

Three Things!

Thematic News and Views about Distance Learning in
The Welch Center for Graduate and Professional Studies



FEBRUARY 5, 2014

Welcome to **THREE THINGS!**—a new periodic newsletter for faculty—from the Distance Learning Office in *Goucher College's Robert S. Welch Center for Graduate and Professional Studies*. ● In each issue we will provide you with news and views themed as **THREE THINGS!** We hope to intrigue, inspire and guide you, and illuminate your many interests in teaching at a distance. ● *In this first issue, we introduce you to the Distance Learning team by telling you three things about ourselves. Collectively we function to help you design, develop and deliver your instruction.* ● **This new animation from Carl E. Nestor explains how our work and yours coincide: [Instructional Designers Can Help You.](#)**



LINDA BRUCE – Director

WHERE I'M FROM AND WHERE I LIVE: Raised in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico; live in Bowie, Maryland.

WHY I ENJOY BEING IN THIS PROFESSION: There is never a dull moment in distance learning. The field expands each day, and I enjoy the challenges of keeping up. I also relish interacting with faculty, educational technology professionals and students. We are learning together about new ways to teach and learn. It's invigorating.

A TIP: Imagining oneself in the role of a distance learner can elicit new ideas about delivering a course. As a former distance learner, I discovered firsthand that faculty and students don't always think alike. But little tweaks to a course can make a big difference. The *Feedback* tool in GoucherLearn is great way to give students opportunities to make suggestions. You can also help students better understand expectations by making sure your syllabus is chock-full of details, that your schedule includes all important dates, and that assignment instructions are thorough. Often it helps to provide examples of quality work.



ALICE MILLER - Technology Coordinator

WHERE I'M FROM AND WHERE I LIVE: Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland.

WHY I ENJOY BEING IN THIS PROFESSION: I love working in an academic setting. I first graduated from college with my teaching degree in 1978. Thirty-five years later (as an educator and a lifelong learner), I know that teaching is the most difficult job in the world to do right! Here at Goucher I have the honor to work with many, really great teachers and administrators that make it look easy. I am nurtured, encouraged, and energized by a different one of them every day. I know how rare that is. If I can offer support

of any kind that makes them shine, I am pleased.

A TIP: Relax. You can't break anything online because you probably will not have enough access to destroy anything. Always save your documents on a separate drive outside of your online course so they will be easy to recreate if needed. Save your documents with specific file names so you can sort and find them easily—for example, *2014Spring_Activity3_Rubric*.



JULIE MARCIEL-ROZZI - Instructional Designer

WHERE I'M FROM AND WHERE I LIVE: I live in eastern North Carolina, arriving here via stops in Hawaii, Washington, Nevada and Okinawa.

WHY I ENJOY BEING IN THIS PROFESSION: I am passionate about distance education/online learning, the practice and theory of it, and encouraging others to succeed in an arena I see as essential to future learners at all levels. I love it when my work with Goucher faculty and staff overlaps and informs my work with other groups. I thrive on learning new things and look forward to working with Goucher faculty and staff to continue learning with and from them to provide Goucher students with excellently-designed courses.

A TIP: Although Goucher faculty have access to a terrific instructional design team, there may be times when you just want to figure out something on your own. In that case, try [Google](#) or [YouTube](#). I find some great how-to videos on YouTube that are excellent resources for answering basic Moodle/GoucherLearn questions. Give it a try. Here's a [sample](#).



MICHAEL SHEPARD - Instructional Designer

WHERE I'M FROM AND WHERE I LIVE: I was born in Hollywood, California and I live in Bellingham, Washington.

WHY I ENJOY BEING IN THIS PROFESSION: I am a faculty member myself and enjoy bringing my experience in the online classroom to my instructional design work. When I encourage use of things like rubrics, objectives and screen capture, that is because I find them effective in my own instruction as well. I teach for the *Cultural Sustainability* program here at Goucher and am currently working to complete my dissertation in anthropology.

A TIP: Use of screen capture is one of my favorite ways to increase collaboration and build community in my courses. These are not cinema productions and don't have to take a lot of time! I make 5-30 minute narrated screen recordings for explaining assignments, welcoming students to my course, answering questions, delivering lecture content and providing feedback on student work. Enjoy.

THREE THINGS!

Goucher College • Robert S. Welch Center for Graduate and Professional Studies • Distance Learning
1021 Dulaney Valley Road, JR 214, Baltimore, MD 21204 • 410-337-6200

<http://www.goucher.edu/x1163.xml>

Distance Learning Team: Linda Bruce • Alice Miller • Julie Marciel-Rozzi • Michael Shepard

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