



Benchmarks *Online*

Volume 4 - Number 3 * March 2001

Columns

[RSS Matters](#)

[SAS Corner](#)

[The Network
Connection](#)

[List of the Month](#)

[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)

[Short Courses](#)

[IRC News](#)

[Staff Activities](#)

Other Resources

[Back Issues](#)
[Text Search](#)

[UNT Main Page](#)

[UNT Calendar](#)

[Support Services](#)

[General Access](#)
[Lab Hours](#)

[Tutorials &
References](#)

[Training Web](#)

[Academic
Computing
Services](#)

[Computing Center](#)

[About](#)

Feature Articles

[Campus Computing News](#)

An update on the Teaching With Technology Grants is offered this month as well as information about other faculty research grant opportunities.

[Spring Break Hours](#)

Find out who's opened and who's closed over the spring break vacation.

[Did you leave your lights on?](#)

Should the entire University be asked this question? Answers within . . .

[Faculty: Use UNT's Bulk E-mail Service to Communicate with Students](#)

A better solution than GroupWise "everyone" messages, and it's official.

[Lab-of-the-Month](#)

Which lab do you think is featured this month?

[EduTex 2001](#)

EduTex 2001, which took place February 21-23 in San Antonio, was a big success. Part of the reason for that success was due to the contributions of UNT employees. Find out who they are and what they did in this article.

[Benchmarks
Online](#)

[Subscribe to
Benchmarks
Online](#)

TODAY'S CARTOON

Click on the title above for an information age laugh.

Don't forget to check out our monthly columns. This month's topics:

- [RSS Matters](#) -- "Robust Statistics in S-Plus"
This month's column takes a look at the library RobLib, which is shipping with the newest version of S-Plus (6.0).
- [SAS Corner](#) -- "What's new in the upcoming SAS 8.2?" Some exciting things are in store for SAS users in the coming months. Read all about it ...
- [The Network Connection](#) -- "Time Flies... "
Dr. Baczewski does some time travel this month, up and down the Information Superhighway.
- [List of the Month](#) -- "It's Tax Time!" There's good news and bad news in this article and some helpful links, too.
- [WWW@UNT.EDU](#) -- "Your Web Support Staff" Shane Jester gives you the low-down on who they are and what they do.
- [Short Courses](#) -- Spring Academic Computing Services (ACS) short courses and other learning opportunities are covered here.
- [IRC News](#) -- Minutes of the Information Resources Council are printed here when they are available. The January 16, 2001 minutes are included this time.
- [Staff Activities](#) -- New employees, employees that have resigned, and other staff changes are included in this article. Employee presentations and publications are also listed this time.

[Page One](#)[Campus
Computing News](#)[Spring Break
Hours](#)[Did you leave
your lights on?](#)[Faculty: Use
UNT's Bulk E-
mail Service to
Communicate
With Students](#)[Lab-of-the-
Month: The COE
Lab](#)[EduTex 2001](#)[Today's Cartoon](#)

RSS Matters

[SAS Corner](#)[The Network
Connection](#)[List of the Month](#)[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)[Short Courses](#)[IRC News](#)[Staff Activities](#)[Subscribe to
Benchmarks
Online](#)

Research and Statistical Support

University of North Texas

RSS Matters: Robust Statistics in S-Plus

By [Rich Herrington](#), Research and Statistical Support Services

This month we take a look at the library *RobLib*, which is shipping with the newest version of S-Plus (6.0). The library for S-Plus 2000 can be downloaded at the following URL: <http://www.insightful.com/roplib/registration.html>. This library supplements the already existing suite of robust statistical functions in S-Plus. The *RobLib* library provides a graphical user interface.

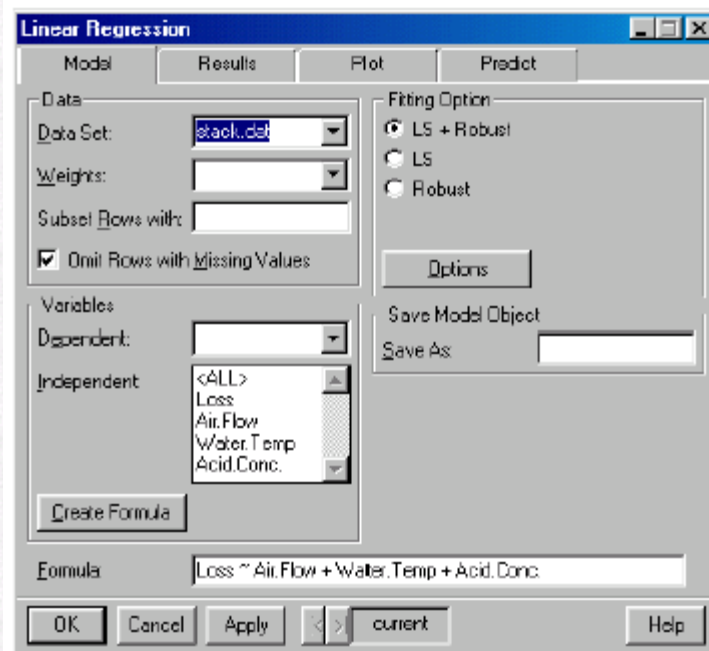
Introduction to Robust Estimators

It is often assumed in the social sciences that data conform to a normal distribution. Numerous studies have examined real world data sets for conformity to normality, and have strongly questioned this assumption. Sometimes we may believe that a normal distribution is a good approximation to the data, and at other times we may believe this to be only a rough approximation. Two approaches have been taken to incorporate this reality. One approach is a two stage process whereby influential observations are identified and removed from the data. So called *outlier* analysis involves the calculation of leverage and influence statistics to help identify influential observations. The other approach, robust estimation, involves calculating estimators that are relatively insensitive to the tails of a data distribution, but which conform to normal theory approximation at the center of the data distribution. These robust estimators are somewhere between a nonparametric or distribution free approach, and a parametric approach. Consequently, a robust approach distinguishes between plausible distributions the data may come from, unlike a nonparametric approach which treats all possible distributions as equal. The positive aspect of this is that robust estimators are very nearly as efficient (very nearly optimal estimators) as the best possible estimators. Robust estimators are considered resistant if small changes in many of the observations or large changes in only a few data points have a small effect on its value. For example, the median is considered an example of a resistant measure of location, while the mean is not.

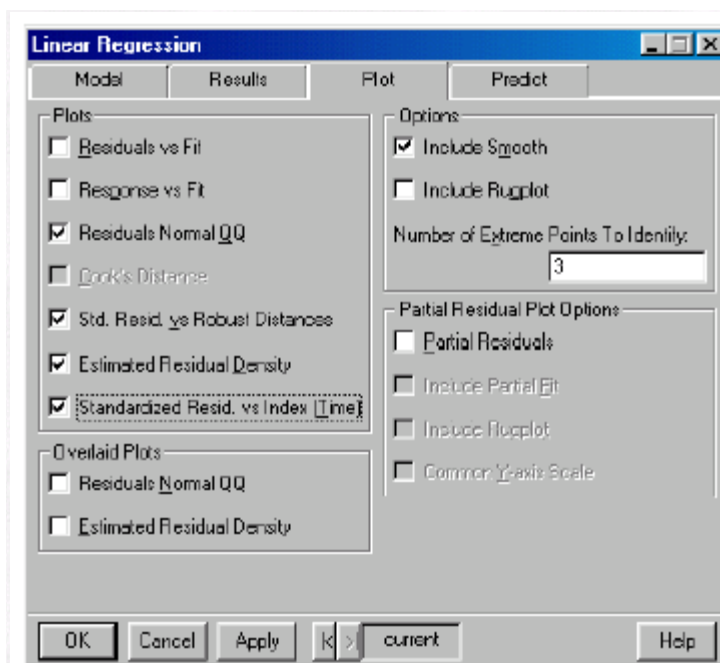
The RobLib S-Plus Library

After installing the *RobLib* library, type `library(RobLib)` at the Command Window to load the library. You easily obtain both a least squares and robust linear model fit for the so called "stack loss" data using the new linear regression dialog box in RobLib. The stack loss data has been used in a number of publications on robust regression, and is known to contain highly influential

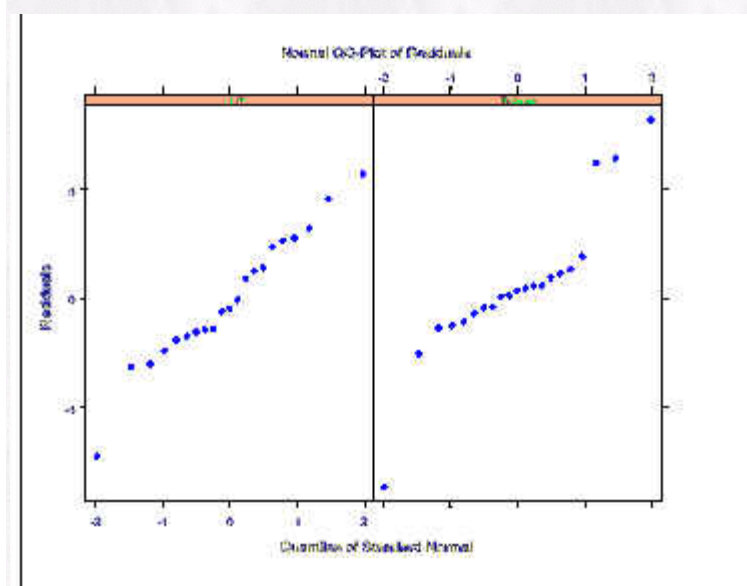
outliers. The stack loss data is included in Roblib as the data frame **stack.dat**. Open the Data icon in the Object Explorer and select **stack.dat**. The right-hand pane of the Object Explorer displays the four variables in **stack.dat**: the response variable **Loss**, and the three predictor variables **Air.flow**, **Water.Temp** and **Acid.Conc**. First select the response variable **Loss**, and then select the three predictor variables. Choose **Roblib - Linear Regression** from the menubar. The dialog shown below appears.



Because you selected the response variable **Loss** first, followed by the three predictor variables, the Formula field is automatically filled in with correct formula **Loss ~ Air.Flow + Water.Temp + Acid.Conc**. for modeling Loss in terms of the three predictor variables. Note that the Model page of this dialog looks exactly like that of the Linear Regression dialog in S-PLUS 2000, except for the Fitting Option choices, with the default choice LS + Robust (both least squares and robust fits are computed) and alternate choices LS (least squares fit only) and Robust (robust fit only) and the Options button. Click on the Options button to access various optional features of the robust fitting method. Click on the tabs labeled Results, Plot and Predict to look at those dialog pages. You will notice that the Results and Predict pages are identical to those of the Linear Regression dialog in S-PLUS 2000. However, the Plot page is different in that it has three new Plots region entries: *Std. Resid. vs. Robust Distances*, *Estimated Residual Density* and *Standardized Resid. vs. Index (Time)*, and a new Overlaid Plots region with the entries: *Residuals Normal QQ* and *Estimated Residual Density*.



The latter are only available when you have chosen the default choice LS + Robust on the Model page. The default choices of plots indicated by the checked boxes. This will encourage you to quickly compare the LS and robust versions of these plots and quickly determine whether or not there are any outliers in the data, and whether or not the outliers have an impact on the least squares fit. Click OK to compute both the LS and robust fits, along with the three diagnostic comparison plots and other standard statistical summary information. The results appear in a Report window and four tabbed pages of a Graph Sheet, respectively. Each of the Graph Sheet pages contains a Trellis display for the LS and robust fit. The normal QQ-plot for the LS fit residuals shows at most one outlier, while the one for the robust fit reveals four outliers.



This reveals one of the most important advantages of a good robust fit relative to a least squares fit: The least squares fit is highly influenced by outliers in such a way that the outliers are not clearly revealed in the residuals, while the robust fit clearly exposes the outliers. You also note that if you ignore the outliers, a normal distribution is a pretty good model for the residuals in both cases.

However, the slope of the central linear portion of the normal QQ-plot of the residuals for the robust fit is noticeably smaller than that for the LS fit. This indicates that the normal distribution fit to the robust residuals, ignoring the outliers, has a substantially smaller standard deviation than the normal distribution fit to the LS residuals. In this sense, the robust method provides a better fit to the bulk of the data.

References

MathSoft. (2001). *Robust Library: A Library of New Robust Methods in S-Plus*, Version 1.0.

[Page One](#)[Campus
Computing News](#)[Spring Break
Hours](#)[Did you leave
your lights on?](#)[Faculty: Use
UNT's Bulk E-
mail Service to
Communicate
With Students](#)[Lab-of-the-
Month: The COE
Lab](#)[EduTex 2001](#)[Today's Cartoon](#)[RSS Matters](#)[SAS Corner](#)[The Network
Connection](#)[List of the Month](#)[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)[Short Courses](#)[IRC News](#)[Staff Activities](#)[Subscribe to
Benchmarks
Online](#)

Research and Statistical Support

University of North Texas

SAS Corner

By [Dr. Karl Ho](#), Research and Statistical Support Services Manager

What's new in the upcoming SAS 8.2?

In October 2000 I wrote about the new developments of SAS 8 in [RSS Matters](#). Now, a half-year later, I'm writing about it again. SAS 8e Release 2 will be out shortly, loaded with more procedures and features than anyone could imagine. Buckle up, this is not a bug-fixing upgrade only. Some of the new features will test the limit of your imagination. I know it does mine. For instance, sending <http://www.unt.edu/benchmarks/archives/2000/october00/rss.htm> via a SAS program. That's right, you will be able to send E-mail via SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) within a SAS program by selecting E-mail addresses from a large address database (so be prudent in hitting that F3 key next time). How about supporting Chinese or Japanese SAS codes and data? Or converting your output directly to your Web server, or in postscript, RTF and PDF files? It does that, and more!

New Features

Here are some new features that caught my eye:

- **Supporting a genuine 64-bit platform**

Namely, Sun's Solaris 7, IBM's AIX 4.3 and HP-UX 11.0. This enhancement enables researchers to take advantage of the 64-bit features (such as processing files larger than 2 gb) both at our UNIX research machine sol and the new software. While this has yet to be tested, we are keeping our fingers crossed on how much we can benefit from this technology. That said, we can say we have the capability to do it, can't we?

- **Linux support**

The long-awaited Linux version of SAS finally comes into production. We are still in the process of acquiring this new platform for SAS. But before long, researchers on campus will enjoy using a server combining the open-source operating system and SAS. A raincheck is in order!

- **More on output**

The Version 8 Output Delivery System adds more versatility to SAS output. Release 8.2 includes output destinations such as RTF (enhanced), PDF (now production) and XML (enhanced experimental). In addition, new ActiveX/Java-enabled interactive graphs enhance data visualization when output is ported to the Web. Graph'N Go is an example that exports charts loaded with Active X features (read [SAS Corner in February 2001](#))

- **New Statistical procedures**

Last but not least, something all researchers are most looking forward to: what new stats can SAS 8.2 do. Well, some of the experimental procedures in 8.1 are fully implemented or in stable mode. Among them:

- **GAM (Generalized Additive Model)**

GAM is not new, both to statisticians and SAS developers. Hastie and Tibshirani proposed in 1990 the modeling technique that estimates an *additive* approximation to the multivariate regression function, to a broader range of distributional families on top of the conventional linear function. GAM models allow the mean of the dependent variable to depend on an additive predictor through a nonlinear link function such as Logit or Loess. Besides providing the user with the flexibility of nonparametric regression, generalized additive models also have the advantage of easy interpretability, which comes from modeling the regression surface as a sum of smooth terms. GAM procedures are available in S-Plus and other packages as early as in the mid-1990s. SAS 8.1 has this procedure, PROC GAM, in experimental mode. The new release will have it in production.

- **Missing Values Analysis**

Another widely studied topic, Missing Values analysis poses as a significant addition to tools for researchers using SAS. The easiest and most common method of dealing with missing values is to ignore or delete them. While convenient and simple to implement, researchers will lose information about if systematic missing value patterns exist. Above all, precious information from those cases which happen to have one or a few missing values will also be discarded.

To deal with this problem, statisticians have proposed many ways to "patch the holes in the data." One of them is imputation, or plugging in values to the missing value cases. Mean or median can do the job but usually not desirable because of the lack of underlying rationale that mean or any moment is good enough. Rubin suggested in 1976 the multiple

imputation method by replacing each missing value with a set of plausible values that represent the "uncertainty" of the real value of interest. Models with imputed values are then estimated and combined to draw inference. SAS 8.1 is equipped with two new procedures, PROC MI and PROC MIANALYZE, to perform this task. In the new release, these two procedures will be in a second experimental release.

When can we get it?

SAS claims the software will be available in mid-March via Web request. The conservative RSS estimate, however, is that it will not be in our hands until late-April. Faculty members should keep checking with us if they are eager to test the new software. As for students, I will certainly make student versions available as soon as possible.

Bye for now . . .

By the way, RSS wishes you a nice and safe spring break and happy computing.

References

SAS Institute. 2001. What's New in SAS Software for Release 8.2 (<http://www.sas.com/products/sassystem/release82/index.html>)

Hastie, T.J. and Tibshirani, R.J. (1990), *Generalized Additive Models*, New York: Chapman and Hall.

Rubin, D.B. (1976), "Inference and Missing Data," *Biometrika*, 63, 581 -592.

Rubin, D.B. (1987), *Multiple Imputation for Nonresponse in Surveys*, New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

[Page One](#)

[Campus Computing News](#)

[Spring Break Hours](#)

[Did you leave your lights on?](#)

[Faculty: Use UNT's Bulk E-mail Service to Communicate With Students](#)

[Lab-of-the-Month: The COE Lab](#)

[EduTex 2001](#)

[Today's Cartoon](#)

[RSS Matters](#)

[SAS Corner](#)

The Network Connection

[List of the Month](#)

[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)

[Short Courses](#)

[IRC News](#)

[Staff Activities](#)

[Subscribe to Benchmarks Online](#)

Network Connection

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Associate Director of Academic Computing

Time Flies...

It amazes me that my five-year-old son is now riding a two-wheeler without training wheels and learning to read and spell. I suppose that's not so amazing, considering that millions of five-year-olds before him have accomplished similar feats. However, it is still surprising when after months of preparation, reinforcement, and encouragement children, all of a sudden, figure it out and then there's no looking back. It's as if the skill were there all along, just waiting to get out, but in reality there is so much groundwork being laid, conscious and unconscious, starting from the time of birth.

I recall that when my son was just four months old, I was on my way from Denton to Irving to present a seminar at the [University of Dallas](#). On the way, I checked in with his baby sitter, using my new-fangled cell phone, to be sure all was going OK. Five years ago, I was asked to give an Internet "orientation" to University of Dallas faculty. They had limited connectivity at the time, and one of the science faculty had a Sun workstation on which he provided faculty with e-mail accounts. Most faculty at that small, Catholic liberal arts university had little or no prior exposure to the Internet, other than what they might have read in the newspapers at the time. I proceeded to call upon my six long years of Internet experience to provide an introduction to Internet staples like telnet, ftp, Usenet news, gopher, archie, e-mail, and that new thing that was really catching on at the time, the World-Wide Web.

Brave new World?

I was nudged into this reminiscence when I heard a radio commercial for the University of Dallas promoting their executive MBA degree program and the fact that the entire degree program can be studied online via Web-based [courses](#). What a transformation must have occurred in five years, to have gone from a Sun workstation with a few e-mail accounts to a sophisticated online presence. At UNT we now offer [scores](#) of online courses and a number of online programs, none of which existed five years ago.

The expansion of Internet technology has been phenomenal, to the point where we now take Internet access for granted. In looking at the developments over the last 5 years, it's as if we went from the 1909 Ford Model T to a 1957 Chevy. A car was pretty well standardized by 1909 and Henry Ford took that standardization one step further. By 1957, cars still had four wheels, an engine, a metal body, a standard steering mechanism, but the technology was much more sophisticated and the capability of the auto was increased, particularly in speed.

It seems that a similar fifty years of development has been compressed into five in the history of the Internet. We've gone from presenting digital images and formatted text to providing complex user-driven services ranging from online banking to the acquisition of an advanced educational degree. In such cases, a single Web page is no longer the object of our browsing. Web-based systems implement services in multiple pages and those pages are sometimes generated entirely on the fly based upon data that you provide.

Infinity and Beyond?

Sun Microsystems head Scott McNealy is quoted as providing the catch-phrase, "The network is the computer." The premise is that a collection of computers connected by a common network can be much more productive than an individual unit. The Web has certainly grown to match this description and a search engine like [google](#) is a good illustration of the power of that concept. The most sophisticated Web systems rely on a combination of computation, data, and interconnectivity to accomplish their tasks.

By 1957, automobiles were pretty sophisticated, but roads, traffic control, and safety measures had not kept apace. On today's Internet, bandwidth, that is the capacity of the Internet to transmit information, is used up almost as soon as it is expanded. The anticipated growth of digital video transmission on the Internet will just aggravate this problem (until then, we still have [Napster](#) to deal with). The Internet may run out of addresses. The numeric addressing scheme of the IP protocol is made up of four sets of three digit numbers which range from 0 to 255. That provides a large number of addresses, but that number is not infinite. The number of computers on the Internet world wide continues to grow. There are also limitations to the address names on the Internet. It seems that we've outgrown the address designation types of .edu, .com, .org, .net, .mil, and .gov. While there are a number of proposals, both official and unofficial, to expand the number of address designations, the actual implementation may be a [rocky road](#). Finally, the Internet is like a car with no door locks. Chances are there's nothing in there that is worth stealing, but if there is, you have to take additional measures to protect your goods.

The Final Frontier?

Just as the NSFnet spurred the growth and development of the Internet in the early 1990's, Internet2 (<http://www.internet2.org/>) promises a similar initiative to tackle some of the technical problems facing today's Internet. To quote their Web site: "Internet2, led by over 180 U.S. universities working in partnership with industry and government, is developing and deploying advanced network applications and technologies, accelerating the creation of tomorrow's Internet." The Internet2 [Project](#), of which UNT is a member, hopes to develop new Internet technologies but also to develop more efficient ways of using Internet bandwidth as well as expand the addressing scheme available.

It remains to be seen whether Internet2 will have as great an impact as intended. There is a large arena of commercial Internet use that didn't exist 5 years ago. That activity developed from a baseline of zero. It may be much harder to make change occur, now that so much economic activity is based upon today's Internet's way of operation. It's inevitable, however, that change will occur. The groundwork is laid and it is just a matter of time before the right components come together and change the Internet in a surprising and maybe unanticipated way. You can take it from me, a person who has seen the rise and fall of Gopher and run alongside a two-wheeler ready to catch a careening five-year-old.

[Page One](#)

[Campus
Computing News](#)

[Spring Break
Hours](#)

[Did you leave
your lights on?](#)

[Faculty: Use
UNT's Bulk E-
mail Service to
Communicate
With Students](#)

[Lab-of-the-
Month: The COE
Lab](#)

[EduTex 2001](#)

[Today's Cartoon](#)

[RSS Matters](#)

[SAS Corner](#)

[The Network
Connection](#)

List of the Month

[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)

[Short Courses](#)

[IRC News](#)

[Staff Activities](#)

[Subscribe to
Benchmarks
Online](#)

List of the Month

Each month we highlight an Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list(s) or Website(s).

It's Tax Time!

It's that time of year again -- Tax Time! Listed below are some links to help you with this taxing time of year. But first some good news. You get an extra day to do your 20000 income tax. Its due April 16 (the 15th is a Sunday).

Forms/Filing

- [IRS Forms and instructions](#): You can also have forms sent to you by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM.
- Thinking of filing electronically? Check this site out: http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/elec_svs/index.html

Assistance

If you need help understanding your income taxes (and who doesn't!), visit:

- [AARP Online Tax Guide](#) -- You can ask questions online, view the answers to others' questions, look for an AARP assistance program near you, and more.
- [About.com](#) -- All sorts of helpful information and links.
- [TaxPlanet](#) -- "All things tax for individuals."
- [UncleFed](#) -- "Having problems with Uncle Sam? Let Uncle Fed help you."
- [H&R Block Tax Center](#) -- You can get online help and filing here, for a fee.
- [PrepTax.com](#) -- Another fee-based service. They claim that most people will only have to pay \$9.95 for their services.

And Remember ...

Like the folks at [American Profile](#) said, "Even if someone else does your taxes, review the basic tax forms so you generally understand the process. Doing so might spur some ideas for additional deductions."

Good Luck!

[Page One](#)[Campus
Computing News](#)[Spring Break
Hours](#)[Did you leave
your lights on?](#)[Faculty: Use
UNT's Bulk E-
mail Service to
Communicate
With Students](#)[Lab-of-the-
Month: The COE
Lab](#)[EduTex 2001](#)[Today's Cartoon](#)[RSS Matters](#)[SAS Corner](#)[The Network
Connection](#)[List of the Month](#)[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)[Short Courses](#)[IRC News](#)[Staff Activities](#)[Subscribe to
Benchmarks
Online](#)**WWW@UNT.EDU**

Your Web Support Staff

By [Shane Jester](#), Campus Web Administrator

Web Support has made some staffing changes lately and I thought you might be interested in who the personnel are and what they do. As you may already know, Mark Wilcox has left the University for other career opportunities and I have assumed his duties and responsibilities as the Campus Web Administrator. We have also created a new position in our area dedicated to providing distance learning administration. Following is a list of the people working in our office and their jobs:

- **Austin Laird** -- Austin is our new distance learning administrator. Austin is in charge of maintaining all of the WebCT servers and software on campus. He is also managing our Real streaming media server. In addition to these duties, he provides backup administration duties for the centrally supported Web servers.
- **Charity Beck** -- Charity is our software support specialist. She provides consultation to faculty, staff, and students on Web page development techniques and tools. She also evaluates new development tools that we may wish to support on campus. Additionally, she assists with the day to day support requirements that we face in Web support.
- **Shannon Peevey** -- Shannon is the newest member of our office and officially begins working for us on March 26th. Shannon will provide backup administration duties for all the centrally supported Web servers. He will also be the primary administrator for our ColdFusion server. As we expand our services in the coming months, Shannon will assume responsibilities as our database programmer and consultant.

In addition to these positions, we have one more [position](#) open for hire at this time. The position will provide WebCT support assistance for Austin. It will also provide general end-user support for Web development on campus. We hope to fill this position shortly after spring break.

I Hope this gives you a better idea of who we are and what we do in the central Web support office. Don't hesitate to drop us a line if you have any questions.

[Page One](#)[Campus
Computing News](#)[Spring Break
Hours](#)[Did you leave
your lights on?](#)[Faculty: Use
UNT's Bulk E-
mail Service to
Communicate
With Students](#)[Lab-of-the-
Month: The COE
Lab](#)[EduTex 2001](#)[Today's Cartoon](#)[RSS Matters](#)[SAS Corner](#)[The Network
Connection](#)[List of the Month](#)[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)[Short Courses](#)[IRC News](#)[Staff Activities](#)[Subscribe to
Benchmarks
Online](#)

Short Courses

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor

ACS Short Courses are now going strong. Classes are being offered in FrontPage 2000, SAS. S-Plus, and Survey Research technologies. Please consult the [Short Courses](#) page for the list of courses and registration information.

Customized Short Courses

Faculty members can request customized short courses from ACS, geared to their class needs. Other groups can request special courses also. Contact ACS for more information (ISB 119, 565-4068, lynch@unt.edu).

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

In addition to the [ACS Short Courses](#), which are available to students, faculty and staff, staff and faculty members can take courses offered through the [Human Resources](#) Department, the [Center for Distributed Learning](#), and the UNT Libraries' [Multimedia Development Lab](#).

Andrew McGregor, Messaging Support Specialist (amcgregor@unt.edu) 940-369-7688 is currently offering monthly **Basic GroupWise** (BGW) and **Document Management** (DM) Classes. You can Sign up [on-line](#), or you can send an mail to [Lauren Sutherland](#) in Human Resources to sign up. Just remember to include your name and the class you would like to attend. All classes are from 10:00 to 12:00 in ESSC room 152. Following is the list of classes:

Class	Date
DM	Tuesday, March 27
BGW	Wednesday, April 11
DM	Monday, April 23
BGW	Tuesday, May 1
DM	Tuesday, May 22
BGW	Friday, June 15
DM	Tuesday, June 26
BGW	Tuesday, July 24
DM	Wednesday, July 25
BGW	Friday, August 17
DM	Tuesday, August 14

Center for Distributed Learning

The Center for Distributed Learning offers courses especially for Faculty Members.

A list of topics and further information can be found at http://www.unt.edu/cdl/training_events/index.htm The center also offers a "Brown Bag" series which meets for lunch the first Thursday of each month at Noon in ISB 204. The purpose of this group is to bring faculty members together to share their experiences with distributed learning. One demonstration will be made at each meeting by a faculty member with experience in distributed learning. More information on these activities can be found at the [Center for Distributed Learning](#) Web site.

UNT Libraries'

The UNT Libraries' Multimedia Development Lab has also offered free training to all University of North Texas faculty and staff in the basics of FrontPage and information architecture in the past. For more information see <http://www.library.unt.edu/media/services.htm#Distributed>.

Technical Training

Technical Training for campus network managers is available, from time to time, through the [Campus-Wide Networks](#) division of the Computing Center. Check the CWN site to see if and when they are offering any training.

UNT Mini-Courses

These are a variety of courses offered, for a fee, to UNT faculty, staff and students as well as the general public. For additional information surf over to http://www.unt.edu/ccecm/cont_ed/Minicourse/Courses/UNT_Minicourse_Page.htm

Alternate Forms of Training

The [Training](#) Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Training tapes, Computer Based Training ([CBT](#)) and Web-based training are some of the alternatives offered. There are also handouts for computer training on the following topics:

- GroupWise 5.2 Handout for Win95/NT
- FAQ for GroupWise 5.2
- Computers - Back to the Basics
- Introduction to Windows 95 /98/NT
- Introduction to Word 97
- Advanced Word 97 - MailMerge It Together
- Introduction to PowerPoint 97 (Creating a Slide Show)
- Introduction to Remedy (THE Call-Tracking Program)

•

[StudyWeb](#)

AND, the [award winning](#) Introduction to Excel 97

Adobe Acrobat Reader Format only for the following:

- Introduction to Microsoft Word 2000
- Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2000
- Creating a Slide Show with PowerPoint 2000
- Using Netscape Communicator & the UNT Home Page

Use the Internet to search for answers to Microsoft Office problems. See <http://www.zdnet.com/zdhelp/filters/office/> December 1999's "[List of the Month](#)" offers links to free Microsoft Word and Excel information also.

[Page One](#)[Campus
Computing News](#)[Spring Break
Hours](#)[Did you leave
your lights on?](#)[Faculty: Use
UNT's Bulk E-
mail Service to
Communicate
With Students](#)[Lab-of-the-
Month: The COE
Lab](#)[EduTex 2001](#)[Today's Cartoon](#)[RSS Matters](#)[SAS Corner](#)[The Network
Connection](#)[List of the Month](#)[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)[Short Courses](#)[IRC News](#)[Staff Activities](#)[Subscribe to
Benchmarks
Online](#)

IRC News



Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary

IRC Regular and Ex-officio Voting Members: Judith Adkison, College of Education; Ginny Anderson, Fiscal Affairs; Donna Asher, Administrative Affairs; Craig Berry, School of Visual Arts; Sue Byron, Faculty Senate; Bobby Carter, UNT Health Science Center; Jim Curry, Academic Administration; VACANT, Student Association, Don Grose, Libraries; Jenny Jopling, Instruction Program Group; Joneel Harris, Administrative Program Group; Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Standards and Cooperation Program Group; Abraham John, Student Affairs; VACANT, Graduate Student Council; VACANT, University Planning Council; Ramu Muthiah, School of Community Services, GALMAC; Jon Nelson, College of Music; Robert Nimocks, Director, Information Technology, UNTHSC; Patrick Pluscht, Distributed Learning Team; Mark Rorvig, Research Program Group (Acting Chair); Paul Schlieve, Communications Program Group; Kathleen Swigger, College of Arts and Sciences; Philip Turner, School of Library and Information Science and University Planning Council (Chair, IRC);; Virginia Wheeless, Chancellor; John Windsor, College of Business. **IRC Ex-officio Nonvoting Members:** VACANT, Telecommunications; Bill Buntain, Computing Center Networking; Jim Curry, Microcomputer Maintenance Shop; Richard Harris, Computing Center; Coy Hoggard, Computing Center; Joel Lanpher, UNT Health Science Center; Maurice Leatherbury, Computing Center; Sue Ellen Richey, Computing Center (Recording Secretary). [As of 10/2000]

January 16, 2001

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: CHAIR: PHILIP TURNER, CENGIZ CAPAN (for JOHN WINDSOR), DON GROSE, JON NELSON, PAUL SCHLIEVE, ELIZABETH HINKLE-TURNER, MARK RORVIG, JUDITH ADKISON, JENNY JOPLING, RAMU MUTHIAH, MARGARET HUDNALL, GINNY ANDERSON, PATRICK PLUSCHT, KATHLEEN SWIGGER, COY HOGGARD (for JONEEL HARRIS)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: RICHARD HARRIS, MAURICE LEATHERBURY, BILL BUNTAIN, SUE ELLEN RICHEY (Recording Secretary)

MEMBERS ABSENT: ROBERT NIMOCKS, BOBBY CARTER, JOEL LANPHEAR, JIM CURRY, CRAIG BERRY, DONNA ASHER, ALLEN LIVINGSTON, VIRGINIA WHEELLESS

GUESTS: LOU ANN BRADLEY, JAMES STRAWN, JENNIFER LAFLEUR

The minutes of the December 12, 2000 IRC meeting were approved as distributed.

IR Steering Committee

Dr. Turner reported that the IR Steering Committee met and he and Richard Harris presented the Computer Use Policy, which was received favorably. The Vice Presidents had a question about the definition of the term "continuing student" as used in the policy and the policy will be discussed again at this week's meeting.

Instruction Program Group

Jenny Jopling reported for the Instruction Program Group. Dr. Turner, the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Department of Counseling and Testing will meet to discuss the possibility of Counseling and Testing taking over the operation of the new computer-based testing facility in the Gateway Center.

Communication Program Group

Paul Schlieve reported for the Communication Program Group that at their next meeting they plan to discuss the status of building wiring connectivity and wireless strategy. Bill Buntain reported that the new circuits are in place connecting UNT to AHE and down to Qwest (45mb connection to Internet1, and 45mb connection to Internet2). A final connection is expected at the end of this week or early next week, then the next step will be test the system.

Administrative Program Group

Coy Hoggard reported for the Administrative Program Group that they are documenting university-wide requirements for an integrated enterprise-wide system. There are additional meetings scheduled for Oracle demonstrations. In response to a question from Paul Schlieve regarding the collection of academic needs and requirements, Coy stated that any ideas and comments should be sent to Joneel Harris. It was suggested that the list of needs, as it develops, should be posted on the web for everyone's information. There was a question about the focus of the APG's investigations and Coy explained that the group wants to reach a conclusion that will provide UNT both an information system and an administrative system.

Standards & Cooperation Program Group

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner reported for the Standards & Cooperation Program Group that they will meet Monday and begin working on the Security Policy and Security Standards, combining them into one large policy document.

Distributed Learning Team

Patrick Pluscht reported for the Distributed Learning Team that they will meet this Thursday. A recent development in Distributed Learning has been the upgrade of WebCT to V. 3.0; there are 73 web courses on line and 29 video classes available this semester.

Bandwidth Issues

Kathleen Swigger introduced the subject of Internet access and the problems of access from outside UNT. She stated that 75% of the load on UNT's Internet system most likely comes from the student population. She asked if UNT was considering, as were other Universities, getting out of the Internet provider business. Bill Buntain responded that the Computing Center is definitely exploring management tools and strategies. Richard Harris added that if there is no way to control the Internet traffic, and if UNT is to continue providing Internet access in dorms, then a dedicated circuit would be considered exclusively for their use. Even in that case, management tools would be needed. Cengiz Capan added that a master plan for providing Internet access at UNT needs to be developed that sets university-wide priorities. In further discussion, it was suggested that a Program Group could be charged

with a project of: 1) projecting the growth and cost of UNT's Internet connectivity; 2) developing a system-wide network architecture; 3) prioritizing needs in this area, as related to the University's mission; and 4) setting up policies for Internet use. This subject will be discussed further at the February IRC meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

February, 2001

There was no February, 2001 IRC meeting due to a lack of quorum.

IRC Meeting Schedule

The [IRC](#) generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month, from 2-4 p.m., in the Administration Building Board Room. From time to time there are planned exceptions to this schedule. All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.

[Page One](#)

[Campus Computing News](#)

[Spring Break Hours](#)

[Did you leave your lights on?](#)

[Faculty: Use UNT's Bulk E-mail Service to Communicate With Students](#)

[Lab-of-the-Month: The COE Lab](#)

[EduTex 2001](#)

[Today's Cartoon](#)

[RSS Matters](#)

[SAS Corner](#)

[The Network Connection](#)

[List of the Month](#)

[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)

[Short Courses](#)

[IRC News](#)

[Staff Activities](#)

[Subscribe to Benchmarks Online](#)

Staff Activities

Transitions

The following are new employees:

- **Mohammad Khan**, Programmer on UNT Fiscal Data Systems Team.
- **Patrick Dunn**, Telecom Assistant (part-time).

The following people no longer work in the Computing Center:

- **Earl Garden**, Programmer Analyst, UNT/HSC Fiscal Data Systems Team.
- **Tim McLeister**, Telecom Assistant (part-time).
- **Norman Stewart**, Telecom Assistant (part-time).

Changes

The following people have recently changed the locations of their offices within Computing Center facilities:

- Computing Center Administrative Services: Rebecca Padia moved to ISB 235
- The Student Services Data Systems Team moved to the GAB 460 suite: Mahshid Grooms, Jana Crews, Jenny Brooks
- The Voice and Web Strategic Applications Team also moved to the GAB 460 suite: Nancy Fisher, Allen Akers, Heather Drennan, Alana Baker
- The NDS, NT, and Server Support Team (part of Campus Wide Networks) moved to GAB 458, 458A, and 459: Craig Terrell, Jon Walker, Daren Dugan

Presentations, Publications

- **Dr. Karl Ho**, Research and Statistical Support Services Manager, presented a paper at the International Studies Association conference held in Chicago Saturday (2/24). The paper, "Democratic Violence in Perspective: Internalization and Externality of Democracy in Latin America, 1948-82," was co-authored with John King of American University.

Dr. Ho also has an article in the most recent issue of The Multiple Linear Regression [journal](#). The article, "Outliers Lie: An Illustrative Example of Identifying Outliers and Applying Robust Models," was co-authored with Jimmie R. Naugher, University of North Texas.

- **Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner**, Student Computing Services Manager, has compiled a "Selected Discography of Women's Electro-acoustic Music (current through Spring 2000). It can be viewed at people.unt.edu/~aeh0018/womtechdisc.html
- Several Computing Center staff members gave presentations at [EduTex 2001](#) recently. **Dr. Maurice Leatherbury**, Senior Director of Academic Computing Services, gave a talk entitled "A federated Model of Computing Support at a Large State University." **Duane Gustavus**, ACS UNIX Research Analyst, spoke on "Free Software on Campus: Something for Nothing?" and **Dr. Philip Baczewski**, Associate Director, Academic Computing Services, spoke on "LDAP at the University of North Texas: Implementation and Uses."

[Page One](#)

[Campus Computing News](#)

[Spring Break Hours](#)

[Did you leave your lights on?](#)

[Faculty: Use UNT's Bulk E-mail Service to Communicate With Students](#)

[Lab-of-the-Month: The COE Lab](#)

[EduTex 2001](#)

[Today's Cartoon](#)

[RSS Matters](#)

[SAS Corner](#)

[The Network Connection](#)

[List of the Month](#)

[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)

[Short Courses](#)

[IRC News](#)

[Staff Activities](#)

[Subscribe to Benchmarks Online](#)

Campus Computing News

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor

Faculty Research Grants

Twenty applications for [Teaching with Technology Grants](#) were received by the March 2 deadline this year. The requests for funds total \$257, 992 and \$150,000 is available. Grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$8,000 will be awarded this year. Requestors will be notified of the status of their grant application some time in mid-April.

Meanwhile, the Faculty Research Committee has invited all tenure-track faculty to apply for the 2001-2002 Faculty Research Grants. Funds allocated will be available to grantees for fiscal year 2001-2002. You are asked to obtain an application and *Faculty Research Manual* before beginning your proposal. According to an announcement from the Research office, the application and manual contain important information about the application and review process. Faculty Research Grant application forms and Faculty Research Manuals are available from the office of the Vice Provost for Research, Room 206, Administration Building; by contacting Annie Weaver at (940) 565-4119 or aweaver@unt.edu; or by downloading from the UNT Website <http://www.unt.edu/ospa/forms.htm>.

On-line guidelines for preparing your application are available at <http://www.unt.edu/ospa/faculty.htm>. **The application, along with eight copies, must be submitted to the Vice Provost for Research Office, Room 206, Administration Building, by April 2, 2001.** Please check with your Chairperson and Dean's office for their deadlines in order to obtain the required signatures on the application form. Please address any questions concerning the Faculty Research Grants program to Annie Weaver at (940) 565-4119 .

[Page One](#)

[Campus Computing News](#)

Spring Break Hours

[Did you leave your lights on?](#)

[Faculty: Use UNT's Bulk E-mail Service to Communicate With Students](#)

[Lab-of-the-Month: The COE Lab](#)

[EduTex 2001](#)

[Today's Cartoon](#)

[RSS Matters](#)

[SAS Corner](#)

[The Network Connection](#)

[List of the Month](#)

[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)

[Short Courses](#)

[IRC News](#)

[Staff Activities](#)

[Subscribe to Benchmarks Online](#)

Spring Break Hours

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor

Following are the hours for Computing Center-managed facilities during Spring Break. All staff offices will be closed Monday, March 19, 2001 and re-open Monday March 26, 2001.

- **Print Services (I/O):** Print Services will maintain regular hours (6 a.m. - 2 a.m. M-F, 8 a.m. - Midnight Saturday) until Sunday, March 18. That day they will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Spring Break week (Monday, March 19-Saturday, March 24) they will be open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday, March 25, they will resume normal hours (10 a.m. - Midnight Sunday).
- The **Helpdesk (ISB 119)** will be open for **phone and E-mail support only** normal business hours: 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m., Monday - Friday, and 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Saturday. Walk-in support will resume Monday, March 25.
- The **ACS General Access Lab (ISB 110)** will be **closed** Saturday, March 17 and Sunday, March 19. It will be open Monday - Friday, March 19-23 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; **closed** March 24. **Regular hours will resume Sunday, March 25** (1:00 p.m. - midnight).

Hours for Other Campus Facilities

The University is [officially](#) closed Monday, March 19, 2001 through Sunday, March 26, 2001.

UNT Libraries

Click [here](#) to find out the library hours in effect for Monday, March 19, 2001 to Saturday, March 24, 2001.

General Access Labs

- [WILLIS:](#)
Saturday, 3/17: Close at 11:50 p.m.
Sunday, 3/18: **Closed**
Monday-Friday, 3/19-3/23: 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Saturday, 3/ 24: **Closed**
Sunday, 3/ 25: open at 1:00 p.m.(back to 24hrs)
- [SLIS:](#)
Sunday 3/11 - Saturday 3/17: Normal Hours
Sunday 3/18 - Saturday 3/24: **Closed**
Sunday 3/25 - Friday 5/11: Normal Hours

- MUSIC:

Close at 5 p.m. Friday, 3/16 and reopen at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, 3/25 - resume normal hours.

- SCS:

Close at 5 p.m. Friday, 3/16 and reopen at noon on Sunday, 3/25 - resume normal hours.

- COE:

Saturday, 3/17 - Sunday, 3/24: **Closed**
Monday, 3/25 Resume normal hours at 2 p.m.

- COBA:

Friday, 3/16: 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, 3/17: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 3/18--Friday, 3/ 23 **Closed**
Saturday, 3/24: 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Sunday, 3/ 25: 12 noon--12 midnight.

- CAS:

All labs (GAB 330, GAB 550, TH 220, WH 120) will **close** at 5 p.m. on Friday, 3/16.
GAB 330 and WH 120 will reopen for regular business hours at noon on Sunday, 3/ 25.
GAB 550 and TH 220 will reopen for regular business hours at 8 a.m. Monday, 3/26.

- Art:

Close at 5 p.m. Friday, 3/16 and reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, 3/26 - resume normal hours.

[Page One](#)

[Campus
Computing News](#)

[Spring Break
Hours](#)

Did you leave your
lights on?

[Faculty: Use
UNT's Bulk E-
mail Service to
Communicate
With Students](#)

[Lab-of-the-
Month: The COE
Lab](#)

[EduTex 2001](#)

[Today's Cartoon](#)

[RSS Matters](#)

[SAS Corner](#)

[The Network
Connection](#)

[List of the Month](#)

[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)

[Short Courses](#)

[IRC News](#)

[Staff Activities](#)

[Subscribe to
Benchmarks
Online](#)

Did you leave your lights on?

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor

*It's the beginning of a new semester and time to remind you about "Large Group E-mail Guidelines." This is an edited version of an article that appeared in the [August, 2000](#) issue of *Benchmarks Online*. -- Ed.*

How many times have you gotten GroupWise messages announcing that someone's lights are on or some other topic that doesn't seem to warrant a campus-wide heads up? About twice a year the following "Large Group E-mail Guidelines" policy is sent to to all GroupWise users. Please be aware that "bulk mail" sent through GroupWise is to be **for UNT business only**. (We have a The bulk E-mail [service](#) for official communications between UNT and students.)

Please review the following policy as set out by the Vice Presidents and Provost in 1997.

Large Group E-mail Guidelines- 2/17/97:

The Provost and all Vice Presidents recommend the following guidelines for using large E-mail groups:

1. Departments and individuals should be judicious in sending E-mail to all faculty and staff. Many recipients may consider the message to be annoying "junk mail," especially if "everyone" messages continue to proliferate at the current rate. As a general guideline, the message should be of sufficient general value that it would justify being sent as a memorandum if E-mail were not available. In other words, is the message important enough to justify sending to virtually every University employee? Campus-wide discussions should use Usenet news groups, not E-mail.
2. All large group mailings should use appropriate mail groups. A public group will be maintained in the GroupWise (GW) address directory that will include all UNT faculty and staff in the GW directory, as well as more limited groups such as department heads and account holders. Offices or individuals that make frequent or regular large group mailings, that are not official notifications to all faculty and staff, are encouraged to maintain their own groups. Messages to these groups should have an introduction indicating willingness to remove an individual from the group if requested by return E-mail.
3. Anyone sending mail to large groups should use the GroupWise send options to conserve system resources. In the "Mail To" screen, select "send" and then "send options." For the current mail message, these options will override the typical preferences. Generally, the following send options should be selected:
 - no status information
 - low priority
 - expiration date set to delete unopened messages in two work days
 - do not notify recipients unless it is an urgent official message

- no return notification
- no reply requested

Also, from the main GW screen, select "file" and "preferences" to confirm that the "advanced" send option is set to "insert in out box." Then, if a mistake is made, the out box message may be used to "delete" the message from all "in boxes," correct it, and resend. Take care to delete from in boxes, not the out box.

Managing GroupWise "Everyone Mail"

If you are overwhelmed with the quantity of messages that you receive from "UNT GW Directory List *** " ["Everyone Mail"], you have at least two options for handling those messages.

1. Automatically file the incoming mail in a folder. This allows you to browse the messages at your convenience without cluttering up your main mailbox folder.
2. Alternatively, you can create a rule which automatically deletes incoming mail from that group.

For detailed instructions on setting the GroupWise rules for both of these options, browse <http://www.unt.edu/cwn/rules/index.html>. Note that these procedures **do not** prevent you from receiving "official" messages like emergency weather warnings, road closures or other important notices.

For detailed information on other GroupWise features, browse the online manual at <http://www.unt.edu/cwn/gw/manuals/index.html>

[Page One](#)

[Campus Computing News](#)

[Spring Break Hours](#)

[Did you leave your lights on?](#)

Faculty: Use UNT's Bulk E-mail Service to Communicate With Students

[Lab-of-the-Month: The COE Lab](#)

[EduTex 2001](#)

[Today's Cartoon](#)

[RSS Matters](#)

[SAS Corner](#)

[The Network Connection](#)

[List of the Month](#)

[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)

[Short Courses](#)

[IRC News](#)

[Staff Activities](#)

[Subscribe to Benchmarks Online](#)

Faculty: Use UNT's Bulk E-mail Service to Communicate With Students

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor

Academic Computing Services launched a bulk E-mail service this past [summer](#) to facilitate better communication between UNT faculty and administrators and students. UNT Bulk Mail can be useful to you because it will allow you to use a simple Web page interface to send E-mail to students in any of your classes. Here are some brief instructions on using the bulk mail system.

The only resources you will need for sending bulk E-mail are a Web browser connected to the Internet, your EUID (Enterprise User-ID), EUID password, and your Internet E-mail address. If you don't know your EUID, visit: <https://getlogin.unt.edu/cgi-bin/whatsmyeuid> -- your password is your UNT ID number.

To send Bulk E-mail:

1. Go to the Bulk Mail Website (<http://www.unt.edu/bulkmail/>) and log in with your EUID and password.
2. Click on "Send Mail by Enrolled Courses."
3. Set the options for which classes you want to send mail etc. (only your classes will be visible to you).
4. Click on "Create Message"
5. Create and send your message as instructed.

Because this is a bulk mail system, messages are not guaranteed to be sent instantaneously, although they might be. They will likely be sent within three hours but may be sent much sooner than that. You will receive confirmation that your message has been sent to the E-mail address you gave when you sent the message.

In order for students to receive the bulk E-mail you send they must have activated their UNT Student E-mail Service, called EagleMail.

[EagleMail](#): They've got to have it!

As you can see, the UNT Bulk Mail system can be a great benefit to you and your students. In fact, a new University policy (#18.5.7 http://www.unt.edu/planning/UNT_Policy/volume3/18_5_7.html) says that students are responsible for reading their E-mail frequently enough to receive important communications from the University. The only catch is that if your

students don't activate their EagleMail accounts, they cannot receive your E-mail. If a student already has a UNT Internet Account (or jove account), then they already have access to EagleMail. We are asking for your help to spread the word to any students that haven't activated their accounts.

Please encourage your students to apply for an EagleMail account by visiting the eaglemail.unt.edu Website.

EagleMail provides a number of benefits to students over commercial E-mail services. Please convey some of these benefits to your students.

EagleMail...

...will deliver directed important and official information.

Part of EagleMail is the ability of professors and administrators to send out messages to groups of students with similar interests, whether those groups are all the members of a class or all graduating seniors. We can send information, which applies to them more quickly and accurately by E-mail than by traditional means.

...saves paper and promotes school spirit.

There's nothing greener than EagleMail. It helps the environment by saving on the amount of paper that the University must mail out each year. There's no better way for a student to connect with their professors and fellow students than EagleMail.

...is free with UNT enrollment.

There are no special fees for EagleMail. All they have to do to use it is to activate their account.

...is accessible from labs, home, or anywhere on the Internet.

Students can use EagleMail anywhere they have access to the Internet. The General Access Labs located in 10 different buildings all over campus makes it easy to quickly read mail between classes.

...requires no special software.

EagleMail now includes a Web browser client. If students have access to a Web browser, they have access to EagleMail.

...is reliable and backed up.

EagleMail is running on highly reliable hardware and software and we're continuing to improve its reliability. All mail messages are backed up nightly.

...provides a UNT E-mail addressbook.

EagleMail is the best place to look for addresses of friends and professors on campus.

[Page One](#)

[Campus Computing News](#)

[Spring Break Hours](#)

[Did you leave your lights on?](#)

[Faculty: Use UNT's Bulk E-mail Service to Communicate With Students](#)

Lab-of-the-Month:
The COE Lab

[EduTex 2001](#)

[Today's Cartoon](#)

[RSS Matters](#)

[SAS Corner](#)

[The Network Connection](#)

[List of the Month](#)

[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)

[Short Courses](#)

[IRC News](#)

[Staff Activities](#)

[Subscribe to Benchmarks Online](#)

Lab-of-the-Month: The College of Education General Access Lab

By [Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner](#), Student Computing Services Manager

Our featured lab this month is the College of Education General Access Lab located in Matthews Hall Room 309. The COE GAL is open Mondays through Thursdays 7:00 am to midnight, Fridays 7:00 am to 6:00 p.m., Saturdays noon to 8:00 p.m., and Sundays 2:00 p.m. to midnight. Lab manager Charles Andrews emphasizes that his diverse and well-trained staff and the quiet, studious atmosphere are just a few of the reasons the COE lab has become a favorite place for students serious about their computing activities.



The COE General Access Lab offers a quiet and studious atmosphere for its patrons

Because of its location, the College of Education General Access Lab offers several computing applications specifically geared toward the education major along with the standard browser, email, and word-processing software found in all of the labs. Among these special applications are several statistics packages including Amos, Lisrel, S-Plus, SAS, Nudist N5 (*editorial comment: sounds like fun!*), Ethnograph, and SPSS. Facilities are provided for printing theses and dissertations as well as some longer ExCET and TCET reports required for teacher training classes. Another application, DineHealthy, is also used by education majors.

Several resources are available for the completion of educational projects including the Photoshop, Authorware, and Director multimedia applications. Four PC workstations feature scanners with OCR software, and an Apple G4 (also with scanner) and several iMacs include video editing software in their setup. Additionally, the COE GAL has one Macintosh and two PC ADA workstations for students with special needs. Other useful materials include the Java, Visual C, Visual Basic, and C++ programming packages. Due to high request, the lab is also installing five copies of the Atajo software for Spanish and the System-D application for French for students in foreign languages.



The COE lab is well-equipped for all computing needs

Substantial in size, the College of Education General Access Lab has fifty PCs and four Macintosh workstations available in the main lab and twenty-four other PCs located in an adjoining room which is often reserved for special classroom presentations. The majority of the COE machines are 500mhz in speed. Two standard printers are found in the main room and color printing is also available on a limited basis. All of the lab workstations have headphone jacks for listening.

Quiet, well-equipped and out-of-the-way in a far corner of the campus, the College of Education General Access Lab is an ideal spot for the hard-working student who wants friendly and helpful service and an atmosphere conducive to learning. Stop by and see it sometime! The College of Education General Access Lab Website is located at www.coe.unt.edu/gal.

[Page One](#)[Campus
Computing News](#)[Spring Break
Hours](#)[Did you leave
your lights on?](#)[Faculty: Use
UNT's Bulk E-
mail Service to
Communicate
With Students](#)[Lab-of-the-
Month: The COE
Lab](#)[EduTex 2001](#)[Today's Cartoon](#)[RSS Matters](#)[SAS Corner](#)[The Network
Connection](#)[List of the Month](#)[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)[Short Courses](#)[IRC News](#)[Staff Activities](#)[Subscribe to
Benchmarks
Online](#)

EduTex 2001

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor

EduTex 2001, which took place February 21-23 in San Antonio, was a big success. The success was due, in large part, to the efforts of **Dr. Maurice Leatherbury**, Senior Director of Academic Computing Services, who was one of the conference organizers. This was the first year for the EduTex Conference, a new [EDUCAUSE](#) regional conference for information technology professionals in higher education, and UNT was well represented. Dr. Leatherbury gave a talk entitled "A federated Model of Computing Support at a Large State University." **Jenny Jopling**, Associate Director, Center for Distributed Learning, gave two presentations: "Faculty Support for Teaching with Technology" and "Texas Computer-Based Testing Collaborative (TCTC)." **Duane Gustavus**, ACS UNIX Research Analyst, spoke on "Free Software on Campus: Something for Nothing?" and **Dr. Philip Baczewski**, Associate Director, Academic Computing Services, spoke on "LDAP at the University of North Texas: Implementation and Uses." Also presenting was **Mark Wilcox**, barely former UNT Campus Web Administrator. He spoke on "Back End Support for a Course Management System," and participated in the corporate session "WebCT & Campus Pipeline -- From Integration to Transformation."

If you're interested in viewing the texts of the various presentations, they should be on-line some time soon. Check the EduTex 2001 program page, <http://www.educause.edu/conference/edutex/2001/>, to see if they have been posted. Duane Gustavus' paper appeared in last month's *Benchmarks Online* at <http://www.unt.edu/benchmarks/archives/2001/february01/freesw2.htm>.

EduTex 2002?

Planning is already underway for EduTex 20002. It will be in Austin. Requests for proposals for presentations will be sent out next October, so be on the lookout for them. This is a great chance to meet with Texas educators and others involved, in some way, with information technology. This year, under the theme "Shaping IT in the Southwest," the conference featured four tracks: Technology & Applications, Infrastructure, E-Learning, and Management Skills. There will probably be a similar scheme followed next year.

EDUCAUSE

According to their [Website](#), "The mission of EDUCAUSE is to help shape and enable transformational change in higher education through the introduction, use, and management of information resources and technologies in teaching, learning, scholarship, research, and institutional management." UNT is a member of EDUCAUSE, so anyone affiliated with the University is eligible for membership benefits. Additional information on all EDUCAUSE conferences can be found at <http://www.educause.edu/conference/conf.html>

[Page One](#)

[Campus Computing News](#)

[Spring Break Hours](#)

[Did you leave your lights on?](#)

[Faculty: Use UNT's Bulk E-mail Service to Communicate With Students](#)

[Lab-of-the-Month: The COE Lab](#)

[EduTex 2001](#)

Today's Cartoon

[RSS Matters](#)

[SAS Corner](#)

[The Network Connection](#)

[List of the Month](#)

[WWW@UNT.EDU](#)

[Short Courses](#)

[IRC News](#)

[Staff Activities](#)

[Subscribe to Benchmarks Online](#)

Today's Cartoon

© 2000 Randy Glasbergen.
www.glasbergen.com



"Instead of a traditional baby name, let's go with something high-tech. Is 'Yahoo' a girl's name or a boy's name?"

From "Today's Cartoon by Randy Glasbergen", posted with special permission. For many more cartoons, please visit www.glasbergen.com.