



Is Batman Transforming into Mathman?

POW!

The Caped Crusader is on a mission to fight the evil forces of math fear! That's the thought Larry Welsh had when he created a video trailer to advertise a College Algebra (Math 185) class that will be available through ANGEL e-mail.

After teaching math for 35 years, Welsh came out of retirement to continue teaching the subject as an adjunct professor. In doing so, he wanted to find a new venue to attract students' interest in math and make it more palatable.

"It's no surprise that a lot of people actually have a fear of math," Welsh says. "I wanted to take away that anxiety and show students that they can have fun with it – and what better avenue than to let a 'superhero' lead the way."

The idea came about after attending a summer workshop that incorporated the concepts from the *Bargain Basement Digital Stories* presentation, led by Lynn Lane, Marty Hill, Sam Bachert and Scott Michlin. Welsh learned how he could use multiple software programs to create a "movie-type of trailer" to advertise the class in an unconventional way.

With the help of Lane, Hill, Bachert and Michlin, he utilized PowerPoint to create the pictures, Windows Movie Maker for the video, and Audacity for the audio portion. Bachert gathered scenes off the internet from the 60's Batman TV series. Windows Movie Maker combined the still pictures and audio files to create a two-minute trailer where Batman and Robin protect Gotham City from the evil



Adjunct math instructor Larry Welsh has found a new way to ease the fear of math with superhero Batman. He is incorporating the Caped Crusader into a "movie trailer" and in mini-lectures.

Riddler by solving an absolute value equation.

"To make it all the more 'realistic,' we also incorporated the Batman theme music, and utilized the unique Batman and Robin lingo," Welsh continues. "SJC students Jordan and Jenna Solomon provided the voice work."

Welsh posted his lectures on ANGEL so that students can revisit them as often as they like. While these lectures are of Welsh in the classroom, he has plans to incorporate the Batman character in mini lectures on ANGEL.

"I'm visualizing mini-lectures where Batman and Robin actually present the math concepts in the classic comic book 'Pow' and 'Bam' conversation bubbles," he explains. "I would also like to

add a video-game-like version to the class, where students would go to the ANGEL site for a clue to answer a problem, and once they got the correct answer, they would advance to the next level of the game."

He is also considering options that would allow students to download the lectures on their iPod.

"Learning is always more enjoyable and satisfying when you're having fun," Welsh says.

The Batman trailer can be viewed on the CTX Blog at <http://ctxevents.blogspot.com>. For more information about mini-lectures or ANGEL learning options, contact Lynn Lane via e-mail at lanel@sanjuancollege.edu.

Tech Tips

Did you know we are all Angels?

One of the great things about moving to the new ANGEL Learning Management System, is that the process that syncs courses in WebAdvisor with courses in ANGEL has been automated. What does that mean for you, especially if you don't consider yourself an "online" instructor? It means that you already have a shell in ANGEL complete with your student roster. That shell can be used for many purposes. One would be to put course documents and other information into the shell, so that they are always available to students anywhere they have an Internet connection. Another use might be to use the communication tools built into ANGEL for email and class discussions. The Assessment tool in ANGEL is also very powerful. And, by giving quizzes online instead of during class, just think of how much time you can free up for instruction! Contact David Penrose at 566-3350 or penrosed@sanjuancollege.edu for more information.

A Message from the CIO



I hope everyone's semester is going well. OTS has two goals: 1. our commitment to exceptional customer service and 2. support and the implementation of projects designed to increase the efficiency of technology services on campus. I would like to briefly discuss our progress towards those goals.

I am chairing two committees that are designed to align our use of technology to the strategic goals and missions of the College, the Datatel Core Committee and the Web Advisory Committee.

The Datatel Core Committee is charged with recommending appropriate policies and procedures for the use of the Colleague system, reviewing and recommending Colleague implementation timelines, and reviewing and recommending process improvement and prioritization of projects affecting Colleague.

The Web Advisory Committee is responsible for developing and enforcing web guidelines, policies and procedures, overseeing the Web site design and function, facilitating web site change review proceedings, and recommending and prioritizing tactical deployment.

These committees are comprised of faculty, staff and students. Look on our website at <http://www.sanjuacollege.edu/pages/3188.asp> for information including agenda items and meeting minutes.

Thank you for your support, and please let us know how we can improve our communications to best serve you.

Tim Warren



Vice President for Technology Services

ANGEL Tips Power Session

Mark your calendars for a power-packed session of ANGEL Tips, Wednesday, November 4, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the CTX. Presenters include:

- Lisa Wurtz, Assistant Professor of Math – How to Track Students
- Deb Reed, Vet Tech Assistant Professor – Using the Assessment Tool for Essays
- Danielle Sullivan, English Instructor – Wiki's and Blogs
- Debbie Gonzalez, Accounting Instructor – Incorporating Video Tutorials

For further information about this and other classes, contact Lynn Lane, OTS Technology Trainer, at lanel@sanjuacollege.edu.

Mastering a Massive Document

What's the best way to gather information and assemble a 3,000-plus page accreditation document? San Juan College Dental Hygiene Program's staff found the answer with Microsoft Word's Master Document.



Dental Hygiene staff Sherilyn Oldfield, Sherry Paxson, Dr. Julius Manz and Tammy Honold found an easier way to assemble the 3,000-plus page accreditation document with Microsoft Word's Master Document.

When Dental Hygiene staffers Dr. Julius Manz, director; Tammy Honold, instructor; Sherry Paxson, instructor; and Sherilyn Oldfield, administrative assistant; began the tremendous undertaking more than a year ago, they looked for a method that would simplify the process and allow for multiple changes.

"Every seven years we are required to update our accreditation with the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)," Honold explains. "CODA operates under the auspices of the American Dental Association and serves as the national accrediting agency for higher education dental programs."

The accreditation process takes an in depth, microscopic look at the program, evaluating the curriculum, teaching styles, the dental clinic, outputs, outcomes, assessments, affiliation with San Juan College, the program's budget and faculty credentials.

"We wanted to find a way to coherently compile massive amounts of information that would withstand numerous modifications," Honold continues. "Lynn Lane, OTS technology trainer, suggested we utilize Master Document, and coached us through the process."

"The program allowed us options that may seem small, but are vital in saving time when dealing with a document of this size," Honold explains. "If we needed to find a word, we simply use the find feature and go right to it. We had the ability to shift and move portions of the documents much easier, as well as utilize the paginate feature that would automatically renumber the pages. In the end, we will have a much more professional looking document that we can submit both electronically and as a hard copy."

While the accreditation process was intense, the Dental Hygiene program discovered additional benefits.

"The process helped us take a deeper look at our program and strengthen processes that were based on the National CODA standards," Dr. Manz concludes. "For example, we completed an assessment mapping for our courses to ensure that our syllabus objectives are being met in the classroom."

Once the group submits the self study to CODA, they will undergo a site visit in February and will learn the final results in July.

TECH Update is the bi-monthly newsletter of OTS. Our goal is to keep our customers informed and seek input. If you have questions or comments, please write to: TECHUPDATE@sanjuacollege.edu or call 566-3166.