

## Spring 2009 Term—Totally .NExT

The Instructional Design Team has been busy preparing for the spring 2009 term. We look forward to assisting you this semester as you develop and teach your online or web-enhanced courses.

The spring 2009 semester marks the beginning of our offering all online and web-enhanced courses on the **new .NExT eCollege platform**. This new version of the eCollege provides additional enhancements. Please note the following tools that we have made available to assist you in your transition to use of .NExT.

### .NExT Quick Guide

A 6-page guide with step-by-step instructions on how to perform basic functions on the .NExT platform. Pick up your copy from an Instructional Design Team member at your convenience. An electronic copy is also available at [http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/itde/documents/.NExT\\_Quick\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/itde/documents/.NExT_Quick_Guide.pdf).

### .NExT Tutorial and Video

eCollege has enrolled each of our faculty in a course titled “.NExT Tutorial.” The course is accessible to you under “special courses” in your eCollege My Course List. A 10-minute video is available to you in this special course. To view the 10-minute .NExT video, enter the .NExT Tutorial course, scroll down on the course home page, and click on the link to the tutorial labeled “.NExT Video.”

### .NExT Informal Hands-On Overviews

Four 1-hour informal overviews are scheduled for faculty who would like to walk through the new .NExT platform under the guidance of an Instructional Design Team member. Dates and times are as follows:

1. January 15, 10:00-11:00, Commerce, AGIT 221
2. January 16, 1:00-2:00, Mesquite, Room 126
3. January 22, 3:00-4:00, Commerce, AGIT 221
4. January 28, 2:00-3:00, Commerce, AGIT 221

Register for a .NExT Informal Overview at [www.tamu-commerce.edu/itde/admin/traininglist.asp](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/itde/admin/traininglist.asp).

Contact us if you would like to schedule a **one-on-one** session, or feel free to **come to our lab** (AGIT 221), which is adjacent to our offices, to work on the your course under the assistance of one of the team members. We're also available to answer questions by phone (903.886.5511) or by email at [online@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:online@tamu-commerce.edu).

Your success is our success!

*Julie A. McElhany, Ed.D.*  
Coordinator for Instructional Design

## .NExT Tips & Helpful Hints

### Internet Explorer 7.0

IE 7.0 will launch certain frames in separate windows unless the user has set the security settings according to the process described below.

1. Navigate to **Tools > Internet Options > Security Tab > Custom Level Button**
2. Browse to **Miscellaneous** heading.
3. Set the **Navigate sub-frames across different domains** to enable (or prompt if you would prefer to manually accept every time).

document. If you wish to post your picture as instructor for the course, either create your syllabus using the Compose Text Item (Visual Editor) syllabus feature, or insert your picture on the course welcome page.

### Assignment Drop Boxes

Assignment drop boxes are automatically hidden and noted with an \* when the assignment dropbox content item for the week is hidden.

### Displaying Long Content Item Names

Display longer content item names in the left navigation bar by applying the follow-

## Re-uploading a MS Word Syllabus

If you experience difficulty in uploading your MS Word syllabus, try the following:

1. Change one character in the file name and re-upload.
2. Avoid inserting pictures into the Word

Display longer content item names in the left navigation bar by applying the following setting:

1. Select **Course Admin**.
2. Select **General Information & Settings**
3. Place a check mark in both boxes to turn on the **Navigation** settings.

## Online Course Development & Delivery Tools

The following tools are available for your use in the design, development and delivery of your online courses. Contact one of the Instructional Design Team members for training and/or assistance with any of these tools.

### Adobe Presenter (Breeze)


Adobe Presenter allows you to create voice-over PowerPoint presentations. Upon publishing these presentations to the server, you are provided a web address (URL) which you may use to link to your Adobe Presenter session from within your online course.



Some faculty are also using this tool to provide recorded reviews of submitted assignments and projects such as major research papers which are then shared with individual students.



Respondus provides faculty opportunity to import exams in electronic format into eCollege.

**ClassLive Pro**, powered by  ClassLive Pro a tool available in eCollege online courses (01W, 02W, so forth) that provides opportunity for synchronous (real-time) faculty-student and student-student interaction.

Faculty use ClassLive Pro for online instructional purposes such as virtual office hours, presentation of content materials, and student presentation of projects.

### The Readiness for Education At a Distance Indicator

**(READI)** is a web-based tool designed to serve as an early warning device to identify students who may be deficient in the skills and attributes necessary for successful distance learning. READI indicates the degree to which an individual student possesses attributes, skills and knowledge that contribute to success in online learning, including: self-motivation; time-management skills; self-discipline; reading comprehension; persistence; ability to use a laptop, printer, software and the Internet; and typing speed and accuracy.

## Formative and Summative Surveys

### Spring 2009-W1 (Jan 20-May 8) Formative

Students Surveyed: February 4-9  
Reports Available to Faculty: Feb. 10

### Spring 2009-W1 (Jan 20-May 8) Summative

Students Surveyed: April 22-April 27  
Reports Available to Faculty: June 1

### Spring 2009-WI (Jan 20-Mar 13) Summative

Students Surveyed: March 4-9  
Reports Available to Faculty: March 30

### Spring 2009-WJ (Mar 23-May 15) Summative

Students Surveyed: April 22-April 27  
Reports Available to Faculty: June 1

## Announcements

### Spring 09 Courses Populated

Spring 2009 courses have been populated with students. Students will **not** be able to enter their courses until the first day of the term, which is January 20th.

### Web-Enhancing a Spring 2009 Course?

## Support Staff

Charlotte Larkin, Ed.D.  
Director of ITDE

Julie McElhany, Ed.D.  
Coordinator for Instructional Design

Dean Aslinia, M.S.

**Web-Enhancing a Spring 2009 Course?**

Complete the online course copy request form found at [www.tamu-commerce.edu/itde/copyrequest.asp](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/itde/copyrequest.asp).

\*\*\*\* *A PDF version of this newsletter is available at [www.tamu-commerce.edu/itde/newslettersArchive.asp](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/itde/newslettersArchive.asp).*

Dean Aslinia, M.S.  
eLearning Support Specialist

Alan Francis, M.B.A.  
eLearning Administrative Specialist

Jess Lamphere, B.S.  
eLearning Support Specialist