



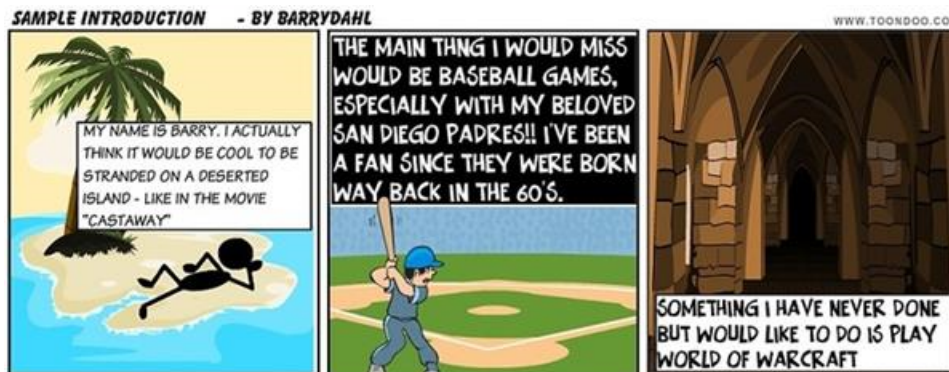
First week of classes and the fun begins!

Hopefully, you've developed all your course content by now, but you need to continue engaging students in your course site, especially if you are teaching a fully-online course. You need to have a regular presence so students feel there is someone on the other end. If you would like to read some important tips and best practices for the first day(s) of class read our [Survival Guide to Teaching Online](#) (PDF File 167 Kb). With the Fall semester just starting, this brochure contains timely information to help you implement your course site and anticipate possible challenges. It also highlights some important tips for facilitating interaction and how to introduce students to technology.



First Week Online Course Introductions - Get Comical

Looking for a way to engage your online students at the beginning of the semester? Why not reboot this tired, old assignment? "Please post an introduction of yourself to the rest of the class on the discussion board."



Get some cool ideas in this article to revamp this classic assignment. [Read more...](#)

Retention In Online Courses: Surviving The First Week

As with any other scenario, first impressions matter. Above all else, we must bait and hook our students in their first week of classes or risk losing them. How you handle the first week of classes in your online course can significantly impact our retention rates. [Read more...](#)

Have you turned off the tools in your Blackboard course which you won't be using? Simplify your students online experience with this great tip!



A **Best Practice Tip** while Teaching and Learning Through Blackboard is to **TURN OFF ALL UNNECESSARY TOOLS**.

To simplify your class on Blackboard you will want to hide the links of all the tools you and your students will not be using during the semester. There is no need for a student to see the discussion board link in your course if they are not going to be using at all. For best usability and to simplify the students' online experience just have available the tools they will be using in the course. If you decide to use a tool later in the semester you may make it available at that time. Both course and communication tools are combined into a single Tools area in the Course Menu.

1. In the upper right-hand corner, select Edit Mode ON.
2. Select Tools on the Course Menu.
3. Click Hide Link next to the tools that you are not using.

4. To view the Tools that will be available to students, turn off the Edit Mode button.

Availability of DLIT Assistance

Fall start-up is one of our busiest times. We are available in DAL 2, Rm 122 for faculty to drop-in, but you may have better luck contacting us to make an appointment if your question will take more than 5 minutes. You can email us at UNTDDistance@unt.edu or call us at (972) 338-5580 to make an appointment.



Members of the entering **class of 2019** were mostly born in 1997 and have never licked a postage stamp, and have no first-hand experience of Princess Diana's charismatic celebrity. Email has become the new "formal" communication, while texts and tweets remain enclaves for the casual. And last but not least, Google has always been there, in its founding words, "to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible." If you want to know

more about the **Millennials generation** or **Generation Y** scroll down to the articles section and click on the "Be Ready! Millennials Are Calling the Shots in the eLearning Industry" link to read the full article.



Your Vote Count – Which one should we use?

Please follow [this link](#) and tell us the alternative communication channel, beside email, that you would most like to be used to send and receive information about the Office of Distance Learning workshops and training events?



Hackathons: What are they, and how we can use them at UNT Dallas. Hackathons have become a new way of doing business, creating products, finding solutions for real-world problems, and innovation. The energy is high, and so are the stakes. Can you turn an idea into a product over the course of a weekend? But let's move beyond that. Let's look at the teaching and learning within a hackathon. Hackathons are really the ultimate classroom. Hackathons usually take place over a set time frame such as a weekend, where different people with different skills and abilities work together to propose a solution to a problem. The solutions can be code based, wearable technology, analog, or any type of product imaginable.

[Read more...](#)



Distance Learning Information Table (For Students and Staff)

Come by our Information Table and meet our Blackboard Helpdesk Assistant who will be available to present Distance Learning opportunities and services provided by our office to students and staff.

Wednesday, Sept 2 (12:30 PM – 2:00 PM), Dal 2, Atrium



Take Action With "It's On Us" Campaign

UNT Dallas recently joined the #ItsOnUs campaign, an initiative to address sexual assault on college campuses. During the summer the Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies partnered with Student Affairs to create our own "It's On Us" videos. We shoot two versions, one in English and another in Spanish. Watch some outtakes from the recording sessions for these videos as some of our fellow Jaguars (staff, students and faculty) encourage us to take the pledge and to stand up to sexual assault. Click the following image/link to get a behind the scenes sneak peek of the videos which will be premiered this next Wednesday, September 2 at 12:30 pm in the atrium of DAL 2 during Jag Fest.



It's On Us to stop campus sexual assault.



UNT Dallas: It's On Us Video Outtakes

<https://youtu.be/ZyHha3mhlWQ>

Blackboard Basics Workshops (For Students)

The Blackboard Basics Workshop is intended for students that are new to Blackboard Learn. The workshop covers such topics as logging into Blackboard, locating your courses, the Course Menu, participating in the Discussion Board, using the Emails and Messages features, submitting assignments, and taking online tests.

Tell your students to join us on the following days from 2:30 to 5:00 PM
Sept 2, Sept 16, Dal1 Rm 336



eLearning Faculty Learning Communities

To bring faculty that are either currently or soon to be teaching distance learning courses together to learn, share, and exchange ideas, we have launched a new initiative beginning the Fall 2015 semester: the eLearning Faculty Learning Communities (eFLC). To facilitate this initiative, we will coordinate regular meetings (in person or virtually) and logistics, and will provide online tools so that faculty/members can share resources and best practices.

Hopefully, these communities will be comprised of an interdisciplinary group of faculty devoted to enhancing teaching, learning, and the university experience who engage in active, collaborative exploration around a common learning issue. Each eFLC will grow at its own pace and embrace a unique topic and we are starting next week with the **Newbies**.

Is this your first year teaching a Distance Learning course at UNT Dallas? Orientation was great but this is "the rest of the story"- addressing questions and concerns. Join Arturo, Director of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology, to discuss and learn more about teaching an eLearning course.

Sep 3 (2:00 – 3:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 210

[Click here](#) to register for this event.



We are very excited to provide such rich opportunities for community building, interdisciplinary collaboration, and explorations of online teaching and learning!

Articles



(Click the images to read the articles)



Research: Iterative Decision-Making Improves Critical Thinking

Want to help your students improve their critical thinking? Then give them opportunities to make decisions during your lab exercises. [Read More...](#)

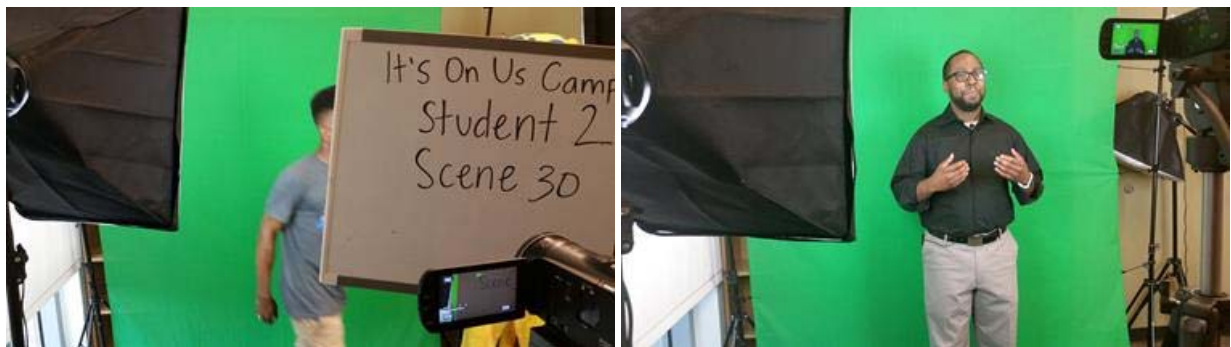
More



- | | | | |
|---------------|--|---------------|---|
| SEP 08 | Call for nominations for the Excellence in Online Teaching Awards - Online | SEP 10 | eFLC: Teaching with Technology
2:00 PM—3:00 PM
Dal 2, Rm 209 or 210 |
| SEP 08 | Meetup 1 – Let's do something!
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Dal 2, Rm 122 | SEP 16 | Blackboard Basics Workshop (For Students)
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Dal 1, Rm 336 |
| SEP 09 | Blackboard Open Lab
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Dal 1, Rm 336 | SEP 17 | How do I know if my PDF is accessible?
1:00 PM—2:30 PM
Dal 2, Rm 122 or virtually |
| SEP 09 | Making Schools a Game Worth Playing: Digital Games in the Classroom
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Dal 2, Rm 122 or virtually | SEP 17 | eFLC: Hybrid/Online Teaching
2:00 PM—3:00 PM
Dal 2, Rm 209 or 210 |
| SEP 10 | Evolving Learning for the New Digital Era
12:00 PM—1:00 PM
Dal 2, Rm 209 or 210 | | |



Summer 2015 - "It's On Us" Video Shooting Stills



Contact Us!

The **Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies** invites faculty and staff to join and participate in our development programs. These events provide an opportunity to network with faculty from other departments, learn new instructional strategies and tools, and become aware of best practices in online teaching and learning. Hope to see you there, and don't forget to register for our workshops and sessions! Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for future events:

Web: <http://www.untDallas.edu/dlit>

Phone: 972-338-5580

Email: UNTDDistance@unt.edu

To **unsubscribe**: If you would like to be removed from this list please [click here](#).

Arturo Cole, M.S.

Director - Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology

University of North Texas at Dallas
Office of Distance Learning
7400 University Hills Blvd, Ste. 123
Dallas, Texas 75241
972.338.1606 | untDallas.edu/dlit

