Advantages of Online Learning

Skeptics of online learning may benefit greatly from an article by Margaret Brooks, president of the Massachusetts Council on Economic Education, published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* this spring. Brooks gives at least eight good reasons why higher education institutions should be embracing online education and doing more to provide high quality academics in the online environment. Read the full article, "The Excellent Inevitability of Online Courses," in the May 2009 issue of *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

## JAWS Compatible with Blackboard

Faculty with visually impaired students should be aware that JAWS for Windows screen reading software is fully compatible with Blackboard. If you or your students need assistance with integrating JAWS and Blackboard, please contact our Helpdesk to schedule an appointment with an OEL staff member.

## Carson's "Cube"

Carson Waites, a recent grad from UM-Flint's English master's program and resident smarty-pants of OEL, will be spending less time at the helpdesk and more time in a cubicle this fall. Fortunately, that cubicle resides in the Office of Extended Learning, where UM-Flint faculty can continue to benefit from Carson's expertise and excellent service. Come in and visit Carson for individualized, uninterrupted assistance at the following times:

Mondays: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wednesdays: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

## The New and Improved Intensive Course Development

The next session of Intensive Course Development will mark major changes for the program. We will now be providing two separate courses, which will be offered concurrently starting November 9, and running to December 20. If you have not yet taken Intensive Course Development, we encourage you to join us in November for:

- [Online Course Development Implementation](#)  
With Dr. Mary Garret
- [Online Course Development Pedagogy](#)  
With Andrea Becker

## Goodbye Turnitin, Hello SafeAssign!

On November 1st, UM-Flint Blackboard will no longer be utilizing Turnitin. We now ask you to turn to SafeAssign for your plagiarism detection needs.

The advantages of using SafeAssign are clear. First, SafeAssign was developed by the designers of Blackboard, making it more compatible with the Blackboard system. Even better is the fact that SafeAssign is now fully integrated with Blackboard's Grade Center, meaning that you no longer have to go to a special content area to retrieve students' SafeAssignments; simply go through the Grade Center as you would with an ordinary assignment.

If you have any questions about how to use SafeAssign, just call our helpdesk at 810-237-6691.

# The Office of Extended Learning

241 French Hall Building  
(810) 762-3200  
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.