FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
Dr. Maureen Culleeney: Author, Scholar, Business Professional, Professor, and self-described “Mother Hen”

By Lisa Caldwell, Faculty Development Support Technologist

Our Lewis University faculty members bring a wealth of experience to the classroom so it was no surprise to learn about Dr. Maureen Culleeney’s career path in business and technology and how it led her to Lewis University. Beginning in the early 1980s, Maureen explains that she began working in the computer industry for Ashton Tate, a U.S. based Software Company that was known for database products. “I started out as a computer trainer traveling 10-15,000 miles a month, and found that I really enjoyed teaching…and eventually, writing.”

Authoring two books – *Wordstar Simplified: Mastering the Essentials on the I.B.M. Personal Computer and Lotus 1-2-3 Mastery: A Business Guide to 1-2-3 Productivity* – her career took another turn – only this time towards higher education. “I taught briefly at Roosevelt University and eventually applied to Lewis. I started out as an MBA Advisor until a teaching position became available and I am happy to say I haven’t looked back.”

Reflecting back to the introduction of computers in business, she states that “early on, I saw different types of new software being used to enhance productivity for workers that gave businesses the ability to interconnect with other organizations using that software. At the time, I saw pros and cons, like I do now. Speed can cross several time zones, which is great, but when you’re developing business relationships - particularly in sales - you want to have that relationship as a one-on-one contact. It’s important.”

In Business Communications, Maureen teaches her multi-tasking, electronically-engaged students the art of human engagement in the workplace, focusing in on the critical nuances to look for. “I try to teach my students how to successfully communicate any topic in the workplace – good or bad – and how to pick up on subtleties in business communication. It is important to know how to convey a negative message as much as a positive one. We use role play activities for this – what would you say to this person if you were face-to-face? First we start out with the buffers – the good things – and then we get to the negative. We look at examples on what not to do when relaying written negative communications.”

She also coaches students on the how to stick to the basic fundamentals of business etiquette when using social media platforms. One piece of advice she gives to students is to “be more careful before hitting the send button because leaving one negative or derogatory comment can sink a career. In our classroom discussion about Defamation – spoken or written – we talked about the potential for litigation. I’m actually surprised we don’t see more of it. I tell students to type out what they want to convey, but to wait a while before sending.”

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And what about job interviews and first impressions? “Very important,” she explains, “because it’s not always about credentials and a perfect resume. My students watch a video in which two candidates for a job are interviewed. One candidate has all of the credentials, but isn’t really pulled together. He is lax and says the wrong things. The next candidate does not have the strong credentials as the first, but she is polished and professional and it is apparent that she is the better fit for a corporate environment. Now, my students laugh at the first candidate but I can see more serious faces when the second candidate comes in. Not only that, but they actually straighten up in their chairs – their personal demeanors change.”

When asked how she views her role at Lewis, she stated the following:

“I’m very proud of our Lewis students – they are very special. Have you ever noticed how friendly and nice everyone in the Lewis community is? At the beginning of every semester I always ask if there is anyone new to our University – maybe a transfer. If so, I tell them that I think they will find the Lewis community of faculty, staff and students a great place to be. I couldn’t be more proud of our community and our students. It’s a family atmosphere. Sometimes I feel like a “mother hen” getting her children ready for the world. I like to see the evolution that takes place with our students. They come in as freshmen, young and eager to learn and leave as young adults, sporting a cap and gown and ready for the world! The whole Lewis experience is what gets them ready; not just me.”

Preparing our Lewis students for success is Dr. Culleeney’s personal mission and inspired by the Lewis University Catholic and Lasallian mission values of association, knowledge, fidelity, wisdom and justice. It is apparent that her mission-focused approach to teaching and learning is crucial in providing our students with the professional education necessary to successfully compete in the global marketplace.
Blackboard Ally Now Available in Fall 2019 Courses

Turn Ally on in your summer courses today by submitting a service desk ticket. Ally will be available in all courses before the start of the Fall 2019 semester. Blackboard Ally allows students to download alternative formats of documents uploaded in their Blackboard courses. Instructors may disable alternative formats on documents they chose. Visit the Ally Program tab in the Lewis University Blackboard site for more information and resources on Ally.

Newest Ally Update

The instructor feedback will now show in-browser previews for PDFs, Word documents and PowerPoint documents. These previews are then used to identify where in the document specific accessibility issues can be found. Highlights are currently provided for these issues:

- Images without an appropriate alternative description
- Text fragments with insufficient contrast
- Tables without table headings

The instructor feedback for other accessibility issues will just show the content preview without highlights. This feature should make it significantly easier to identify issues in a document, and should help cut down remediation time dramatically.

Upcoming Workshops

Reusing your content: Blackboard Course Rollover
Wednesday, May 8th & Thursday, May 9th

In person Online Teaching Certification Boot Camp Edition
Monday June 3rd through Friday June 7th  Romeoville Campus

Online Teaching Certification (offered Online)
July 8th—August 18th

Register online here
E-Portfolios: More than just a High Impact Teaching Tool

Campus Pack is a set of social tools (wikis, blogs, journals, podcasts, and discussion boards) that is integrated into the Lewis University Blackboard system. These tools are used in courses in customizable ways, allowing instructors to create anything from private journals in which students can track their work and progress to a course-wide, open Wiki that allows students to engage in collaborative and team projects. They can also be used outside of the course for individual blogging, groups, organizations and for collecting and sharing personal content. The American Association for Colleges and Universities highly supports the use of E-Portfolios for deeper student learning. They report on a variety of benefits and examples of portfolio uses.

Campus Pack Blogs, Journals, Podcasts, and Wikis can be published at varying levels of privacy allowing instructors to create spaces for lab groups, class groups, or for individual students. Permissions can be set to control which users can view, edit, comment, tag, and/or manage the Campus Pack tool.

Campus Pack can also provide instructors the ability to not only track student contributions to any particular assignment or project, but can also grade any assignments that have been created. Activity Summary statistics include Total Entries, Total Views, and Total Comments along with a grid of individual student information.

Faculty at Lewis University can also choose to use Campus Pack for submitting an electronic portfolio for Promotion and Tenure.

Join Dr. Bill Chura for a discussion about the path to Promotion & Tenure using the Campus Pack E-Portfolio tool.

Tuesday, April 23rd 10am
Faculty Center Lab, LRC 112

Registration not required.
For a recording of the session, please email facultycenter@lewisu.edu