Welcome to the Center for Online Education (COE) Newsletter!

For this edition, I provide campus-wide and IU-wide updates.

Sometime in the summer of 2012, then Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr. officially established the Center for Distance Education (CDE). On July 1, 2012, he appointed me as its Founding Director. Before that time, I was the Distance Learning Program Manager while also serving as the Instructional Strategist at the University Center for Excellence in Teaching. In early spring 2016, EVCAA Jann L. Joseph renamed CDE the Center for Online Education.
The Center for Online Education is separate from the University Center for Excellence in Teaching. As of spring 2016, faculty training to develop and/or teach online and hybrid courses are being done by UCET staff. COE continues to do other faculty support such as course development stipends, administrative support, student support (in collaboration with Academic Centers for Excellence and other student support units on campus as well as the Office of Online Education), and technology support (in collaboration with UITS, UCET and the Office of Online Education).

In early-2015, CDE had administrative and fiscal oversight of the Testing and Proctoring Center (TPC, located at DW 1205). Amy Pawlosky, Cathy Dale and I worked on the logistics and coordination of activities for the TPC. The TPC was the venue for our School of Education’s required Core Academic Skills Assessment (CASA) exams, exams for online courses, and placement exams. This semester, Rick Dennie, Director of Student Support (ext. 4164; rdennie@iusb.edu) is in charge of the TPC.

In spring 2012, Pres. McRobbie established the IU Online education initiative with an initial investment of $8M over the next three years. The IU Office of Online Education (OOE) is the central unit across IU that oversees and coordinates online activities, particularly joint degree programs. The Center for Online Education works closely with OOE for our campus-wide and IU-wide online initiatives.

In the past, CDE held a call for proposals for faculty to submit an application for funding to develop either a hybrid or online course. In fall 2007, we piloted the development of three online courses. By this fall semester, we have funded the development of 185 distance education courses (21 hybrid and 164 online), an increase of 6,200% in 9 years.

In spring 2014, IU Online Class Connect (IUOCC) was officially launched. IUOCC is a “process that allows a student enrolled at one IU campus to register for an online class offered at another IU campus without having to go through intercampus transfer.” (see https://teachingonline.iu.edu/programs/iuocc.html)

In May, 2016, the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission officially approved IU South Bend to offer distance education programs. Together with several IU campuses, we will be offering joint online degree programs.

In addition to continuing to offer the RN to BSN Online Degree Completion Program (see https://www.iusb.edu/nursing/degree-programs/undergraduate-program/rn-bsn/online_rnbsn.php) and the fully online option for the Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) through the Leighton School of Business and Economics (see https://www.iusb.edu/bas/index.php), our campus has entered into agreements with other IU campuses. To date, our campus will be part of 18 joint online programs (undergraduate degrees and certificates, graduate degrees and certificates) and more are underway.
Starting in spring 2016, COE no longer held a call for proposals and instead EVCAA Joseph and I have asked the academic deans to submit their Online Education Academic Plans, highlighting courses to be developed and taught by our faculty as part of IUOCC or joint degree program. This fall semester, academic deans submitted their addenda to their original spring academic plans.

For a course to be IUOCC-eligible, it has to meet several criteria, such as its pre-requisites or enrollment requirement groups (ERGs) match across all regional campuses that have that course unless the course is part of an approved joint degree. For more information visit [https://www.iusb.edu/distance-learning/for-faculty/grants/iuocc.php](https://www.iusb.edu/distance-learning/for-faculty/grants/iuocc.php). For a course to be replicated in IUOCC, schools and colleges on our campus have to notify our Registrar. Every spring and fall semesters, the registrar’s office emails a list of courses offered the previous academic year for a particular semester(s) to the schools’ and colleges’ designees. These individuals work closely with the academic departments in identifying which courses will be included on this list and whether they will be replicated in IUOCC or taught as face-to-face, Hybrid (HY, 26-75% of instruction provided online), Online Interactive (OI, 75-99% online), or Online All (OA, 100%). Courses identified as IUOCC will have to be entered into an IU-wide system for replication so students across IU campuses could register for them. It’s imperative that these courses are submitted to the registrar and added to the list in a timely manner.

EVCAA Joseph recently approved the recommendation by the Center for Online Education Advisory Board to hold two teaching awards. Each year, a review committee for the Excellence in Online Teaching Award will select a faculty member from the applications they receive. Another review committee will select the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award. Each faculty member will receive a one-time award of $1,000 and a certificate of recognition. The Faculty Support Subcommittee of the advisory board is drafting the awards guidelines for recommendation to the board and approval by EVCAA Joseph. A call for applications will be posted at various campus media venues.

Please stay tuned; more to come in our next COE Newsletter!
Spotlight on Our Student

Kyle Eenigenburg, a freshman in Biology

Here’s his story about taking online courses. Kyle took his first online course “when I was in seventh grade. I did that all through high school and graduated as a junior through online schooling [which was] completely online.” He decided to go this route because “the math level I was at was higher than what the school was offering. I ended up completing all my math requirements through online courses and this was one of the reasons why I was encouraged to graduate as a junior from high school.”

I took online courses because “I like the fact that you get to work at your own time, so if I have many things during the day, I can work at night if I have to, and if I have things at night, I can work in the morning.” For students taking an online course at IU South Bend, “the advice I would definitely give would be: do not procrastinate. I know that was one of the things I originally had problems with when I first went into online schooling. That can put you behind and that could be pretty bad and you don’t want that to happen. … I recommend keeping a calendar, if you are able. It makes keeping track of your study a whole lot easier. … [O]rganize your work into ‘time zones.’ For example, on Monday, I work on my math, on Tuesday, on Spanish, etc. Every week I try to keep the same schedule. This way, I stay on track and I give enough time for each discipline. If I need extra time, I work on that afterwards so I don’t get mixed up with anything.”

While he has not yet taken an online course since this is his first semester at IU South Bend as a freshman, Kyle shared what his teachers did to help him succeed in the online course. My teachers “had online videos that were put out all the time. It was nice to see the teacher and what they were explaining. It was also nice to be part of a class. We had to interact with each other. [For example], we were part of an online classroom and we all needed to log in into the system. We were split into different groups and we were required to work on a specific assignment given by the teacher as a group, within a given allotted time.”

Having completed his high school in three years through online schooling, Kyle would like to see “the options for online education here. I will definitely encourage the thought of doing it.”

He, too, “would definitely recommend it [to students here], especially if they have limited time or conflicts of schedule with face-to-face classes. An online course would be the perfect course to take in this case, especially if the student needs the extra credits to graduate faster.”
Spotlight on Our Faculty

Jorge Muñiz, Associate Professor of Music and Faculty Program Associate for Online Education

Dr. Jorge Muñiz is our new Faculty Program Associate for Online Education starting this semester. Originally from Spain, he is a composer and Associate Professor of Music, Composition and Theory at the Ernestine Raclin School of the Arts at IU South Bend. He succeeds Associate Professor Raman Adaikkalavan who served in this capacity since January, 2013 and is now the Department Chair for Computer and Information Sciences.

Jorge hopes to effectively communicate with faculty and students his passion for technology and online instruction as we address our diverse and multi-generational students. He is one of our pioneer online faculty members who received course development funding for his two courses, namely, Music Theory (MUS-T113) and Introduction to World Music (MUS-M375), a general education course he has taught several times.

He has also received funding for the technological tools he used in his teaching and student learning through the SEED (Software and Equipment for Engagement and Discovery) Grant. He has applied the myriad features of the iPad to teach music theory and analysis through the use of Apple TV, music apps, and learning management system (we use Canvas currently). Through the tech tools, he has made his presentations more interactive.

Both the online course development funding and SEED grants were funded and managed by the Center for Online Education (used to be Center for Distance Education). SEED grants are now administered by the University Center for Excellence in Teaching (UCET).

Jorge was inducted into the prestigious IU-wide Faculty Colloquium for Excellence in Teaching (FACET) in 2011. During FACET retreats and other conferences, he shares how he has used music technology effectively in the classroom and online.
Prior to coming to IU South Bend in 2006, he was a member of the Theory Faculty at Manhattan School of Music in New York City which is his alma mater. He has been very passionate about implementing technology in the classroom. In the past ten years at IU South Bend, Jorge has enjoyed the vast array of technological tools available to faculty and students at Indiana University. He has been invited to give online composition master classes in Spain and Singapore using Internet 2 videoconferencing from our campus. With his professional new music group, Ensemble CONCEPT/21, he has hosted many panel discussions and presentations to audiences by composers in the United States and Spain, one of them lecturing from a stop at a highway in the Great Plains! EC/21 concerts often stream live, which has strengthened his program partnership with the Conservatory of Asturias, Spain to exchange new music by composers from both sides of the Atlantic.

Jorge’s music has been performed in Spain, Italy, Germany, France, Singapore, Australia, and the United States. In addition to winning the First Grand Prize of the European Young Composers Competition, he has won several other international awards. At Carnegie Mellon University, he won the String Quartet Competition and the H. G. Archer Prize for Symphonic Composition. Jorge is also the recipient of several grants and fellowships from Fulbright and Rotary International, among others.

In October 2010, the South Bend Symphony Orchestra presented the world premiere of Requiem for the Innocent, written in remembrance of victims of terrorism around the world, featuring baritone soloist Ivan Griffin and five choruses. The South Bend Tribune called the work “a magnificent oratorio… a creation that is profound, mature and well-proportioned.” The South Bend Symphony Orchestra premiered his Piano Concerto No. 2, “American Nights” in spring 2014, with pianist Ilia Ulianitsky. His music is distributed through Naxos, iTunes, Amazon, and his website, jorgemuniz.com

Recent and upcoming premieres of commissioned works include Stabat Mater Speciosa, written to benefit Hannah’s House women’s home of Mishawaka with the South Bend Chamber Singers; a new concerto for alto sax and orchestra for Grammy award winning saxophonist Timothy McAllister; and Portraits from the Heartland, a solo work for classical guitarist Adam Levin.