

WCU College of Business

# TechNews

## Space... Western's Imminent Frontier

### *Chancellor, Provost Chart Course For Expanding Educational Universe*

Transcending the challenge of space and distance was the emergent theme of a recent colloquy between Chancellor John Bardo and a small group of faculty meeting in one of a series of informal exchanges between WCU administration and faculty arranged by the White House.

Immediate and proximate concerns include needed space for additional faculty offices, inventory and allocation of

existing classroom space, and, less immediately, planning the future of the recently-acquired 344 acres on the cusp of final approval as a state millennial campus

Chancellor Bardo announced a proposal for a new multi-story faculty office building which, if approved, would break ground in 2006 and be situated as centrally as possible on the existing campus.

Provost Carter, also in attendance,

announced the acquisition of a sophisticated software suite which will enable more efficient inventory and allocation of classroom and other physical space.

Moving beyond Cullowhee's immediate orbit, the Chancellor addressed the issue of distance education.

"There will always be traditional students, 18-to-22, attending campus," Bardo stated, "but there is also taking place a fun-

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## Publication Peer Review Is Not Dead

### *But Competing Models Are Gaining Ground*

Seeking to calm a restive audience, Reference Librarian Dana Edge acknowledged in a recent College of Business forum that her presentation title suggesting the demise of publication peer review could have been deliberately provocative.

"I might have exaggerated slightly," the guest speaker admitted good naturedly, "but some of the ground rules are in fact changing."

With her audience settled, Ms. Edge outlined three competing models that educators might face when seeking to publish their research—the most progressive of which, perhaps surprisingly,

is currently embraced by researchers in physics, mathematics, and computer science. The arXiv.org model, now hosted by Cornell, contains several hundred thousand brief papers in these disciplines, with thousands of new submissions coming in each month.

As stated on its website, unlike articles submitted to professional journals, papers submitted to the archive are immediately available online, at no cost to the user. Also unlike articles submitted to professional journals, postings to arXiv.org are not peer-viewed.

Cornell librarians hope to explore the

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Dana Edge, Reference Librarian/COB Liaison, updates College of Business faculty on information science advances

## Competing Models Gaining Ground

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extension of this idea into other disciplines.

Another electronic publication approach, Although in its early stages, is the Mizzaro model. This model permits the use of electronic journals, removes the reviewing process, and claims to measure the quality of researchers' contributions.

The process maintains the quality of papers by assigning scores based on reviews of regular readers (who are also assigned scores).

During her presentation, Ms. Edge

described several other electronic publication models, including the approach of Blackwell—a large publisher offering qualified support of open access, including a copyright assignment policy that allows authors to self-archive their final version of their article on personal websites or institutional repositories.

Ms. Edge concluded her presentation by summarizing recent Hunter Library initiatives and reminding the audience of several worthwhile business-related search engines through NC Live. These included Hoovers, Mergent, Stat USA, and the Conference Board Research Collection. ♦

## Space...

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damental shift. Life-long learning will truly be life-long. There will be a seamless web of education so that what is offered will match what is needed by the population — when it is needed, where it is needed.”

The graduate programs in project management and entrepreneurship were cited as current successes with potential for significant future growth.

Faculty raised a concern regarding the sufficiency of current institutional support in this area.

Provost Carter stated that the administration is addressing this issue, and noted recent improvements in managing communication and coordination of distance education specifically and the Information Technology Division generally. The nine faculty present seemed unanimous in their agreement that the re-organization of IT has been effective and praised the efforts of current management and staff (see org chart, <http://www.wcu.edu/it/about.html>).

Faculty asked about plans for physical WCU satellite facilities in selected Western Carolina communities.

Chancellor Bardo acknowledged that as a system, UNC still has work to do towards agreeing upon the programmatic areas that traditional campus centers could decentralize to best serve their respective communities. Some of Western's strengths that could be offered where demand reaches critical mass include teacher education, engineering (emerging), health, and various age-related programs.

Other topics discussed included bringing Banner online (see February's *TechNews*), seamless registration, enrollment growth, SACS re-accreditation, intellectual property rights, technology transfer, and (ongoing) improved campus planning and budgeting. ♦

## Tech Worth a Try:

- <http://www.google.com/options/index.html> (the wonderful world of Google)
- <http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/> (a different browsing experience)
- <http://www.savethis.clickability.com/> (save and organize bookmarks online)
- <http://www.moonsoftware.com/> (check out the free utilities at moonsoft)
- <http://desktop.yahoo.com/> (download, best desktop search engine to date)

## IT Division Organization Chart

