



# DISTANCE ED CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CCCC'S DISTANCE STUDENTS

WWW.CCCC.EDU/DE.HTML

DE News—FALL 2007, ISSUE 5

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## SAVING TIME, SAVING LIVES



A Sanford native, Brad Cash is an online student with Western Carolina University, where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Emergency Medical Care. Earlier this year, Brad received a course schedule in the mail from Central Carolina Community College and realized that the general education classes he needs to finish his bachelor's degree were offered much closer to home! Now, as an online special credit student with CCCC, Brad takes advantage of the community college system as a more affordable option to earn general education credits

that he can transfer towards WCU's degree program. Currently a senior paramedic in Chatham County with First-Health, Brad hopes to one day attend medical school or to pursue a degree to be a physician's assistant. Brad is a model online student, as he carries a 4.0 GPA at CCCC and says the distance option is valuable because it "gives [him] the freedom to work full-time and attend classes." Brad also takes pleasure in cooking, hunting, fishing, playing with his children, and simply spending time with his family. He sums up his distance experience by saying, "I really think that distance learning programs and classes have revolutionized teaching and education."



### CCCC NEWS AND BEYOND

- YOU CAN NOW FIND THEM ONLINE!**  
Visit the CCCC homepage to search for faculty and staff contact information! Just look for the "Employee Directory" link!
- CELEBRATE NATIONAL DISTANCE LEARNING WEEK- NOVEMBER 12-16**  
Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts says, "It is important that people have a greater awareness and appreciation for distance learning...this should include a strong commitment to programs that allow students all ages to pursue their education..."
- IN THE NEXT ISSUE...**  
Cubby, the Distance Education Cougar, will come to life!

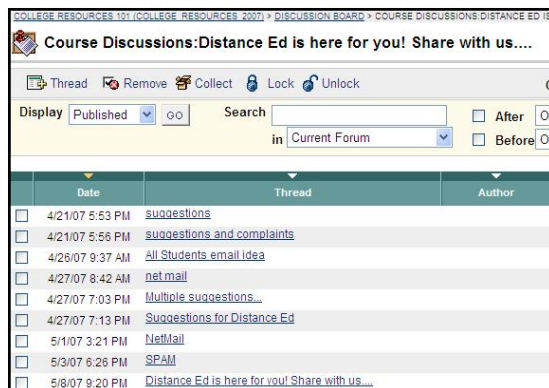


## COLLEGE RESOURCES 101

### Cougar Chat, Discussion Board, and Resources for Student Success

"Is distance education for you? Who do I call to register? How can I work full-time and take a full course-load? Are other students experiencing the same things as me with their distance learning?" These are all typical questions that a distance education student has at one point in his or her education! College Resources 101 is a "course" in which all students at CCCC are enrolled via the Blackboard online course management system. The course hosts information that can be a valuable starting place to get questions answered about taking distance education courses. Further-

more, announcements about *Cougar Chat*, the CCCC student online chat-room located in the College Resources 101 course, are posted throughout the semester. *Cougar Chat* will host special guests and discuss topics that can be valuable to all CCCC students. Additionally, an asynchronous conversation also takes place on the College Resources 101 discussion board where students can voice their opinions and share their experiences about distance education at CCCC! If you have suggestions for topics to be discussed in *Cougar Chat* or on the discussion board, send an e-mail to [destaff@ccc.edu](mailto:destaff@ccc.edu).



*"...A turbulent time when the nation found itself divided over an issue of profound importance, so its introduction is timely."*

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

**DR. SAL MERCOGLIANO INTRODUCES HISTORY 226: CIVIL WAR AS AN ONLINE COURSE IN SPRING 2008**

It was the deadliest war in American history that led to sectionalism and secession in the United States. Now students have the chance to learn about the Civil War in History 226 which begins online at CCCC in spring 2008. Dr. Sal Mecogliano says the course will cover "the major battles and political decisions made during the war and then delve into the ramifications of the Lincoln assassination and the legacy of Reconstruction." Through intensive readings, weekly discussion boards, and periodic assignments, "the lessons will range from the consequences of the end of the Mexican War to the Compromise of 1877 which ended Reconstruction in the South." One intriguing part of the course will be a project where students analyze a particular Civil War battle and its effect on the conflict. Mecogliano says, "one of the strengths of online classes is it allows students to develop material that they would not be able to do in a traditional seated class." Students in the online Civil War course should expect to be active in online discussion with classmates and commit time to the class, as Dr. Mecogliano says, "the course is not just designed by the instructor, but also by its students."

**BIANKA STUMPF BEGINS HISTORY 222: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY ONLINE FOR THE SPRING 2008 SEMESTER**

After a summer of travel with her husband in Malawi and Zambia, Bianka Stumpf says her time in the countries "cultivated an interest in Africa and its history and people. This interest, coupled with my long-time affection for American history, meant developing and teaching African-American history was a no-brainer!"

Online students can now enroll in History 222 in spring 2008 and should expect to discover African origins, the nature of slavery, African-American participation in the American revolution, abolitionism, the emergence of a distinct culture, and more. The course will be intensive in reading and writing and will include "film, art, and music as well as online discussion and research. This course will work to engage students in the material and with the instructor and other students," Stumpf says. She will seek to make the online course as dynamic and interesting as a seated course would be. "Since it can be easy to feel isolated as an online student, being enthusiastic, available, and reaching out to my students is critical for me as an instructor." She believes to do well in her course, students should abide by three tips: 1) ASK questions; 2) BELIEVE you can succeed; and 3) COMMIT the time and energy to learn and get the full experience. She puts it best saying, "Education is not easy but worth the effort."



*"Our most rewarding travel was to Africa in 2002 where we spent a summer in Malawi and Zambia..."*

*-Bianka Stumpf*

Dr. Sal Mercogliano holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Alabama, and an MA in Maritime History and Nautical Archeology from ECU. Bianka Stumpf has completed post-graduate study at Fayetteville State University in African and African-American history and holds an M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction from Campbell University. She was a high school history teacher for five years before coming to CCCC.

## "THE HYBRID ADVANTAGE"

HYBRID INSTRUCTION IS THE SINGLE GREATEST UNRECOGNIZED TREND IN HIGHER EDUCATION TODAY.

--GRAHAM SPANIER,  
PRESIDENT OF PENN  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Hybrid instruction, or hybrid courses, refer to classes where there is a carefully planned blend of both traditional classroom instruction and online learning activities. In other words, hybrid classes combine the best of both styles of instruction.

Students are able to make a meaningful connection with their instructors, as well as other students, and yet they are no longer required to travel to campus on a regular basis in order to attend courses because the majority of the coursework can be completed on the Internet.

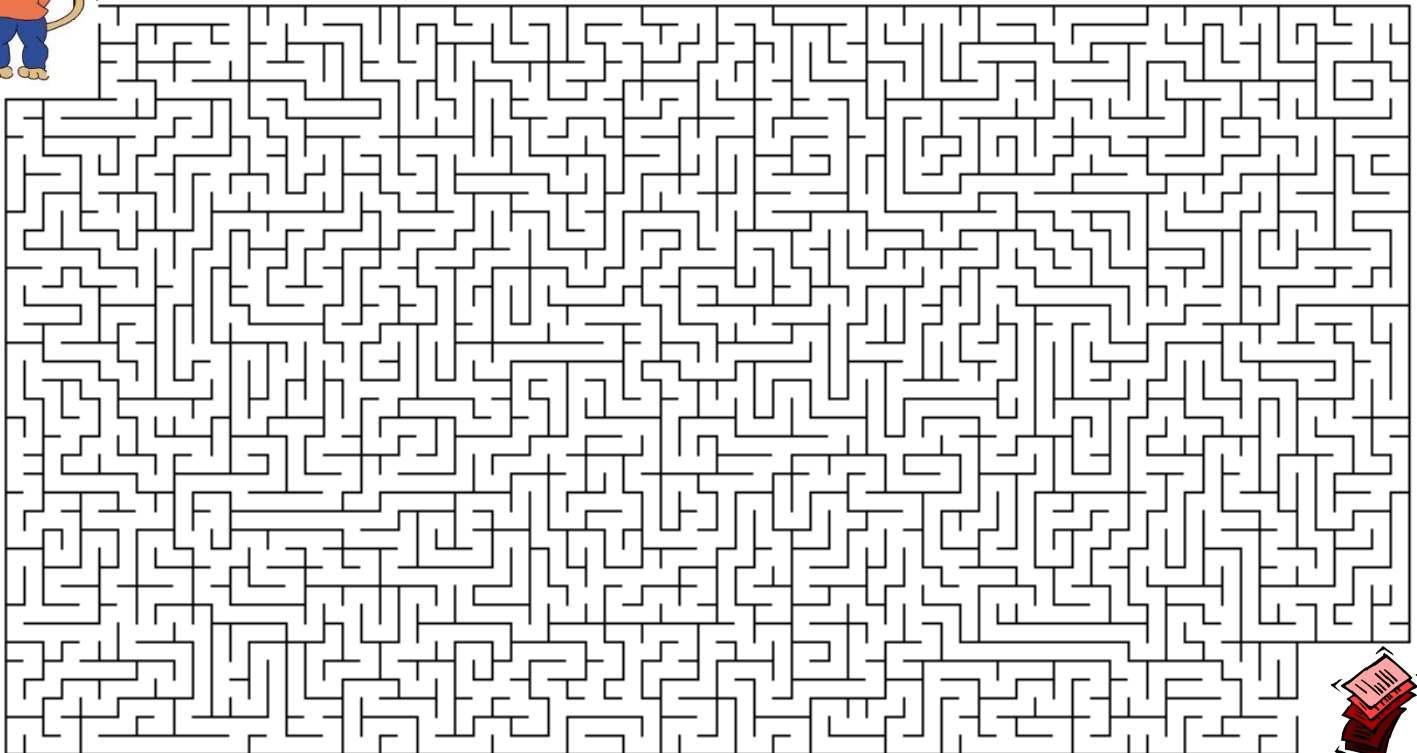
EXCERPT RETRIEVED FROM:  
<http://www.worldwidelearn.com/>



# DISTANCE EDUCATION FUN!



Start here! Help Cubby, the Distance Ed Cougar, find his homework! But you must hurry! The assignment is due in thirty minutes, and his online instructor accepts NO LATE WORK!!!



## DE CALENDAR & IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**October 29-**

**November 16**

Early registration for spring  
(Returning students only)

**November 9**

Last day to apply for graduation

**November 15**

Last day to withdraw without a "WF"

**November 22-23**

Thanksgiving Holiday

**November 26**

Classes resume

**December 11-12**

Distance Education on-campus final exams (online dates vary)

**December 17**

Last day of classes

**December 18**

Final grades due to Registrar's office

**December 20**

Final grades mailed to students

**January 3**

Open Registration at Civic Center

**January 7**

Spring 2008 courses begin

**January 11**

Last day to drop/add  
Last day to add a DE course  
Last day for a full refund

**January 16**

Last day to withdraw for a 75% refund



What's a  
**QEP?**

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) will bolster the college's long-standing commitment to those it serves by better equipping students for their college experience, their professional careers, and their personal lives. The QEP, or BASICS (Building All Skills In College Students), is a project designed to broaden learning by developing students' awareness of and ability to apply selected life skills.