



# EDC Newsletter

*Of Buffalo State College*

Educational Computing

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## Welcome Back

### Meet Dr. Nowakowski, Professor Emeritus

Dr. Nowakowski has forty-one years experience teaching physics, mathematics, and computer science/computer information systems courses on the secondary, junior college, and college levels. His research interests are in the areas of multimedia, distance learning and the Internet, and programming.



Dr. Nowakowski has a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from the University of Buffalo, a M.A. in Mathematics, and a B.S. in Secondary Education from Buffalo State College. He has 41 years experience teaching physics, mathematics, and computer science/computer information systems courses on the secondary, junior, and college levels.

Dr. Nowakowski's current interests are in the areas of: programming in the Window's environment, multimedia, and the Internet. Recently taught undergraduate courses are: Programming for the Internet Environment (CIS 375) and Visual Basic Programming for the Windows Environment (CIS 400). Recently taught graduate courses are: Microcomputers Systems (EDC500), Instructional Technologies (EDC601), and Master's Project (EDC690).

Since his "semi-retirement," he enjoys boating and fishing during the warmer months.

### From the Editor

Welcome to the January 2007 issue of the EDC Newsletter. It's the intention of this newsletter to be an informative and useful tool for EDC students. We'd also like you to consider this newsletter as a way to provide you information and for you to be an active member of the EDC program.

In this issue, we will take a look at a mailing list. This month's student spotlight is on EDC student John Targia. A new feature that I am adding to the newsletter are articles on dealing with students with disabilities with the use of technology. Also we will have you meet the Professor, with Dr. Nowakowski.

If you have any insights or articles, you'd like to make available to your peers, please e-mail me at the address given below.

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### Save the Date



May 11, 2007  
at Erie 1 BOCES

## Mailing Lists: An Introduction

While browsing the Internet, you may have come across the term mailing list or Listserv™. If you do not already subscribed to a mailing list, you may be wondering what they are and if these lists could be helpful to you. Also, a commonly asked question is to explain the difference between a mailing list and a Listserv™? This article should answer most of your questions, and get you started with mailing lists.

A mailing list is simply a method of sharing information via E-mail. There a millions of mailing lists available on the Internet, regarding almost any subject imaginable. Each mailing list has an E-mail address. Just like you may have an E-mail address. However, when you send an E-mail to the mailing list address, it automatically distributes it to everyone on the list who subscribed, or members. If the mailing list allows it, the subscribers on the list are able to reply back. So a mailing list makes it easy for a large number of users to communicate via E-mail.

Those of you, who are E-mail experts, may be wondering if a mailing list is the same as a distribution list. While both are used to E-mail a large number of people, this a mailing list has much more flexibility. For starters,

people can choose to subscribe or unsubscribe from a mailing list, where as with a distribution list, the recipients cannot easily do this. Another difference is that with a mailing list, all you have to share is one E-mail address, not the entire distribution list. As you will see below, mailing lists have other features which are explained below.

**"There a millions of mailing lists available on the Internet"**

To subscribe or sign-on to a mailing list, a user either sends an E-mail to the mailing list with a join command, or uses a Web Page to subscribe. Once you subscribe to the mailing list, you will start seeing the list messages in your E-mail. If you subscribed to a heavily utilized mailing list, you should be prepared to receive lots of E-mail. Most lists allow you to digest the message, which means instead of receiving separate E-mails for each post, you can have all the messages from that day or week come in one big E-mail. If you no longer wish to belong to the mailing list, you can always unsubscribe,

which is done similarly to subscribing, except you use the unsubscribe command.

For those of you familiar with mailing lists, you may have heard the term Listserv™. A Listserv™ functions the same as a mailing list, but it uses different software. Listserv™ is a trademarked name, in order for a mailing list to be called a Listserv™, it must be running L-Soft international, Inc.'s Listserv™ software. Unfortunately, many people are not aware of this, and will mistakenly call their mailing list a Listserv™, even though it operates with a different mailing list application.

So, now that you know all about mailing lists, you may be wondering where you can find some decent educational ones. Some of you may even want to start your own mailing list, so you can easily communicate with co-workers, students or people who have the same interests. Look no further, the links on the left should help you get started with mailing lists.

Joseph Lundin





## Web Construction and ADA Guidelines

At Buffalo State College, there is a serious commitment to meeting the guidelines for accessibility on the World Wide Web and in the use of electronic media and their applications to all facets of education. Online courses, Project Connect classrooms, ANGEL classes, and distance learning are terms we are fluent in using here - concepts completely out of the experience of faculty and students 15 years ago.

The FAST Center trains us to make our web sites for classes accessible, and no web sites can be used for classes unless they meet the ADA's Section 508 mandates. We were one of the first colleges in the SUNY system to establish this standard, and the personnel who work there enforce this as part of the course materials and design.

### ANGEL and Access

ANGEL training is being offered through TASC. ANGEL

software has accessibility built into the product, and exams can even be set up with built-in extended time features. For more

information, click here for ANGEL ANGEL, Buffalo State's new course management system, will be available for online classes starting spring 2006. Want to test what you have written on the software the students use?

Faculty who are preparing materials for use online are encouraged to test the materials they have prepared on some of the adaptive systems and software housed in the E.H. Butler Library

and in the Disability Services office. Newer assistive software will be loaded onto more campus computer lab sites so that students will have better access for its use during the next year.

In the years to come, new technology will be available for use by students and faculty use. We already have talking scanners that can make copies of text materials, voice-input and voice-output

computer software, and devices that enlarge print, show work in 3 dimensions and in color-format changes to help students with processing disorders and vision impairments. High speed scanners can be used to make a vocal reproduction of a text if a student needs a book on tape or on CD or in e-text and it is not available any other way.

Project EASI at RIT, and the CAST Center at Harvard

### Project EASI - Easy

Access for Students and Institutions - is one of the first training programs designed to improve access for individuals who are blind or visually impaired as they retrieve information from print format and online. The founders, Norman Coombs and Richard Banks, are both visually-impaired and have trained thousands of faculty, students, computer systems staff and software authors, and disability support staff on the use of assistive technology. Dr. Coombs is a professor emeritus from RIT, and their site is still maintained there, but he now lives and works in California.

***“Online courses, Project Connect classrooms, ANGEL classes, and distance learning are terms we are fluent in using here - concepts completely out of the experience of faculty and students 15 years ago.”***



The CAST Center - The Center for Applied Special Technology - was founded in 1984 at Harvard, with the intent to provide assistive technology to individuals with disabilities who needed adaptations in their

learning environments and in their daily living experiences. In 1994, a paradigm shift was made to the theory of Universal

Design - an architectural term that referred to curb cuts, lever-style handles on doors and fau-

cets, etc. that could be used by anyone, with or without a disability. Using that concept in education at the college/ university level takes some planning, and for nearly 10 years, CAST has been in the business of Universal Design. CAST has been part of many federal government research initiatives and its research base and board of directors provide a wealth of information for those willing to research or special projects on designing courses for college students with disabilities as model courses. This is the organization that also brought us the "Bobby-approved" symbol of accessible online web sites.



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