CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

First-Ever Faculty Showcase Highlights Teaching Technology

CNS Document ID: u010404a
Last Updated: 4/2/01

UF Information Technology

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Simulated crime scenes that students will never set foot on but will write about, mobile computing that allows nursing students to keep in touch with their professors while keeping tabs on their patients, and online classes where professors and students never meet but carry on spirited conversations were just some of the technologies that were highlighted at the Faculty Showcase on March 12.

The showcase featured 21 booths, all demonstrating ways that faculty at UF could incorporate computer technology into their classes.

Jennifer Smith, a professor of Costume Technology at the UF Department of Theatre and Dance, designed a completely online class in Costume Patterning. The course allows students to see examples of how to create costumes, print half-sized patterns, and interact with the instructor remotely. The format allows greater flexibility in student scheduling. "If students don't understand the lesson, they can click through it again until they do. If they understand it right away, they don't have to wait, they can go ahead with a different lesson," Smith said.

Another technological leap for extending the classroom into the field is the Data Rover, a small handheld computer used by Nursing Department students to track patients and keep in touch with professors.

"At the patient's home, the students fill out an assessment form that will later be transmitted to their professor," said Joe Burley, clinical assistant professor in the College of Nursing.

According to Sue Legg, director of the Office of Instructional Resources, the event was a great success. "I was very pleased with the quality and range of the presentations." Legg said that the turnout was good, and plans are being made for another Showcase next fall, if possible. "We hope to have some Internet2 applications included with the next show."

Charles Guy, professor in Environmental Horticulture, tries out a videophone.

Joachim Hammer of CISE demonstrates his online course on Data Warehousing and Decision Support.

Jennifer Smith, professor of Costume Technology at the UF Department of Theatre and Dance, demonstrates the
"Although the students and I never met one-on-one, I felt like we had lively discussions."

online course she developed. The class is virtual. Students can meet in the chat rooms, compare drawings in real-time, and develop Web pages on their final projects.

Your Comments are Welcome

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