Benchmarks Online

CITC Home | Help Desk | Training | About Us | Publications | Our Mission

Volume 9 - Number 1 * January 2006

Columns

- NetworkConnection
- Link of the Month
- IRC News
- RSS Matters
- www@unt.edu
- Short Courses
- Staff Activities

About Benchmarks

Search Archive

Subscribe to Benchmarks

Don't forget our monthly Columns!

Campus Computing News

About the new UNT home page

Turn in Your Old UNT ID Card

Tracking Progress in New KnowledgeNet Courses

Newest Upgrades of MathTalk and Scientific Notebook Available in the Adaptive Lab

Enter the Enterprise

SunDay is next Tuesday (1/24)

TODAY's CARTOON

[Return to top](#)

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

Network Connection | Link of the Month | IRC News | RSS Matters | www@unt.edu | Short Courses | Staff Activities

Computing and Information Technology Center Home | Help Desk | Training | About Us | Publications | Our Mission

Questions, comments and corrections for this site: lynch@unt.edu
Site was last updated or revised : January 20, 2006

Benchmarks Online

Campus Computing News

About the new UNT home page

By Kenn Moffitt, Director of University Online Communications

Actually, I was tempted to just title this article "FINALLY!" The new UNT home page launched last Wednesday, January 11, quietly between semesters. Once the new home page has been published, I am usually so tired of it that I try to block it out completely. One thing always brings me back…. Feedback. So far the feedback has been positive and the site seems to be heading in the right direction. So I wanted to take the opportunity to try and communicate some of the major points about the purpose and the process.

Technology

Since I can safely "geek out" here in *Benchmarks Online*, the CITC newsletter, I can start with the technology. The new home page is completely valid XHTML and relies on CSS style sheets to control the design and layout. There has been a movement the last few years to rescue the web from 1 pixel images for placement, convoluted tables for design, and non-standard coding. Basically a full-on web revolution compared to the way that we all learned web design in the nineties. It has taken a while for most of the majors browsers to reliably handle these standards.

The core concept of the web standard movement is to use standard compliant markup for HTML, CSS, DOM, and ECMAScript technologies and to completely divorce the content and information on the pages from the visual design elements. This creates pages that works equally well on ALL modern web browsers (IE, Netscape/Mozilla/Firefox, Safari and Opera) and provides interoperability for future browsers as well.

Using correctly structured and standards compliant markup allows the modern browsers to focus on displaying pages correctly without having to write bloated code that has to attempt to correct poorly written markup. Without the bloat, the browser programs can be smaller and require less memory. Browsers can focus on a smaller set of adopted behaviors and on rendering the page correctly and consistently.

Separating the design from the informational content on the page has the following benefits:

- **Easier web management** - If a site uses a single CSS style file for the display of the whole site, design changes and adjustments can be made in the single file and once uploaded can influence the entire site. Need to change the font size on every page? Change it in the style file and every page that links to it will now use the new size.

- **Safer and easier updating** - Separating the design from the information allows web page content authors to adjust the information quickly without having to worry about making a mistake and ruining the design. The CSS file handles the display

characteristics of fonts and other formatting options so the web page editor can add plain text and be assured that it will be presented correctly and that the style in consistent across the site.

- **Optimized findability in search engines** - Since search engines ignore the style sheets, they can consume the page and be presented with just the informational content. Search engines don't have to wade through convoluted tables and tiny images that hold no value.

- **Increased browsing for people with disabilities** - Web accessibility software such as screen readers for the vision impaired can access the information on web pages and ignore the visual design information in the CSS file.

- **Faster browsing for handheld and wireless devices** – As more and more people use their cell phones, PDAs, and other wireless devices to access our web pages, the stylesheet can be ignored by the devices. The information can be downloaded quickly and if the page is designed correctly, the information can fit in the wireless viewport without the person having to scroll from right to left.

Content strategy on the home page

The new home page was designed to showcase UNT achievements and highlight critical resources and functions essential to UNT's missions and goals. The homepages uses content strategically to distinguish us from other universities and to reinforce our initiatives such as research, recruiting and academic achievement (among others). Unfortunately, not everything can be showcased on the main UNT home page.

Departments call our office and ask for their event/award/web site/announcement to be featured on the home page. They are proud of the accomplishment and need promotion. Sometimes we can accommodate and sometimes there are better alternatives. The decision about whether to feature information on the home page is not personal or capricious but has to do with the nature of the web site itself. Someone has to be a gatekeeper or the home page becomes overwhelming and unusable.

Pssst. Here's a secret … a university home page is not the end-all-be-all web destination for visitors. No really. Compared to the quantity of information and services available at UNT, it has very little virtual real estate. A home page is simply a starting point for the different audiences that visit. It is more like the lobby of a movie theater. People enter through the theater's lobby and the lobby directs the moviegoers to their destination, the movie that they came to see.

Most visitors spend an average of a few seconds on the home page, searching for clear navigation to direct them to information and resources. In those few seconds, we have an opportunity to tell them about UNT. Who we are. What's going on. Why they should choose UNT. Anything that we NEED them to know about UNT and our story.

Selecting content for all of the UNT audiences (current students, future students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, etc.) is a balancing act. The more material we add to the UNT home page, the more difficult it becomes for ALL of the visitors to find what they are looking for. Each additional feature or link competes for the limited attention of the web visitor. That leaves it up to someone to be a gatekeeper of the home page and try and make informed decisions based on audience research and University initiatives. It also means that someone has to say "no" from time to time.

There are often better solutions. For example, if a department has won an award and wants to promote the achievement, there is a news section on the home page where we can feature the item for a short time. News changes quickly so the item is often short lived. For the award or announcement to be noticed by more visitors in the long term the department's site is often a better solution.   When an audience member leaves the UNT home page to visit the department's site, the visitor has demonstrated intent and has narrowed their focus to a particular topic area. Though the visitors to a smaller site might be less in numbers than those visiting the UNT home page, these visitors have visited the site because they are genuinely interested and the subject is relevant. And since the smaller sites generally have less news, the item can be showcased for a longer time.

There are additional alternatives in addition to a department's home page. If an event needs to be promoted, it can be added into the UNT event calendar. Events added to the calendar can be featured on the UNT home page the day of the event. The information is featured on the second level pages of the site for a week before the event. The second level pages often are visited by a particular audience segment, so events are showcased on the appropriate pages. For example, the "athletics" page features athletic events, the "registering and attending classes" page provides academic events and deadlines for current students, the "faculty and staff page" shows training opportunities, and the "alumni" and "community" pages contain events that are of interest to the general public.

Events on the calendar are included in reports that are provided to the UNT Police, Risk Management and the media.

Homepages and portals

Sometimes I get asked about the differences between the UNT home site and the My UNT portal. People want to know if we will continue to have both or if the portal will replace the home page.

I don't see the portal replacing the home page because they serve different purposes. A home page or web site is public and provides general information to all. Being public, the content can be freely indexed by search engines and increases our findability across the web.

The My UNT portal is fundamentally different. A portal requires users to log in and authenticate in order to access information or services. Once the visitor logs in, the system understands the visitor's role and the software shows content or services that are specific to the visitor's role or relationship with the university. A portal is meant to aggregate core services from our institution in one place and allows a visitor to gain specific access to all applicable services with a single log in.

Since access is restricted to accounts, we can communicate directly to various audience groups even if the communications are a bit sensitive in nature or not entirely appropriate for the public. Services and information can be more targeted and relevant.

The My UNT portal and portal technologies are in their infancy compared to the web. The My UNT portal is just beginning and is a major accomplishment. Just researching, installing, maintaining and providing the core services have been a monumental task. It has taken numerous dedicated individuals countless hours of dedication to create the environment. Many other universities have not committed to a step like this or are just starting to investigate portal benefits.

That being said, the portal still continues to be a high priority and will not remain stagnant. New strategies are being developed and new services considered to help reach its potential.

Any comments or questions about the new homepage can be e-mailed to Kenn Moffitt at moffitt@unt.edu.

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Turn in Your Old UNT ID Card

By Claudia Lynch, Benchmarks Online Editor

March 1 is the deadline for replacement of all UNT ID cards that have Social Security numbers printed on them. For security reasons, Social Security numbers will no longer be used for identification purposes at UNT. From now on EIS-generated random ID numbers (or EMPL IDs) will be used instead. Notice has already been sent out to all UNT ID card holders, but reminders will be sent out again in order to give everyone time to have new ID cards made before the deadline.

An article in the November 17, 2005 issue of *InHouse* sums the situation up:

> All community members with ID cards that were issued prior to April 2004 must replace their ID cards to maintain access to UNT facilities, including the libraries, residence halls, health center, computer labs and recreational center.
>
> ID cards can be replaced at no charge by bringing the current ID card or a driver's license to ID Systems. Employees at the UNT Dallas campus or other locations can contact ID Systems to arrange for alternative methods to replace ID cards.
>
> ID Systems is open from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Eagle Student Services Center, room 105.
>
> ID Systems has attempted to e-mail all individuals with cards that need replacing, but faculty and staff members are asked to help inform students that they may need a new UNT ID card.
>
> In April 2004, with the implementation of EIS, the university began using EMPL IDs for all students and employees. This allows UNT to better protect personal information, since these random ID numbers are used instead of social security numbers in the information system and on UNT ID cards.
>
> For more information, contact Michael McElroy, ID Systems assistant, at (940) 565-3225 or email at McElroy@fis.admin.unt.edu .

The following sign has been posted in all the General Access Computer Labs.

Effective March 1, 2006

In order to access and utilize the UNT General Access Computer Labs:

You must have the newest UNT ID card.
How do you know if you have the right card?

Your **University ID Number must be printed on the front** of your ID card and it should look like the ID below:

Your ID number should be printed on the bottom right hand side of the card

What do you do if your ID does not look like this?

Go to the ID Office, ESSC room 105 to get a new card.

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

# Tracking Progress in New KnowledgeNet Courses

By **Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner**, **Student Computing Services Manager**

The newer KnowledgeNet computer-based courseware (covering the latest versions of Windows and Office software), features a different way of tracking and displaying one's progress in the course. The older training did this tracking automatically; in the new training, one must set up this feature for each course.

To record/display progress in the course, the user must click on the **map** button on the lower left-hand corner of the course screen (see below). This displays the outline of course topics:


A red and blue Learning Object Triangle appears on the left side of each topic heading (below). Click on this Learning Object Triangle to launch the section of the course. This also triggers the progress recording application and now your progress will be recorded.
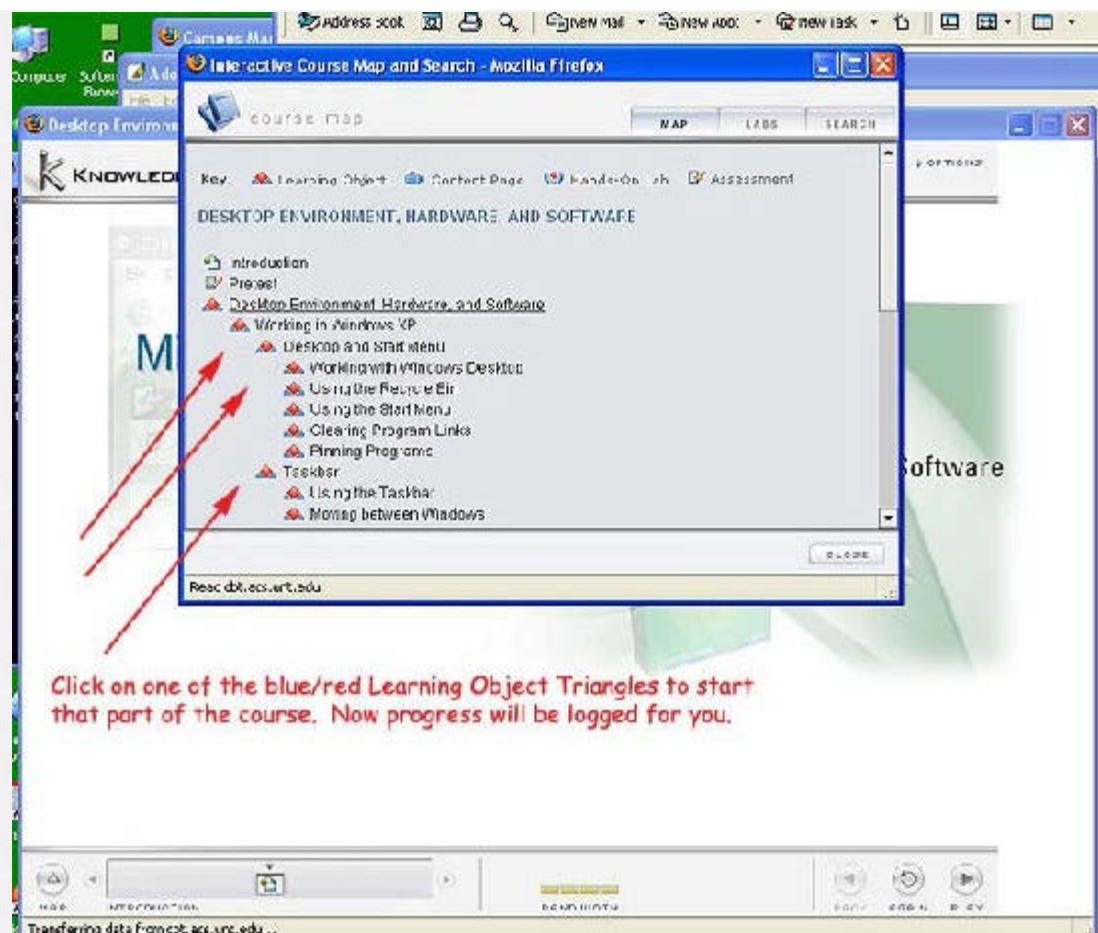
Click on one of the blue/red Learning Object Triangles to start that part of the course. Now progress will be logged for you.

Please note that you MUST launch course sections in this manner in order to have your progress recorded in the system!.

When launching the courseware in this way, the Learning Object Triangles are now displayed at the bottom left of the screen. You click on subsequent triangles to advance through the topics in the course (below). Note that you use the standard playback buttons on the right bottom of the screen to advance through the materials in your current section.
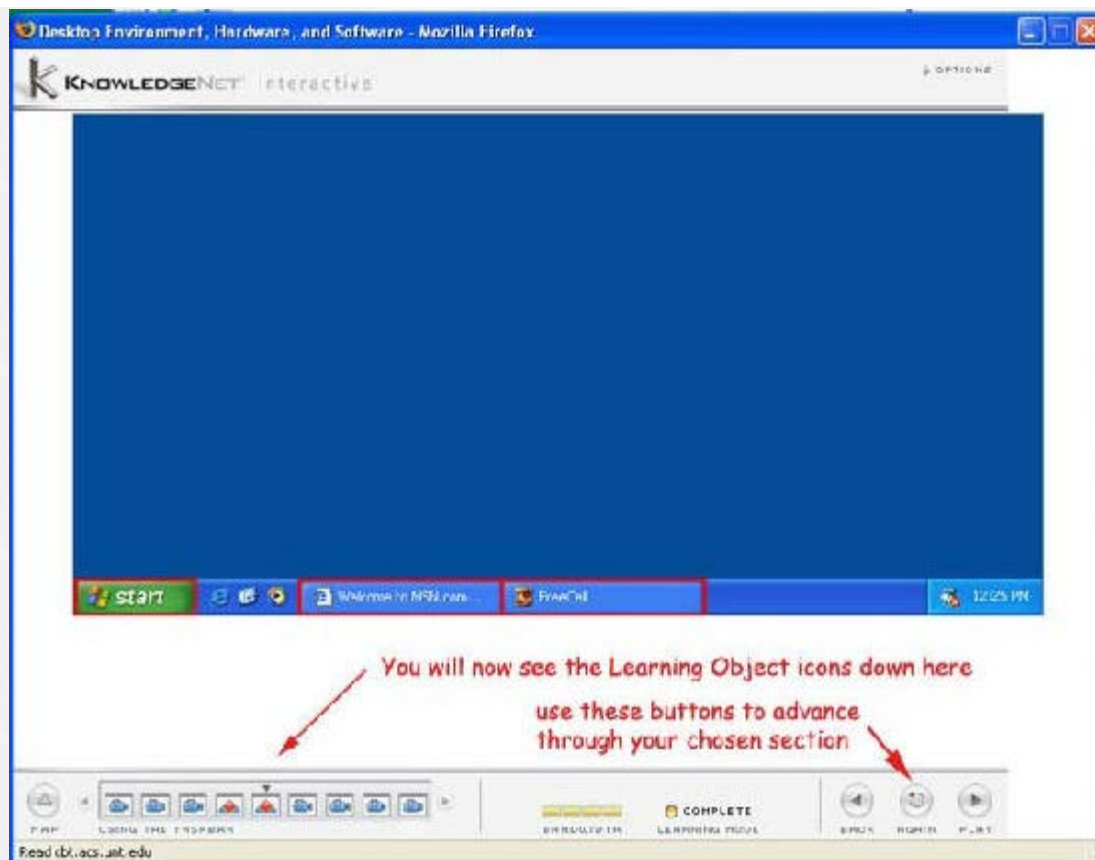
Don't ask me why KnowledgNet's new courses use this clunky way of doing something that they used to do automatically! I guess "that's progress"! If you have further questions about this issue, please contact me, the CBT administration at ehinkle@unt.edu.

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Return to top

Benchmarks Online

- **Page One**
- **Campus Computing News**
- **Turn in Your Old UNT ID Card**
- **Tracking Progress in New KnowledgeNet Courses**
- **Newest Upgrades of MathTalk and Scientific Notebook Available in the Adaptive Lab**
- **Enter *the Enterprise***
- **SunDay is next Tuesday (1/24)**
- **Today's Cartoon**
- **RSS Matters**
- **The Network Connection**
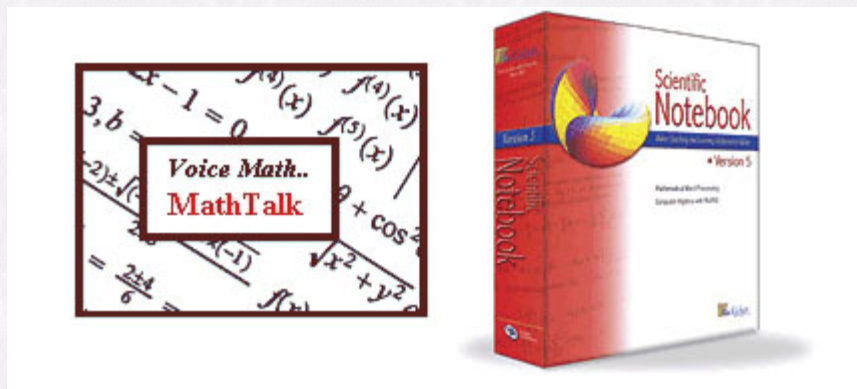- **Link of the Month**
- **WWW@UNT.EDU**
- **Short Courses**
- **IRC News**
- **Staff Activities**
- **Subscribe to Benchmarks Online**

Newest Upgrades of MathTalk and Scientific Notebook Available in the Adaptive Lab

By Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Student Computing Services Manager

The ACS/Adaptive General Access Lab located in ISB 110 now has the latest versions (5.5) of MathTalk and Scientific Notebook installed on its adaptive stations. MathTalk and Scientific Notebook are applications that work with Dragon Naturally Speaking voice-recognition software. Both applications perform powerful calculation and graphing functions all activated using voice commands. The manuals for MathTalk and Scientific Notebook are also available in the lab and a helpful online tutorial for getting started with these applications is located at http://www.unt.edu/ACSGAL/mathtalk.html.

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Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Page One

Campus Computing News

Turn in Your Old UNT ID Card

Tracking Progress in New KnowledgeNet Courses

Newest Upgrades of MathTalk and Scientific Notebook Available in the Adaptive Lab

Enter *the Enterprise*

SunDay is next Tuesday (1/24)

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks *Online*

Enter *the Enterprise*

By Claudia Lynch, Benchmarks Online Editor

A quarterly web-based publication containing EIS-specific information was launched this month. "Launched" is a particularly good description since the name of this particular publication is *the Enterprise*.

For the uninitiated, the Enterprise Information System (EIS) consists of the online processes that support the business of the University. It is a combination of the efforts of many business and administrative offices of the University, supported by technology managed by the Computing and Information Technology Center.

The current issue of *the Enterprise* can be found here. John Hooper, Executive Director of Administrative Information Systems, CITC, UNT sets the scene for you in his column "THE CAPTAIN'S CHAIR.*" Read all about it!*

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Return to top

Benchmarks Online

SunDay is next Tuesday (1/24)

YOU'RE INVITED!

Sun Microsystems, Inc. Presents:
 SunDay at University of North Texas

DATE: 1/24/2006
LOCATION: Denton
VENUE: University of North Texas, Information Sciences Building - Room 201
TIME: 9:30 AM - 12 Noon

Join Sun Microsystems for an update in most recent products, services and offers during this interactive SunDay. Refer to the agenda listed below for more details.

Sun is once again revolutionizing the industry by introducing new technologies that dramatically reduce overall cost and complexity. How is this done? Quite simply, we focused on both hardware and software innovations that provide better management, development and deployment of applications and technology resources throughout the enterprise.

AGENDA:

9:30 AM To 9:40 AM Welcome, Sun Update Overview, & Refreshments
 9:40 AM To 10:10 AM Enterprise & Volume Server Roadmap
 10:10 AM To 10:30 AM Solaris 10
 10:30 AM To 10:50 AM Storage & Data Management
 10:50 AM To 11:10 AM Other Sun Updates (Star Office 8)
 11:10 AM To 11:30 PM Sun Partner Highlight: Elluminate
 11:30 AM To 12:00 PM Open Forum and Q&A

VIEW PRESENTATION DETAILS AND REGISTER AT:
 http://www.suneventreg.com/cgi-bin/pup_registration.pl?EventID=795

This event is free of charge. Food and beverage will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you at University of North Texas and helping you on your way to a much simpler, less costly, technology infrastructure!

Sincerely,
Denise Smith
Account Executive
Sun Microsystems, Inc.

Sun Microsystems, Inc. respects your desire for privacy.
If you have any questions regarding our privacy policies, please refer to
http://sun.com/privacy . If you have any questions about this specific event, please contact
denise.smith@sun.com

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

maincontent

Page One

 Campus Computing News

Turn in Your Old UNT ID Card

Tracking Progress in New KnowledgeNet Courses

Newest Upgrades of MathTalk and Scientific Notebook Available in the Adaptive Lab

Enter *the Enterprise*

SunDay is next Tuesday (1/24)

Today's Cartoon

 RSS Matters

 The Network Connection

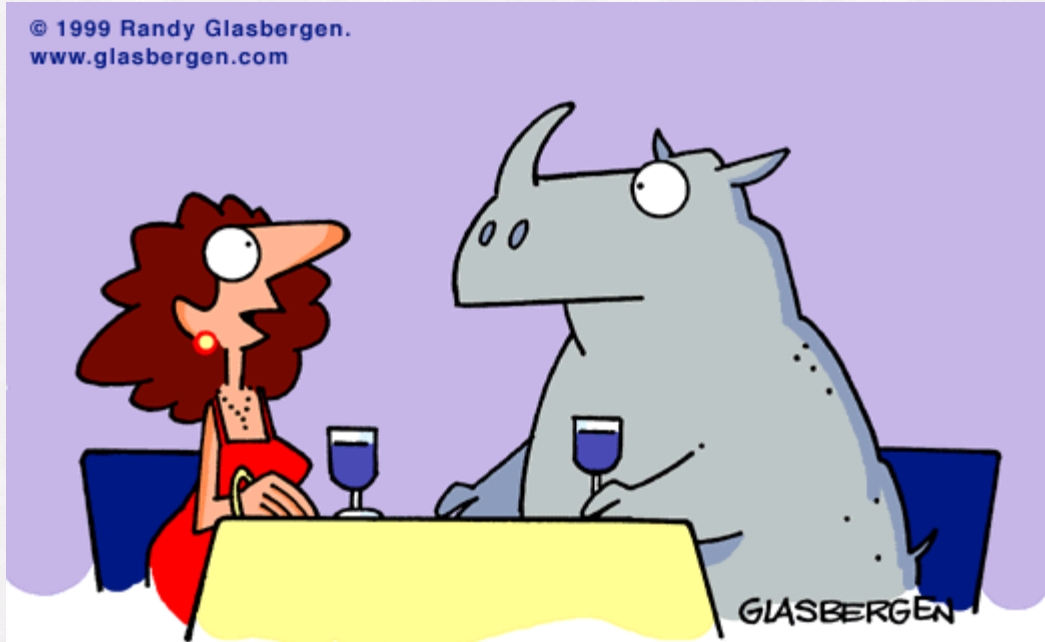 Link of the Month

 WWW@UNT.EDU

 Short Courses

 IRC News

 Staff Activities

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Today's Cartoon

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www.glasbergen.com

GLASBERGEN

"The moment we met in the chatroom,
I could tell that you were better than those
other wild animals who hang out there!"

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

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Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Network Connection

By **Dr. Philip Baczewski**, Director of Academic Computing and User Services

Off the Wire

My friend's young son once claimed the ability to read his own mind. I guess I can claim the ability to predict my own future and be reasonably accurate. Back in August of 2004 in this column I stated, "I imagine that my next phone will have more characteristics of a PDA (some phones already do). My ideal phone would have Bluetooth (if the security improves) to sync with my Macintosh OS X system...."

I recently became the proud owner of a Palm Treo 650 which meets most of the requirements I imagined so long ago in 2004. It's a PDA and a cell phone. Bluetooth security has improved. The phone has a decent web browser and an OK camera. It plays music and shows video. It synchronizes with my Mac OS X system (for the extra charge of third-party software from markspace.com). And my cellular provider has "some reasonably fast Internet service" that let's me access "real" web pages on a teeny-tiny screen.

This acquisition gets me down to only one piece of electronics that I have to carry in order to feel connected in this wired age. I can maintain a calendar that is synced to our UNT GroupWise system, and I can read my e-mail from just about anywhere. Instead of just those text-based WAP pages, I now have a browser available to display most pages on the web.

The advantage to using cellular service for my remote connectivity is the relative ubiquity of today's cellular networks. WiFi networks found in coffee shops or airports are great for connecting your e-mail if you are caffinating or flying, but less convenient if you find yourself at a child's soccer practice or even in the grocery store wanting to know recipe ingredients for the night's meal.

Still, the phone-PDA combination is a pretty small package. If you want the same kind of ubiquity with your favorite laptop computer, you may want to investigate EVDO . EVDO provides broadband-type access speed in metropolitan coverage areas and dialup speed elsewhere on the cellular network. It won't rival a DSL connection in terms of speed and reliability, but for that must-have mobile service without caffeine, it's an interesting new solution.

Mobile phones and service plans continue to increase in sophistication and service levels. The increased availability of data service over cellular networks has relegated WiFi to home networks and hotspots. Some cities and towns are now installing more ubiquitous WiFi networks, but these are generally either providing an alternative or the only source of broadband service in these areas. It seems that cellular is on its way to cementing its position as a mobile data as well as phone service. Now if they could only make that little screen a bit larger...

The Network Connection

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Page One

Campus Computing News

Turn in Your Old UNT ID Card

Tracking Progress in New KnowledgeNet Courses

Newest Upgrades of MathTalk and Scientific Notebook Available in the Adaptive Lab

Enter *the Enterprise*

SunDay is next Tuesday (1/24)

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks *Online*

Link of the Month

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

The New UNT Homepage!

The UNT homepage has been redesigned to incorporate UNT's new branding, including the "new green," as well as improve the accessibility of information on that page. For a look behind the scenes of the redesign, see this month's Campus Computing News.

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Return to top

Benchmarks Online

IRC News

Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey, Recording Secretary*

December 20, 2005

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: PHILIP TURNER, ELIZABETH HINKLE-TURNER, JUDITH ADKISON, PATRICK PLUSCHT, JENNIFER LAFLEUR (for GUILLERMO OYARCE), TIM CHRISTIAN, UWE ROSSBACH, CENGIZ CAPAN, SCOTT JOYCE (for CHUCK FULLER), JONEEL HARRIS, MARGARET AMBUEHL, RAMU MUTHIAH, ROBERT NIMOCKS, CRAIG BERRY (for MAX KAZEMZADEH) **NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** MAURICE LEATHERBURY, JOE ADAMO, JAMES STRAWN, PHILIP BACZEWSKI, SUE ELLEN RICHEY (Recording Secretary) **MEMBERS ABSENT:** JOHN HOOPER, BRUCE HUNTER, CHRISTY CRUTSINGER, DON GROSE, LOU ANN BRADLEY, RAY BANKS, JIM CURRY, JON NELSON, ABRAHAM JOHN, TOBYE RAE NELSON, DOUG MAINS, BOBBY CARTER

The minutes of the December 20th meeting were approved as distributed.

There was no report from the IR Steering Committee, since that committee had not met since the last IRC meeting.

DCSMT**

Philip Baczewski reported for the Distributed Computing Support Management Team that DCSMT met November 18 and December 16. The November 18 meeting included a presentation by Shane Jester, of the CITC Central Web Support team, regarding plans to phase out FrontPage extensions on the central web servers. Microsoft no longer supports FrontPage extensions for the UNIX platform and they have numerous known and unknown un-patched exploits. The Central Web Support group will help develop alternative tools, provide training, and provide extensive assistance in website conversions. The goal is to begin the conversion away from FrontPage on January 2, 2006, and hopefully have the project completed by May 31, 2006.

Also at the November 18 meeting, representatives from Intel Corporation presented an overview of the latest multicore technology, which will soon become the standard for Intel desktop and server platforms. Multicore technology is meant to provide additional performance in the face of limits reached in extending processor speed. Intel provided an overview of their processor roadmap which included the present-day release of dual-core processors and planned processors with 4 or more cores.

DCSMT met again on December 16. A discussion of EAZ-fix versus Deepfreeze desktop restoration software resulted in a consensus that there is no reason to pursue adoption of EAZ-fix as a campus standard, based on the considerable expense of that software. The meeting was mostly devoted to a presentation by VMWare representatives on their virtual

server software environment which allows multiple OS images to run on one hardware platform. At that meeting Joe Adamo provided an update on the campus firewall project and estimated that the Firewall could be in production by late Spring.

Dr. Turner asked if the Firewall will be tested with WebCT Vista, and Philip responded, and Joe Adamo confirmed, that the Firewall will not block anything more than is already blocked at the router; it will just provide more flexibility so that further protection can be provided for the future as expansion is needed. Joe further explained that before any new rules are put in place in conjunction with the new Firewall, Network Managers and others will be involved to make sure departments are not impacted by this change, and the Communications Planning Group will develop policies, with input from all areas of the university community. Any policies that are developed will be brought before the IRC for approval. Uwe Rossbach suggested that more discussion is necessary regarding the Firewall implementation, and that a whole set of questions need to be answered. He further suggested that a high level group look at policy regarding a Firewall. Maurice Leatherbury stressed that anyone who is interested in working on this issue is encouraged to join the Communications Planning Group.

Robert Nimocks, when asked about how the Health Science Center went about implementing their Firewall, stated that HSC went from having nothing at all to having a very tightly controlled network. All implementation decisions and policies went through their Information Resources Council and most are modeled after UNT's network. All of the HSC's communications will come through CITC's Firewall. They have set up gates which allow people to work away from campus the same way they work on campus, so these gates allow traffic to pass through the Firewall. He said that they copied UT Southwestern in that development.

Learning Enhancement Planning Group

Patrick Pluscht reported for the Learning Enhancement Planning Group that 20 proposals for learning enhancement grants were received and reviewed. Recommendations for award of the $146,000 in grant funds were sent to the Provost today. Seven proposals were given full funding, two additional proposals that are part of the honors initiative were also given full funding; six were given partial funding, and five were given no funding.

EIS Planning Group

Joneel Harris reported for the EIS Planning Group that they continue to focus their efforts on planning a future upgrade path. What had been called the Higher Education Users' Group and is now called Alliance, will be holding the next conference during Spring Break. More information will be available at that time regarding the planned upgrades of the PeopleSoft product. There is some uncertainty about the timing of upgrades to the system and therefore the schedule of future projects has been affected. Due to the delaying of one of those projects, Human Resources has had to move forward with an alternative software for applicant tracking purposes that will not interface with PeopleSoft because they simply can't wait for the PeopleSoft upgrade. Similar situations are arising in other areas, also.

The EIS project planners have looked at other vendor's Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) products to replace existing silo prospect/recruitment systems, and interface with PeopleSoft. The decision was made that UNT should just go ahead with CRM implementation plans, rather than switch to another vendor's product. Joneel reported that they continue to work on data warehousing development and are making good progress, and that a project management tool is being purchased to aid in managing future upgrade

paths and post-production project tasks.

Standards & Policy Planning Group

Tim Christian reported that the Standards & Policy Planning Group has not met since the last IRC meeting and he asked members to submit items for discussion prior January 6, 2006.

Student Computing Planning Group

Elizabeth Hinkle Turner reported for the Student Computing Planning Group that all but one of the General Access Labs have picked up their new signs and will be having Facilities install them soon.

Joneel announced that anyone who has not yet had their new ID cards made should do that very soon.

WebCT, WebCT Vista, Distributed Learning

Dr. Turner reported that June 1, 2006 is the deadline for switching over all courses from the Campus Edition of WebCT to WebCT Vista because after that date, the Campus Edition will no longer be supported. Since the merger of WebCT and BlackBoard looks certain, plans are for an upgrade to Version 4.0 of Vista, then to a fusion product which will be a combination of Vista and BlackBoard's product sometime within the next 2 years. Dr. Turner stated that they plan to stay with Version 3.0 of Vista and be very cautious when considering any upgrades to the product. In the interim they will consider and evaluate other technologies so that they will be prepared when the time comes to make the big decision of whether to stay with the new BlackBoard fusion product or change to an entirely different product.

Cengiz Capan asked about the direction they will be taking in the use of video in distributed learning. Dr. Turner reported that there are a number of products available which they will be looking at and talking about. He encouraged anyone looking at purchasing any kind of video product for course development to contact the Center for Distributed Learning before making a decision.

Dr. Turner reported that a group will be here in April for the Southern Accreditation Committee and they will be looking at distributed learning with two aims: 1) compliance to their standards; and 2) a quality enhancement plan for enhancing the learning outcome in large enrollment classes. They have identified five courses from which to collect baseline data, which are: 1) BCIS 333; 2) 2nd semester US History; 3) 2nd semester Art History, 4) Chemistry I for Psych majors, and 5) Introduction to Computing. Faculty are voluntarily working on this project.

In answer to a question from Joneel about whether these newly designed classes will be the property of the faculty who design them, Dr. Turner explained that they have set up some rules about the design of the courses, which are: 1) that the course must be sustainable; 2) it must be replicable by teaching fellows or anyone else; and 3) it must increase the quality of education.

CITC Move to Research Park

Maurice Leatherbury reported that progress is being made at the Research Park to make it ready for most of the CITC staff to be relocated there.

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

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* For a list of IRC Regular and Ex-officio Members click here.

**DCSMT Minutes can be found here.

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. The schedule can be found here. All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Research and Statistical Support
### University of North Texas

RSS Matters

Canonical Correlation with SPSS

By **Dr. Mike Clark**, **Research and Statistical Support Services Consultant**

Many in the social sciences often employ multiple regression (MR) to solve the problem of how several variables predict another variable. A linear combination of the independent variables (IVs) is created that will have the minimum squared errors in prediction. The square of that correlation between the linear combination and the dependent variable (DV) is the amount of variance in the dependent variable accounted for by the predictors.

Although it is easy to think of the independent variables as a set that one believes has some relation to the dependent variable, many do not as often think of a *set of dependent* variables that one wishes to predict. Canonical correlation analyzes the relationship between sets of variables, with one set of variables typically seen as the independent set and another as the dependent set, though the causal arrow is not necessarily specified. In a sense it can be thought of *multivariate* regression though multiple regression is actually a special case of canonical correlation.

To begin with, it helps to visualize what we're about to do. The figure below gives us an idea of what is going to happen.
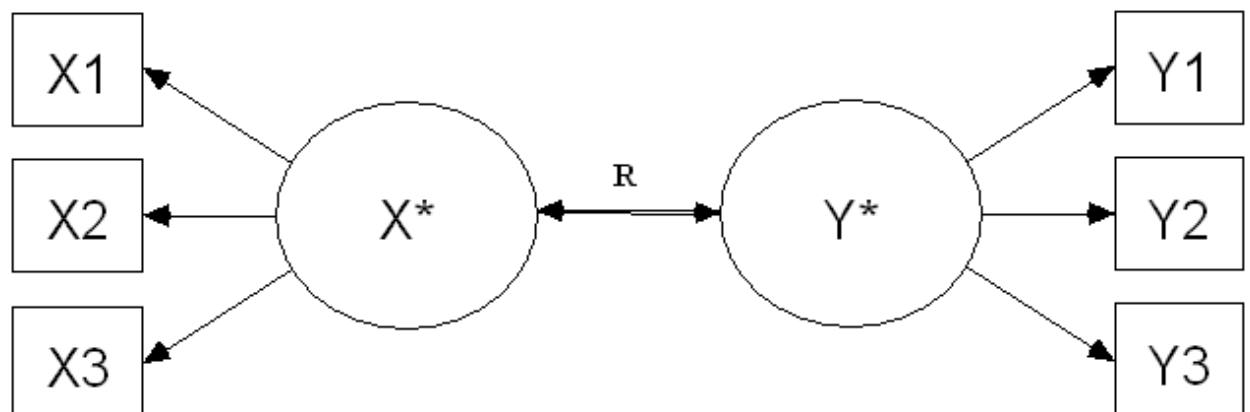
Just like in MR we want to create linear combinations of the set of IVs (X1-X3). However, now we

have a set of DVs and will want to create a linear combination of those also (Y1-Y3). Canonical correlation analysis will create linear combinations (variates, X* and Y* above) of the two sets that will have maximum correlation with one another.

The advantage that canonical correlation has over typical MR is that it can take into account the complex nature of data: we don't have to restrict ourselves to one DV, and it also allows for the possibility that the two sets of variables have a relationship along more than one dimension. In other words we may find that there are other linear combinations of the two sets of variables such that would result in the variates having a sizable (though lesser) correlation that also would be of practical significance. In a given analysis you will be provided with X number of canonical correlations equal to the number of variables in the smaller set.

The mechanics of canonical correlation are covered in many multivariate texts (see references below for some examples). Our focus here will regard its utilization in SPSS. To begin with, the menu system will not be able to assist us this time. The macro involved must be called via syntax, however, there isn't much to it. Once we specify the macro to be used (it is available in the SPSS folder), we then just note which variables go with each set (one can think of set 1 as the IVs). The general format is as follows:

    ---

    include file 'c:\Program Files\SPSS\Canonical correlation.sps'.

    cancorr

    set1= /

    set2=   .

The example provided here regards the association between a set of job characteristics and measures of employee satisfaction. The raw data can be found by following the SAS example link below.

Three variables associated with job characteristics are:

   task variety: degree of variety involved in tasks, expressed as a percent

   feedback: degree of feedback required in job tasks, expressed as a percent

   autonomy: degree of autonomy required in job tasks, expressed as a percent

Three variables associated with job satisfaction are:

   career track satisfaction: employee satisfaction with career direction and the possibility of future advancement, expressed as a percent

   management and supervisor satisfaction: employee satisfaction with supervisor's communication and management style, expressed as a percent

   financial satisfaction: employee satisfaction with salary and other benefits, using a scale measurement from 1 to 10 (1=unsatisfied, 10=satisfied)

So our syntax will look something like:

    include file 'c:\Program Files\SPSS\Canonical correlation.sps'.

cancorr

set1= Variety Feedback Autonomy/

set2= Career Supervisor Financial.

Unfortunately our output in SPSS is not in the familiar neat table form but rather regular text format. As such I often paste it into MS Word to make it a little easier to move around in. So what are we looking at?

*Correlation***:** we get the correlation coefficients for items within each set, and also the correlations among all the variables involved.

*Canonical Correlation***:** depending on the number of variables involved, we will see two or more canonical correlations between the variates created for each set.

*Significance test***:** Bartlett's chi-square based on Wilks' lambda. Note that these tests are not respective of each canonical correlation, but instead regard all the canonical correlations, minus any previous larger ones, at the same time. Essentially it is a test of whether the eigenvalues are greater than zero. However also be aware that like regular correlation coefficients, we are typically more interested in the size of the correlation than statistical significance. Here it looks like the first solution is both very large and statistically significant ($R = .92$, $p = .02$).

*Coefficients***:** Standardized and raw coefficients used to create the linear combinations. The true 'raw' coefficients, the eigenvectors, are not provided.

*Loadings***:** these are the structure coefficients (be sure when seeing the term 'loading' it is clear what coefficients are being interpreted). They are the correlation between the variables in the set and the variate created from linear combination. Here you have regular and cross loadings (loadings regarding the other variate). Our largest loadings for this correlation for job satisfaction are autonomy and feedback, and for job satisfaction are career track satisfaction and management/supervisor satisfaction. Note that financial considerations do not seem as important in the relationship of these sets of variables.

*Redundancy***:** each set gets a pair of output with regard to 'redundancy'. The proportion of variance of each set explained by its own canonical variate will add to 1. In other words, the entire canonical solution extracts all the variance seen with respect to the variables involved. Regarding the individual values (i.e. 'Explained by its own Can. Var.'), these are adequacy coefficients, or average squared loading for that particular variate on that dimension (e.g. with set 1, squaring and averaging the loadings = .446). The amount explained by the opposite variate is the redundancy, which can be seen in some sense as a measure of predictive validity. However, some caution should be exercised regarding its interpretation as it has limited utility within the canonical correlation framework. Canonical correlation does not try to maximize this value, but instead the correlation among the variates. If one is more interested in redundancy, one should instead perform 'redundancy analysis', which searches for linear combinations of variables in one group that maximizes the variance of the other group that is explained by the linear combination. Such a procedure is available in SAS and R. See the Thompson references for more on this matter.

So there you have a basic introduction to canonical correlation; one can find the procedures in other packages below. The analysis is often thought of as exploratory, but if your hypotheses regard sets of continuous variables, canonical correlation may be a more suitable alternative to running a multiple regression for each DV under consideration, and so well worth utilizing.

Other packages

- [Proc cancorr in SAS](#) (includes data set used above)

- [R package](#)

- [STATA](#)

References

- Lattill, Carroll, & Green (2003). Analyzing Multivariate Data.

- Tastuoka (1971). Multivariate analysis

- Thompson, B. (1984). Canonical Correlation Analysis.

- Thompson (1991). A primer on the logic and use of canonical correlation analysis.

[Return to top](#)

Benchmarks Online

WWW@UNT.EDU

This and That

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

The project that will remove the FrontPage Server Extensions from all CWS supported web servers by May 31 of 2006 is progressing according to plan, according to Shane Jester, Central Web Support Manager. In case you missed the announcement of this initiative, you can read about it here *Dealing with the Transition from FrontPage to Alternate Web Editors* and here *FrontPage Server Extension Phase-out Plan*. It is particularly important for people responsible for website development and maintenance here at UNT to be aware of this initiative and the possible ramifications it may have for them.

Speaking of website development, you may have noticed that UNT has a new homepage. You can read all about it in this month's *Campus Computing News*. Again, if you are responsible for website development and maintenance, this article will inform you of the rationale behind the UNT homepage redesign and give you some ideas, perhaps, for a redesign of your own site(s).

Please note that information published in *Benchmarks Online* is likely to degrade over time, especially links to various Websites. To make sure you have the most current information on a specific topic, it may be best to search the UNT Website - http://www.unt.edu . You can also search *Benchmarks Online* - http://www.unt.edu/benchmarks/archives/back.htm as well as consult the UNT Helpdesk - http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/ Questions and comments should be directed to benchmarks@unt.edu

Return to top

Short Courses

Benchmarks Online

Short Courses

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

Short Courses are over for the fall. Surf over to the [Short Courses](#) page for a sample of the sorts of courses that will be offered for the spring semester (starting, probably, at the beginning of February).

Important note for Web Developers: The article ["FrontPage Server Extension Phase-out Plan"](#) in the November issue of *Benchmarks Online* sets out a time frame for phasing-out FrontPage extensions. Because of this, an increased number of DreamWeaver short courses will be offered this coming spring.

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](#). Additionally, the Center for Continuing Education and Conference Management offers a variety of [courses](#) to both UNT and the general community, usually for a small fee.

EIS Training

Questions or comments relating to EIS training should be sent to the EISTRN GroupWise account. Upcoming EIS training events may be found at:

- Learning to Use EIS: http://www.unt.edu/eis/WebHelp/EIS_Training/Training_Start.htm
- EIS Timekeeper Training Schedule: http://www.unt.edu/eis/WebHelp/EIS_Glossary.htm
- EIS ePro Training Calendar: http://www.unt.edu/pps/trainingcalendar.htm
- Ongoing training is available on WebCT at: http://web2.unt.edu/eis/Training/signup_form.php

GroupWise Training

Information about GroupWise training can be found at the GroupWise Support site. A list of GroupWise 6.5 "Tutorial Topics" can be found here: http://ncs.unt.edu/gw/howto/index.htm A GroupWise 6.5 Training CD-ROM is also available. See "Installing and Using GroupWise 6.5 CD-ROM Training from Thomson NETg" in the June issue of *Benchmarks Online* for more information.

GroupWise 6.5 Seminars

If would like to have a Basic GroupWise seminar for your area, please contact Jason Gutierrez, Network Computing Services, jasong@unt.edu.

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 Chilton 245. 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 Website.

Technical Training

Technical Training for campus network managers is available, from time to time, through the Network Computing Services (NCS) division of the Computing and Information Technology Center. Check the NCS site to see if and when they are offering any training.

UNT Mini-Courses

There 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.pware.com/index.cfm?clientid=2694a

Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the General Access Labs around campus have tutorials installed on their computers. The Training Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Computer Based Training (CBT) is one of the alternatives offered.

For further information on CBT at UNT, see the CBT website. Note also, two articles in the November issue of *Benchmarks Online*, "Using the Adobe Education Website - Revised November 2006" and "SkillPort and Thomson NETg Offer Easy-to-use Browser Compatibility Testing for Online Learning." The recently published article "Project Management Courses Added to the

 SkillPort CBT Website" may also be of interest.

The article Tracking Progress in New KnowledgeNet Courses in this issue of *Benchmarks Online* gives instructions on how to set up tracking for each course. This information is also available on the CBT website.

Please note that information published in *Benchmarks Online* is likely to degrade over time, especially links to various Websites. To make sure you have the most current information on a specific topic, it may be best to search the UNT Website - http://www.unt.edu . You can also search **Benchmarks Online** - http://www.unt.edu/benchmarks/archives/back.htm as well as consult the UNT Helpdesk - http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/ Questions and comments should be directed to benchmarks@unt.edu

Return to top

Benchmarks Online

Staff Activities

Transitions

New Employees:

- **Daniel Graham Harris** - Microcomputer Consultant, Helpdesk (part-time).

- **Graham Pocta** - CITC LAN Technical Assistant (part-time).

- **Waewwow (Amy) Allen** - Computer Systems Manager, Unix Support Services.

- **Davide Louis Bernard** - Computer Support Specialist, Network Computing Services.

- **Vishal Marda** - Lab Monitor, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).

- **Jakkrit Wajavuth** - Lab Monitor, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).

- **Jonathan Mac Edwards** - Computer Support Specialist, Helpdesk.

- **Lip Yew Sim** - Programmer, Student Finance Team, AIS.

- **Jonathan Starkweather** - Research and Statistical Support Services Consultant, ACS (part-time).

No longer working in the Computing and Information Technology Center:

- **Stormy Shippy -** CITC LAN Technical Assistant (part-time)**.**

- **Huaxia (Vanessa) Zhang** - Lab Monitor, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).

- **Sumant Ganapavarapu** - Lab Monitor, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).

- **Sandy Burke**, Manager of the CITC Helpdesk, retired in December.

Changes:

- **Richard Sanzone,** promoted to Manager of the CITC Helpdesk**,** replacing Sandy Burke, who retired in December.

Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

- **Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner**, Student Computing Services Manager, has a new book out as of this month from Ashgate Publishing. The book is ***Women Composers and Music Technology in the United States*** *Crossing the Line* and is described thusly (one of the women profiled in Hinkle-Turner's book is Christine Baczewska, who is Philip Baczewski's sister):

  This book is the most definitive attempt to date to discuss the achievements of women as composers of experimental and avant-garde music from the 1930s to the present day. Using a wealth of primary material, it also explores currently relevant issues in gender and technology. Drawing out the relationships between composers and their working environments, and between teachers and students, Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner discusses the contribution of women composers to electroacoustic music. Includes a bibliography and discography covering the work of ninety composers.

  Contents: Introduction; Precedents and pioneers; A generation of growth and influence; Continued promise for the future; In the spotlight: role models rise in the mainstream; Finding their visual voice: composers explore multimedia technology; Where are we now?; Sources for electroacoustic music by women; Selected discography; Bibliography; Index.

  January 2006 c. 310 pages Hardback 0 7546 0461 6 $79.95 (U.S. dollars)

- **Dr. Philip Baczewski**, Director of Academic Computing and User Services, has an article - "Modeling Music Perception: Untangling Methods and Methodologies" - appearing in *On Methods of Music Theory and (Ethno-) Musicology*, Nico Schüler, Ed., Methodology of Music Research, Vol. 4, Peter Lang, Frankfurt Am Main, 2005

  Full bibliographic reference (http://dnb.ddb.de/):

  On methods of music theory and (ethno-)musicology : from interdisciplinary research to teaching / Nico Schüler (ed.). - Frankfurt am Main ; Berlin ; Bern; Bruxelles ; New York ; Oxford ; Wien : Lang, 2005. - 204 S. : Ill., graph. Darst., Noten ; 21 cm (Methodology of music research ; Bd. 4)

  Literaturangaben
  ISBN 3-631-54390-5 (Frankfurt am Main ...) kart. : EUR 39.00
  ISBN 0-8204-7779-6 (New York) kart.
  SW: Musik ; Aufsatzsammlung
  SG: 780
  Titel noch in Bearbeitung
  IDN: 976829959

Service Recognition Awards

The following people were recognized for their years of service at the Service Recognition Awards ceremony on December 8, 2005:

- **Coy Hoggard**, Executive Director of Administrative Information Systems (Retired). - 40 Years of Service.

- **Janice Surfomia Green Madlock**, Programmer/Analyst, EIS Technical Services (AIS) - 25 Years of Service.

- **Jennifer Lafleur**, Asst. Director for Computing and IT Planning and Administration - 20 Years of Service.

- **Phillip T. Brooks**, Production Control Lead, Computer Operations (AIS) - 15 Years of Service.

- **Catherine Gonzalez**, EIS Training, Communication, and Administration Manager (AIS) - 15 Years of Service.

- **John Hooper**, Executive Director of Administrative Information Systems - 15 Years of Service.

- **Silvester Montalvo**, Telecommunications Specialist - 15 Years of Service.

- **Dorothy Flores**, Programmer/Analyst, UNT/HSC Fiscal Systems (AIS) - 10 Years of Service.

- **Michael Murdock**, Programmer/Analyst, Oracle Database Administration (AIS) - 10 Years of Service.

- **Jason Myre**, Messaging GroupWise, Network Computing Services - 10 Years of Service.

- **Bahram Paiani**, Messaging Host, Network Computing Services - 10 Years of Service.

- **Charity Beck**, Computer Systems Manager, Central Web Support - 5 Years of Service.

- **Attila Hakimoglu**, Computer Systems Manager, Data Communications - 5 Years of Service.

- **Tracy Hansen**, CITC Desktop Support, Network Computing Services - 5 Years of Service.

- **Jay Maxwell**, Programmer/Analyst, Student Records Data Systems (AIS) - 5 Years of Service.

- **Shannon Peevey**, Computer Systems Manager, Central Web Support - 5 Years of Service.

- **Kenneth Sedgley**, Telecommunications Manager - 5 Years of Service.

[Return to top](#)

Benchmarks online

Don't Forget Our Monthly Columns!

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* **Editor**

In addition to our feature articles, *Benchmarks Online* publishes monthly columns that are focused on specific aspects of computing here at UNT (and beyond, in some cases). Check out what is waiting for you this month:

- **RSS Matters** - "RSS Matters" is the monthly column written by the Research and Statistical Support Group in Academic Computing Services. Their articles focus on topics of a statistical and/or research methods nature. **This month, Dr. Mike Clark talks about "Canonical Correlation with SPSS."**

- **The Network Connection** - "The Network Connection" may well be the longest running column in computer publishing history. Certainly in University of North Texas computer publishing history.

  This month, Dr. Baczewski goes "Off the Wire." Read all about it!

- **Link of the Month** - As it says on the top of the "Link of the Month" page, "each month we highlight an Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list(s) or Website(s)." Lately we have been confining ourselves to featuring UNT specific sites. **This month's feature is "The New UNT Homepage!"**

- **WWW@UNT.EDU** - "WWW@UNT.EDU" is a monthly column written by the Central Web Support Group in Academic Computing Services. The topics usually focus, in some way, on World-Wide-Web-related issues. **This month's topic is "This and That."**

- **Short Courses** - Every semester, Academic Computing Services (ACS) offers short courses on computer-related topics, many of them having to do with statistical research. This column keeps you up-to-date on what is being offered and when as well as other training opportunities. The spring Short Course schedule is still being finalized. Surf over to the Short Courses page for a sample of the sorts of courses that will be offered (starting, probably, at the end of January).

- **IRC News** - As their Webpage says, "the IRC is an advisory and oversight body created to foster communication and cooperation between and among UNT information resources providers and users." We publish the minutes of the IRC meetings each month, when they are available. **The December minutes were published this month.**

Don't Forget Our Monthly Columns!

Staff Activities - This column focuses on new employees, people who are no longer employed at the Computing and Information Technology Center, awards and recognitions and other items of interest featured here.

[Return to top](#)