GENAI IS TRANSFORMING HIGHER EDUCATION, AND FLORIDA IS LEADING THE WAY

This guest column is from Sid Dobrin, professor and chairperson of the Department of English at the University of Florida, and Bruce Fraser, director of the Institute for Academic Excellence at Indian River State College. (Source: Tampa Bay Times)

Read more here.
TSAA NUMBERS SEE SIGNIFICANT SUMMER INCREASE

Transient Student Admissions Applications (TSAA) created for Summer 2024 (14,164) have increased 21.5 percent when compared to the same period in Summer 2023 (11,659). Also, applications for Fall 2024 (5,253) have increased almost 10 percent compared to the last year’s Fall period (4,786). For the academic year 2023-24 so far, applications created (62,415) increased by a little more than 17 percent compared to 2022-23 (53,244). Thank you for supporting the mission of the Florida Virtual Campus and being a part of the Transient Admissions Application process to support your students.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Florida Virtual Campus Help Desk, throughout the semester, for further assistance.

UNIVERSITIES INVESTING IN MICROCREDENTIAL LEADERSHIP

"As microcredential programs slowly gain traction, more universities are looking for leaders to coordinate the efforts." (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

Read more here.

LATEST AI ANNOUNCEMENTS MEAN ANOTHER BIG ADJUSTMENT FOR EDUCATORS

"New features of ChatGPT and other tools may mean teachers will need to change how they lecture, as well as further rethink homework." (Source: EdSurge)

Read more here.

NEW FEATURES OF CHATGPT AND OTHER TOOLS MAY MEAN ANOTHER BIG ADJUSTMENT FOR EDUCATORS

"New features of ChatGPT and other tools may mean teachers will need to change how they lecture, as well as further rethink homework." (Source: EdSurge)

Read more here.
FLVC SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

FLVC’s semi-annual report was recently released, detailing the ongoing and accomplished projects in both Distance Learning and Student Services and Library Services this year. Among the DLSS projects highlighted in the report are the Education Meets Opportunity Platform (EMOP) to develop a comprehensive, interactive credential registry for the state, a reverse transfer system set to be implemented this fall, and the development of the new FloridaShines mobile app, which is slated to be officially launched in August.

Read the full FLVC semi-annual report here.

UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT: UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

“UCF is the only university in Florida collaborating with NASA on a unique certificate program, which will train students to evaluate and test the electrical and electronic components of devices and equipment used in space.

The program allows engineering students to gain real-world experience while meeting the needs of the industry. Starting Fall 2024, students can enroll in the graduate certificate in electronic parts engineering, offered through the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in partnership with the NASA Electronic Parts and Packaging Program... UCF is one of three universities — and the only university in Florida — to partner with NASA on the program.”

Read more about the program here.

FL-IDN WILL DIVE INTO REGULAR AND SUBSTANTIVE INTERACTION (RSI) IN UPCOMING WEBINAR

Many instructional designers seem to be confused about how to fulfill the regular and substantive interaction (RSI) requirements in their courses. Our guest speakers, Josh Strigle and Bryan Biggers, will give a brief overview of the federal regulations and discuss the unique position of instructional designers within the institution to promote these important instructional concepts.

Join this session to learn about tools and strategies that they use at their institutions to aid faculty in intentionally including these beneficial instructional practices into their courses.

To register, go here.
QM LICENSE RENEWAL FOR 2024-2025
The Florida Quality Matters Consortium (FLQMC) currently has 36 affiliate institutions. FLQMC will continue making efforts to help our affiliate institutions save costs and maximize the QM professional development benefits that the QM System License Subscription offers. Your total annual QM subscription cost for 2024-2025 includes two parts:

- Affiliate Institution Subscription Fee ($1275)
  - QM will invoice your institution, and you will pay QM this amount directly.
  - If you haven’t received the invoice or have questions, please contact Michelle Pierpont at QM Member Services.
- FLVC QM MOU Fee (The $6355 QM Lead Institution Fee for System License Subscription / 36 affiliate institutions = $177)
  - FLVC will invoice your institution, and you will pay FLVC this amount directly, as detailed on the FLQMC website.

FLVC cannot issue the QM MOU fee invoices to member institutions until on or after July 1, 2024 due to the new or renewal contract starting date with QM. Please prepare to pay the MOU fee amount from your 2024-2025 budget. Please feel free to reach out to Tom Tu with any questions.

NEW COLLEGE 101 SERIES SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER
A new series of free "College 101" webinars that will give students all the information they need to explore their education options after high school and apply and pay for college will be held on September 10, 17, and 24.

Experts in higher education from across Florida will be on hand during each session to share information and answer questions to help students plan their future after high school. Each webinar begins at 6 p.m. ET.

The first webinar held on September 10, College, University or Technical Training: Which Path is Right for Me?, will detail all the postsecondary options available to students, including the career and technical programs, two-year degrees, and four-year degrees that can put them on a path to a rewarding career.

The second webinar held on September 17, Make Your Application Stand Out from the Rest!, will show students how to get all their information ready to apply to the college that best matches their needs and submit an application that stands out to admissions officers.

The final session held on September 24, Show Me the Money: How to Pay for College Without Breaking the Bank!, will show students how to not let the cost of college stop them from achieving their dreams. They will learn about various scholarships and grants and how they can qualify for them.

Stay tuned for information on how to register.

SAVE THE DATE: MCDLSS FALL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER AT FIU
A regular meeting of the FLVC Members Council on Distance Learning and Student Services will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 17 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 18 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Florida International University's Modesto A. Maidique Campus in Miami, Florida.

Registration and hotel accommodation information will be announced in July, so be on the lookout for an email on the listserv! Please feel free to reach out to Brooke with any questions in the meantime.
SAUL PERLMUTTER: CHATGPT ESSAYS SHOW STUDENTS HOW NOT TO THINK

"Students should be encouraged to consider how ChatGPT-generated essays fall short of the genuine critical thinking required for great science, a Nobel prizewinning astrophysicist has argued. Asked how educators should deal with the rising tide of AI-created content submitted by students, Saul Perlmutter told delegates at the annual Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in southern Germany that he used ChatGPT answers as a teaching prompt." (Source: Times Higher Ed)

A major theme in higher education has been going green. Many colleges have committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. They are “finding and using renewable sources of energy, adopting green technology, and making curriculum changes.” Environmental benefits of remote work include “reducing an institution’s carbon footprint, especially by minimizing commuting.” It also reduces energy consumption in cooling, heating, and lighting. How can your institution reduce its carbon footprint?” (Source: EdTech Magazine)

HOW REMOTE WORK CAN HELP UNIVERSITIES ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

"At the University of California, Irvine, a data-driven transformation is fostering a collaborative environment for informed decision-making. With high adoption rates and a collaborative spirit, the Compass Initiative leverages millions of data points to guide students toward success.” (Source: Educause)

FRAMING GENERATIVE AI IN EDUCATION WITH THE GENAI INTENT AND ORIENTATION MODEL

"The GenAI Intent and Orientation Model is designed to explicitly describe how interactions between GenAI, instructors, and learners can be envisioned for teaching and learning. The purpose of the proposed model is to provide a mental construct that can differentiate between the varied uses of GenAI systems for teaching and learning, can identify a focused strategy, and can support more effective evaluation and assessment of impact.” (Source: Educause)

FOSTERING A DATA-ORIENTED CULTURE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

"At the University of California, Irvine, a data-driven transformation is fostering a collaborative environment for informed decision-making. With high adoption rates and a collaborative spirit, the Compass Initiative leverages millions of data points to guide students toward success.” (Source: Educause)

BANNING CHATGPT IN UNSUPERVISED EXAMS ‘POINTLESS’ SAYS SYDNEY PROFESSOR

"Australia’s oldest university is contemplating banning academics from prohibiting the use of artificial intelligence in most assessed work, a forum has heard. Danny Liu, professor in educational innovation at the University of Sydney, said trying to keep AI out of unsupervised assessment tasks was pointless because its use was ubiquitous.” (Source: Times Higher Ed)

SURVEY: HOW ARE PROFESSORS, STAFF USING AI?

"As artificial intelligence becomes more integrated into teaching and learning, college instructors and student success professionals share how they’re using generative AI... In general, practitioners have yet to widely adopt the technology, but many are using it to create student-facing content and communication, sometimes without institutional policy or guidance.” (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

STUDENTS TURN TO AI-POWERED APPS FOR HELP WITH LECTURE NOTES

"Software that can record and transcribe class talks and discussions is becoming increasingly common, but some fear it could prove detrimental to long-term learning.” (Source: Inside Higher Ed)
SURVEY REVEALS INCREASED DEMAND FOR ONLINE STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

"A recent survey revealed that an "overwhelming majority" of higher education faculty, staff, and administrators have seen an increased need in mental health support among online students. The poll also hinted at a lack of services geared toward online students. Many counseling centers are only available during business hours, but online students are likely to be working during these hours. More than a third of respondents felt "inadequately or very inadequately trained" to recognize or respond to students' mental health needs, and a large majority expressed interest in receiving additional training. They also mentioned factors like time constraints, limited awareness of services, lack of tailored services, financial constraints, and lack of services in general as barriers between online students and adequate mental health coverage." (Source: Campus Technology)

HOW VIDEO BARS ENHANCE HYBRID LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

"Since the spring of 2020, higher education institutions have adapted their learning environments to support both hybrid and remote learning. Audiovisual tools like video bars help enhance the overall learning experience because they scale depending on the size of the lecture hall. Institutions need cameras and audio tools to boost the learning experience. Some of these tools are so advanced that hybrid lectures look like video production studios. Technology provides online students with a better view than their in-person peers sitting 10 rows away from the professor. New video bars can incorporate transcription and live translation, not requiring students to take notes how they used to. Does your institution utilize video bars to provide hybrid and remote students with the best learning experience?" (Source: EdTech Magazine)

A FRAMEWORK FOR AI LITERACY

"Academic and technologies teams at Barnard College developed an AI literacy framework to provide a conceptual foundation for AI education and programming efforts in higher education institutional contexts." (Source: Educause)

COLLEGIATE ESPORTS PROGRAMS SERVE AS RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TOOLS

"Over 200 colleges across the nations have varsity teams in competitive video gaming, also known as esports. More than 8,600 high schools have created gaming teams, and many institutions are using competitive video gaming as a powerful tool for recruitment and retention. Top-of-the-line equipment is essential for institutions seeking to maximize the recruitment and retention value of esports. Does your institution have an esports team yet?" (Source: EdTech Magazine)

WEB AND MOBILE APP ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS

"The U.S. Department of Justice published its final regulation on web and mobile application accessibility under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act in the Federal Register on April 24. The regulation goes into effect for large public entities on April 26, 2026, and for small public entities on April 26, 2027." (Source: Educause)

AI RESHAPE HIGHER ED AND SOCIETY AT LARGE BY 2035

"There are important steps to be taken in higher education as we prepare for the deep society wide changes that will take place in the next five to 10 years... Recognizing that the era of autonomous agents is upon us, and that we will see over the next three to 12 months the release of agents (rather than chat bots) that will be driven by outcomes rather than more complex prompts. These will roll out rapidly with a wide range of capabilities. They will be a continuing part of the revolution." (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

BLIND FAITH IN "TECH BROS" DRIVING CHEATING, SAY CHATGPT CRITICS

"Misguided techno-optimism — driven by the enormous media profile of billionaire “tech bros” such as Elon Musk — could explain why more students are asking artificial intelligence to write their essays despite the mediocre results it returns, the authors of a viral research paper have argued." (Source: Times Higher Ed)
MOVIE MUST-SEE:
BEVERLY HILLS COP: AXEL F

"Detective Axel Foley (Eddie Murphy) is back on the beat in Beverly Hills. After his daughter's life is threatened, she (Taylour Paige) and Foley team up with a new partner (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) and old pals Billy Rosewood (Judge Reinhold) and John Taggart (John Ashton) to turn up the heat." (Rotten Tomatoes)

YOU GOTTA GO:
BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK

"Within sight of Miami, yet worlds away, Biscayne protects a rare combination of aquamarine waters, emerald islands, and fish-bejeweled coral reefs. Evidence of 10,000 years of human history is here too; from prehistoric tribes to shipwrecks, and pineapple farmers to presidents. For many, the park is a boating, fishing, and diving destination, while others enjoy a warm breeze and peaceful scenery."
(Source: National Park Service)

YOU GOTTA TRY IT:
LA SANDWICHERE

"Serving heavenly sandwiches in South Beach since 1988, La Sandwicherie captures the best French savoir-faire in the simplest of settings to transport your taste buds to another world without costing you the earth. Daily fresh ingredients, crisp baguettes or soft croissants, and the added magic of the infamous vinaigrette make for a true taste sensation." There are several locations in Miami and one in Fort Lauderdale.
(Source: La Sandwicherie)

SPINE-BENDERS:

"While you’re off catching flights and booking holiday weekend barbecues, beat the heat with our brand-new monthly picks. July’s take us to Ireland’s west coast in our thriller pick, over to rural Pakistan in our young reader selection, and we get to travel to a world of dragons in our speculative title. Pack your favorite blanket and snacks for these reads — there’s so much to see."
(Source: Barnes & Noble)