

# Live, from San Juan College - It's MATH!

Most people would agree that the best way to learn how to solve a math equation is to actually see the process being explained, step by step.

This can be especially important when taking an online math course. Lisa Wurtz, SJC assistant professor of math, has made the process simple by implementing the use of a webcam.

Better yet, she's not only sharing these easy steps with her five online math classes and one face-to-face class, but she is also allowing the public to check out the video solutions on YouTube.

"If a student sends me a question about how to solve a particular problem or if I begin seeing a pattern where students are having challenges, I simply record my hand solving the problem with a verbal explanation," Wurtz explains.

"Posting it on YouTube can allow someone who is not in my class, a high school student for instance, to utilize the resource," she continues. "All they would have to do is search YouTube for *linear equation*, for example, and my video would be one of the options they could choose from. There are plenty of people who have trouble with math, so if I can provide one more resource, that's all the better. The way I look at it, I'm doing it for my class anyway, so why not make it public."

The benefits of using a webcam are numerous. Wurtz says it provides an easy way to stay in touch with her online students – many of whom



live across the country including Idaho, Louisiana and Maine. The webcam also allows her to hold office hours later into the evening, since she can provide the service from her home computer.

Prior to using the webcam, she wrote out very detailed solutions, along with notes on the side, scanned it, and sent it as an e-mail attachment. Now, however, the live recorded explanation provides the next best thing to actually being in class.

Wurtz came across the idea from a webinar she recently attended.

While she has only been using the webcam option for approximately one month, webinar instructor Denise Robichaud, who teaches math at Quinsigamond Community College in Canada,

*With the simple use of a webcam, Lisa Wurtz makes math easier to understand by posting ways to solve equations on YouTube.*

has experienced considerable success with its use in her classes. Robichaud reports a 15 percent increase in student success rates in online Intermediate Algebra. In the Beginning Algebra classes, she has seen a 10 percent increase in success rates for those viewing only videos, and a 20 percent increase in success with videos and paper homework.

This summer, Wurtz says she plans to add more videos on topics that she knows are difficult for students such as solving quadratic equations.

"The webcam would be helpful in a variety of classes – not just math," she says. "The technology is easy to use and cost is minimal. For about \$55, I got a nice webcam, which is simply a USB connect. You download the software and you are good to go!"

Check out Wurtz's videos at [www.youtube.com/wurtzl](http://www.youtube.com/wurtzl). Robichaud's webinar can be found at [www.youtube.com/robichaudd](http://www.youtube.com/robichaudd), and additional resources can be found at [www.youtube.com/khanacademy](http://www.youtube.com/khanacademy).

## Summer Faculty Tech Trainings

### Need a little help in the classroom?

### Sign up now for summer technology training workshops.



Beginning Monday, May 16, through July 22, Lynn Lane and Sam Bachert will offer a variety of sessions at multiple times for your convenience. Check out the dates and times, and register for the workshops at [www.sanjuancollege.edu/SummerWorkshops](http://www.sanjuancollege.edu/SummerWorkshops).

#### **Trainings include:**

- **More Information** – Learn how to create a "More info" web page for potential students and a "Getting started" folder for students who can view it prior to the start of the semester.

- **Course/Program Resources** – Find out how to create a course/program resources web page that provides your students with links, then

replace the resource tab within ANGEL.

- **Narrated Online Lecture Series** – Discover how to create presentations in PowerPoint, as well as record and edit your audio, and finally how to publish and post your lecture on YouTube.

- **Going Green with ANGEL Series** – Get rid of the paper by learning how to: create online handouts, develop incentives for your students to read material prior to class; explore the announcement, chat, poll, survey, email and discussion team tools; check out the various discussion modes available; setup your grade book; and create an assessment and drop box template.



# From the CIO —

## Project Updates

I trust everyone's semester has gone well and you are looking forward to warmer weather and the summer months ahead. I would like to update you on several projects OTS has been working on.

**Blackboard Analytics** – OTS and members of the Datatel Core Committee have been busy implementing Blackboard Analytics, powered by iStrategy. The software has been installed along with the corresponding data warehouse. The team is now busy validating reports and data. Expected go-live is June 30. iStrategy is an analytic reporting application integrated with Datatel Colleague that allows end-users to access and analyze information on their own.

**Mobile Applications** – OTS has been working on a mobile strategy to take advantage of the proliferation of mobile devices on campus. To date, OTS has installed MOX, a mobile application by Datatel that integrates capabilities with the portal, Mobile Learn by Blackboard that provides mobile access to ANGEL, and we are working with Boopsie to implement its mobile application for the library.

**Online Admissions Application** – OTS, along with program support from SunGard Higher Education, has created an online admission application to take the place of CollegeNET, which costs the student \$10. The first phase of the project, the online application, went live in December and has been used by 2,560 students. The second phase, which integrates the application into Datatel College, is currently undergoing testing and is expected to be live this summer.

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

  
Tim Warren  
Vice President of Technology



# Learn While You Play

## Good News! Now you can play at work!

Well, sort of. Playing a computer game known as *Ribbon Hero* for five to 10 minutes a day can actually enhance your Microsoft Office 2010 software skills.

Office Labs developed *Ribbon Hero* as a way to encourage Office users to learn through game play, how to be more productive in utilizing the “Ribbon,” or toolbars featured at the top of Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Along with the Office 2010 version, it can also be used with the 2007 version.

Lynn Lane, OTS technology trainer, introduced the game to staff during a recent Microsoft Office training session. After explaining some new features and options, she invited staff to have fun and challenge each other while exploring the programs more in depth.



James Pinckard demonstrates the features of *Ribbon Hero*, a teaching game for Microsoft Office, 2010.

“*Ribbon Hero* provides an opportunity to preview and become familiar with Office 2010, as the College moves toward implementing it campus wide,” she says.

James Pinckard, Health and Human Performance Center administrative assistant, not only attended the training and played the game, but his high scores and win earned him an MP3 player.

“You really can learn a lot in a short timeframe,” he says. “The game incorporates elements of playing a video game such as animated characters and hidden challenges. It’s really a fun way to learn more about both the basic and advanced features.”

There are two ways to earn points. The first is simple – just by using the app. As you start using basic commands, like bold, italic and underline, you earn a small number of points. As you use more complex features, like styles or style sets, or combinations of features, you’ll earn even more points. You can also earn points by playing challenges. *Ribbon Hero* tracks which features you do and don’t use, and then it recommends challenges for you to play. This helps expose you to deeper levels of the program.

Since Pinckard’s challenge, Microsoft Office has added the new *Ribbon Hero 2* version, which can be viewed at [www.ribbonhero.com](http://www.ribbonhero.com). Over the next few months, Lane plans to offer three more *Ribbon Hero* challenges, where participants can also play to win an MP3 player. For further information, contact Lane at [llane@sanjuancollege.edu](mailto:llane@sanjuancollege.edu).

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## TECH TIPS

# Don't Recreate it —

Duplicate it!  
Duplicate it!  
Duplicate it!

Want to build on a diagram? It’s easy. Whether it’s a PowerPoint slide or a drawn object, you can duplicate to your heart’s content. Simply highlight your object, and hit CTRL + D. Saves tons of time!

**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@sanjuancollege.edu](mailto:TECHUPDATE@sanjuancollege.edu) or call 566-3166.**