



ILCCO Newsletter: October, 2009

Jeff's Jargon

Jeff Newell, ILCCO Director

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Southwestern Illinois College: Chemistry Online

Laurie Bingel, Dean of Learning Resources

Inspired by the success of online Physics and Earth Science courses, Southwestern Illinois College Chemistry Professor Linda Dawkins, Ph.D., developed an online Chemistry course.

Dr. Dawkins, a SWIC Chemistry instructor since 1993, began teaching online in Spring 2009. Now she is in her third semester of online Chemistry. At an Online Faculty Showcase during Fall 2009 Faculty Opening Week, Dr. Dawkins shared her online Chemistry course with colleagues...

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New and Specialized ICE Courses Available

Harper College: Intro to the Arts, Intro to Astronomy, Architectural CAD, Java Software Development, Intro to Technology in Education, Cultural Geography, and more.

[Full Article](#)

Coming Events

39 events listed between October and February:

- ILCCO Webinars
- ION Webinars
- ITC audioconferences
- LERN online courses
- SLOAN-C online seminars
- eLearning 2010 Conference

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Research to Read

Sarah Stark, Harper

Teaching the Millennials

View this free 4-part Webinar on the Millennial generation...

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Website Watch

Tim Moore, Elgin

Bit.ly

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Tech Tool Talk

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Google Wave

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Tip of the ICEberg

Emily Vescogni, Illinois Valley

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Jeff's Jargon (full article)

ILCCO has completed its strategic plan and last year's development work has provided a strong foundation to a new year that is already paying dividends with a presentation from the Higher Learning Commission, a series of professional development events, and the statewide distance learning retention project.

ILCCO Hosted Higher Learning Commission Speaker

ILCCO was very pleased with the opportunity to host Karen Solomon, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission, during its October steering committee meeting and professional development day. Dr. Solomon's presentation "E-learning: A Fall 2009 Perspective" provided an overview of changes in the higher education reauthorization act, options for student identification, HLC major policies and practices, and more. The presentation provided a valuable experience to ILCCO members in understanding HLC's practices and plans for the future.

ILCCO's Focus

ILCCO has completed its strategic plan (save a few final touches), which will guide the organization over the next 3 – 5 years. ILCCO has defined its core mission as "Illinois Community Colleges Online is a consortium of Illinois community colleges working together to provide leadership, facilitate collaboration and share resources in online and technology-enhanced education." The primary goals stemming from the mission focus on leadership and collaboration. Three of ILCCO's main objectives from those goals are the distance learning retention project, the online accreditation task force, and professional development.

ILCCO is assuming leadership of the statewide distance learning retention project that was begun by College of DuPage. Research questions are currently being refined with institutional research staff for the first round of data collection. The first round of data collection should be completed this fiscal year. The research will be expanded in subsequent years.

An online accreditation task force has been developed. Their focus is on investigating online accreditation issues, developing a resource cite for colleges preparing for the institutional change process, and a set of recommendations for ILCCO to pursue related to online accreditation in the future.

Professional development continues. A professional development webinar "Strategies for Improving Student Retention" is being offered October 23rd. Other webinars are being developed for the year with topics ranging from active learning strategies to classroom use of Facebook and Twitter. Another day conference will be held during the July 21-22, 2010, Steering Committee Retreat and will be open to all colleges in the state.

Growing Online Learning

ILCCO held a day conference, "Growing Online Learning," on June 17 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield, Illinois, in combination with its Steering Committee retreat. The day's keynote was provided by Fay Rousseff-Baker, Associate Vice President for Teaching and Learning at Parkland College. Breakout session topics included college organizational structures for online learning, accreditation for online degrees, Web 2.0 professional development, and more.

ILCCO-NILRC Reception at ICCCA Fall Conference

ILCCO and NILRC are hosting the pre-conference reception at the ICCCA Fall Conference. This year's conference is being held at the Hilton Springfield. If you arrive Wednesday, November 18, ahead of the conference, please stop by our reception at the top of the Hilton for refreshments, conversation and the view.

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ILCCO Featured College (full article)**Southwestern Illinois College: Chemistry Online**

Inspired by the success of online Physics and Earth Science courses, Southwestern Illinois College Chemistry Professor Linda Dawkins, Ph.D., developed an online Chemistry course.

Dr. Dawkins, a SWIC Chemistry instructor since 1993, began teaching online in Spring 2009. Now she is in her third semester of online Chemistry. At an Online Faculty Showcase during Fall 2009 Faculty Opening Week, Dr. Dawkins shared her online Chemistry course with colleagues.

She recognizes the need for such a course, especially since most SWIC Allied Health programs require one semester of Introductory Chemistry; and today's community college students have busy lifestyles.

Because science can be difficult, online delivery is not for everyone. According to Dr. Dawkins, this option is especially attractive to students with prior chemistry exposure in high school or a previous college course; or highly motivated, self-directed learners. Also, with Scott Air Force Base within the college district, online Chemistry is a practical option for military students. Online courses give military students, who may be deployed during the semester, the ability to continue their education.

Dr. Dawkins said part of what makes the at-home laboratory component of her course successful is the requirement that students take photographs while performing their experiments. The photographs are submitted with the student's lab report allowing Dr. Dawkins the ability to verify the measurements made by the student.

"Science is all about data collection and analysis of that data, so it's important that students are capable of making correct measurements before they move to the analysis and conclusion steps of the scientific method," Dr. Dawkins said.

Because of the limitations of facilities at home, students are required to come to campus one Saturday morning per semester to perform more in-depth experimentation. Also, students must come to campus for a laboratory orientation, pick-up the lab kit, and take exams. Dr. Dawkins also incorporates YouTube Chemistry videos and audio PowerPoint presentations to assist students with the more difficult concepts. In the future, she plans to add some of her own videotaped on-campus lectures.

"I feel that there is a real need for the delivery of chemistry via online and that if more sections were offered, I suspect they would fill quickly," Dr. Dawkins said. For now, she will continue to refine her course to help students learn even more effectively.



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New ICE Courses (full article)

Harper College is now offering 15 new courses online:

- ART105: Introduction to the Arts (3 credit hours; IAI F2 900)
- AST101: Introductory Astronomy (4 credit hours; IAI P1 906L – lab science)
- ATE105: Architectural CAD (3 credit hours; no IAI)
- CIS168: Java Software Development I (4 credit hours; no IAI)
- CIS268: Java Software Development II (4 credit hours; no IAI)
- CIS278: Java Software Development III (4 credit hours; no IAI)
- EDU250: Introduction to Technology in Education (3 credit hours; no IAI)
- EGR240: Thermodynamics (3 credit hours; no IAI)
- ENG103: Technical and Report Writing (3 credit hours; no IAI)
- ENG130: Business Writing (3 credit hours; no IAI)
- GEG100: Cultural Geography (3 credit hours; IAI S4 900N)
- GEG103: The Developing World (3 credit hours; IAI S4 902N)
- GEG104: The Developed World (3 credit hours; IAI S4 901)
- GEG111: Physical Geography (3 credit hours; IAI P1 909)
- PHS101: Physical Science Survey (3 credit hours; IAI P9 900)

Contact the Department of Instructional Technology at 847.925.6805 or send email to stark@harpercollege.edu for more information.

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Coming Events – National Organizations (full article)

October Events

- Getting Started: The First Step Toward Online Teaching (Sloan-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: October 21- November 6, 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.sloan-c.org/node/1511>
- Designing and Teaching Public Speaking Online (ITC Webinar)
 - Date: October 27, 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=409#October%202009>
- Beginning Second Life for Educators (Sloan-C Online Workshop)
 - Date: October 27-November 6, 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.sloan-c.org/node/1512>
- SLOAN-C 15th Annual International Conference on Online Learning
 - Dates: October 28-30, 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.sloanconsortium.org/aln>
- Retention Strategies for Distance Students (ILCCO Webinar)
 - Date: October 30, 2009
 - More Information: email Jeff Newell at jeff.newell@illinois.gov

November Events

- Designing Online Instruction (LERN Online Course)
 - Dates: November 2-6, 2009
 - More Information: http://www.lern.org/edctr/upcoming_online/DesigningOnlineInstruction

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- Educause Annual Conference
 - Dates: November 3-6, 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.educause.edu/E2009>
- Just-in-Time Faculty Development: A Website to Keep 'Em Coming Back (ITC Webinar)
 - Date: November 3, 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=409#November%202009>
- Fair Use & The TEACH Act: A Closer Look (Sloan-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: November 4- 13, 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.sloan-c.org/node/1514>
- Beginning Second Life for Educators (Sloan-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: November 4 -13, 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.sloan-c.org/node/1512>
- Video Tools for Teaching and Learning (Sloan-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: November 4-13, 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.sloan-c.org/node/1513>
- Designing Blended Courses & Building a Blended Learning Community (Sloan-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: November 9-30, 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.sloan-c.org/node/1515>
- Using Discussion Boards within and between Classes (ITC Webinar)
 - November 10, 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=409#November%202009>
- Using Moodle to Create Online Courses (Sloan-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: November 11-20 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.sloan-c.org/node/1516>
- Sustainability: Teaching Environmental Science Online (ITC Webinar)
 - November 17, 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=409#November%202009>
- Are Digital Natives for Real? (ION Webinar)
 - Date: November 19, 2009
 - More Information: <http://illinois.online.uillinois.edu/institutes/webinars/monthly/upcomingevents.asp>

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December Events

- Teaching Computer Literacy Online (ITC Webinar)
 - December 1, 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=409#December%202009>
- Intermediate Second Life for Educators (Sloan-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: December 2-11 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.sloan-c.org/node/1517>
- Academic Integrity in Online Education (SLOAN-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: December 2-11 2009
 - More Information: <http://www.sloan-c.org/node/2378>
- Online Course Design for Math (ITC Webinar)
 - Date: December 8, 2009

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- More Information:
<http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=409#December%202009>
- Innovative Techniques for Teaching a Hands-On Lab Course Over the Internet (ITC Webinar)
 - Date: December 15, 2009
 - More Information:
<http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=409#December%202009>

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January Events

- Dynamic Collaboration, Discussion, and Facilitation Practices (SLOAN-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: January 6-15, 2010
 - More Information: http://www.sloan-c.org/2010_workshop_schedule
- Advanced Second Life (SLOAN-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: January 6-15, 2010
 - More Information: http://www.sloan-c.org/2010_workshop_schedule
- Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Leveraging the Online Learning Environment (SLOAN-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: January 6-15, 2010
 - More Information: http://www.sloan-c.org/2010_workshop_schedule
- Designing Blended Courses and Building a Blended Learning Community (SLOAN-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: January 11-February 1, 2010
 - More Information: http://www.sloan-c.org/2010_workshop_schedule
- Effective Communication in Online Education (ITC Webinar)
 - Date: January 12, 2010
 - More Information:
<http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=409#January%202010>
- Copyright Compliance for Online Educators (SLOAN-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: January 13-22, 2010
 - More Information: http://www.sloan-c.org/2010_workshop_schedule
- Integrating Web 2.0 Technologies into Your Online Courses (ITC Webinar)
 - Date: January 19, 2010
 - More Information:
<http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=409#January%202010>
- Lifting the Barriers: Technology Applications for the Visually Impaired (SLOAN-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: January 20-29, 2010
 - More Information: http://www.sloan-c.org/2010_workshop_schedule
- Virtual Biology Field Trips (ITC Webinar)
 - Date: January 26, 2010
 - More Information:
<http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=409#January%202010>
- Getting Started: The First Step Toward Online Teaching (SLOAN-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: January 27-February 12, 2010
 - More Information: http://www.sloan-c.org/2010_workshop_schedule
- The Art of a Good Online Discussion (ION Webinar)
 - Date: January 28, 2010
 - More Information:
<http://illinois.online.uillinois.edu/institutes/webinars/monthly/upcomingevents.asp>

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February Events

- Complying with the TEACH Act and Copyright Issues in Distance Education (ITC Webinar)
 - Date: February 2, 2010
 - More Information: <http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=409#February%202010>
- Delivering Content, Fostering Student Interactivity, and Assessing Learning in Blended Courses (SLOAN-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: February 8-March 1, 2010
 - More Information: http://www.sloan-c.org/2010_workshop_schedule
- Avoiding Shovelware: Innovative Strategies toward Improving Online Course Quality (ITC Webinar)
 - Date: February 9, 2010
 - More Information: <http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=409#February%202010>
- Beginning Second Life (SLOAN-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: February 10-19, 2010
 - More Information: http://www.sloan-c.org/2010_workshop_schedule
- Video & Audio Tools for Teaching & Learning (SLOAN-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: February 17-26, 2010
 - More Information: http://www.sloan-c.org/2010_workshop_schedule
- eLearning 2010 Conference
 - Dates: February 20-23, 2010
 - More Information: <http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=84>
- Using the Quality Matters Rubric to Improve Your Online Course (SLOAN-C Online Workshop)
 - Dates: February 24-March 12, 2010
 - More Information: http://www.sloan-c.org/2010_workshop_schedule

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Research to Read: Teaching the Millennials

View this free 4-part Webinar on the Millennial generation. Find out more about:

- Who they really are
- How to construct learning environments using 2.0 tools
- How to make use of your existing course materials
- Where to find Millennials and how to reach them

Visit <http://www.imagine-america.org/04-webinars.asp> to register and begin the viewing experience.

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Web Site Watch (full article)

There seems to be a lot of talk about assessment in higher education these days. At first, institutions chose to ignore it as another passing fancy. However, as we've all found out in the past 6 or 7 years, it's here to stay, and accrediting bodies expect institutions of higher learning to get rolling or risk accreditation. The issue I always seem to run into is closing the loop: bringing assessment back into program development.

To learn more about ILCCO, contact Jeff Newell at jeff.newell@illinois.gov

Bit.ly (<http://bit.ly>) provides a useful way to track people's (students or clients) travels on the web, providing the page manager (instructor or program director) the ability to see what people are clicking on, allowing us to see if what we provide for content is truly helpful.

In short, Bit.ly is a URL shortening website. Like TinyURL and others, it provides a service that allows for the shortening of a URL for ease of use. For example: the following link:

http://www.amazon.com/Building-Online-Learning-Communities-Strategies/dp/0787988251/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254854457&sr=8-1

does not fit nicely on one line, and can create problems when linked in pages.

However, after processing through Bit.ly, the link is shortened to: <http://bit.ly/10qmJo>.

This shortened link will direct the traffic clicking on it through Bit.ly, and present the original website as it was designed. In the process information is collected by Bit.ly to identify where in the world people are clicking, what applications were being used when clicking, and when the clicks occurred. The ability to see this information as it relates to course content or program implementation provides insight that otherwise is lacking in a straight web environment.

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Tech Tool Talk (full article)

Google Wave, currently in Beta for application developers, uses a revolutionary approach and is the future in online communication and collaboration. Here are some of the key ideas:

- Web 2.0 tool with wiki-like features
- Collaborative environment
- Communication tool
- Ease of use
- Open source platform



Wave beginnings: You start a new wave and add other people to it. The wave has the ability to add rich text, photos, videos, maps, and much more to aid in the exchange of information between the participants. With developer created applications, its functionality grows. Some of the applications I have seen include whiteboard tools, ability to embed search results, HTML embedding, vector graphic creation and manipulation, and more.

Riding the Wave: Anyone can continue to add other people to the Wave to expand the community. All edits in the Wave happen live with changes made by one person 'instantly' sent out to anyone else viewing or editing the Wave. You can visibly see, by means of a highlighted box, where each person is within the Wave while editing. Any content is completely changeable by anyone in the Wave regardless of who added the content originally. Embedding options are available to allow for the ability to host a Wave directly in a Web page, blog, wiki, etc. Live updates occur within the actual Wave as well as pages that host the Wave with the ability to contribute to the Wave from those hosted locations.

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Wave features: There are many innovative features, but here are just a few:

- **Real-time:** In most instances, you can see what someone else is typing, character-by-character.
- **Embeddability:** Waves can be embedded on any blog or website.
- **Applications and Extensions:** Just like a Facebook application or an iGoogle gadget, developers can build their own apps within waves. They can be anything from robots to complex real-time games.
- **Wiki functionality:** Anything written within a Google Wave can be edited by anyone else, because all conversations within the platform are shared. Thus, you can correct information, append information, or add your own commentary within a developing conversation.
- **Open source:** The Google Wave code will be open source, to foster innovation and adoption amongst developers.
- **Playback:** You can playback any part of the wave to see what was said.
- **Natural language:** Google Wave can autocorrect your spelling, even going as far as knowing the difference between similar words, like “been” and “bean.” It can also auto-translate on-the-fly.
- **Drag-and-drop file sharing:** No attachments; just drag your file and drop it inside Google Wave and everyone will have access.
- **Local hosting:** Google is providing their own hosting for Waves but users will have the ability to have their own local server providing access to creating Waves.

Google Wave should be available later this year for the general public. This platform could revolutionize online communication and collaboration for education providing a truly interactive and engaging tool to inspire creativity and deeper learning with its social roots and ease of use. To see more, visit <http://wave.google.com/> and explore the information provided on those pages. Additionally, the recorded presentation and demonstration Google provided to their developers at a conference in early 2009 is available on that main page.

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Tip of the ICEberg (full article)

Updates to the Internet Course Exchange (ICE) database, which facilitates course sharing among ILCCO members, were completed earlier this year.

Available at <http://www.ilcco.net/ice2/>, no login is required to view a full menu of online courses offered by member colleges. Once logged in, institutional representatives can limit searches to shared courses, and perform keyword searches by title, description or code. The database is used to securely track students within shared courses, allowing institutions to verify 10th day attendance for financial aid, enter midterm attendance and final grades. Bookstore representatives use the site to share textbook information, allowing students to purchase books at their home institutions, thereby facilitating the use of financial aid vouchers.

An FAQ within the system answers questions institutions have about course sharing in general.