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PANORAMA

parent newsletter

May 2015



Preparing Students for the 21st Century Workplace

Alyssa Cara, graduate student in the Masters of Science in Administration program, had never really considered herself tech-savvy. But like most 21st century college students, she was up to date on the latest gizmos and gadgets. She had an iPhone and an iPad. She used Facebook and Instagram. She spent several hours online each day.

But none of that prepared her for the world of social media professionalism.

Cara, like most her age, had grown up with Facebook and was familiar with the ways she could connect with friends online, but when she started searching for a job, she quickly discovered that those skills did not transfer over to business-oriented social networking sites such as LinkedIn.

"There's a level of professionalism present on LinkedIn that's not present on other social media sites," Cara said. "You have to be a little more careful about what you put up because it tells people about you."

Luckily, Cara did not have to navigate this unfamiliar territory on her own. Lisa Kuhlman, graduate studies coordinator in the School of Business and Management,

showed her how much detail to provide on her LinkedIn page, explained the etiquette involved, and encouraged her to use school-related projects as examples of her collaborative work.

"She helped me think of things to post that I wouldn't have thought of otherwise," Cara said. "If I had done it completely by myself, I would have just put up, basically,

"I encourage students to understand that while social media is fun and exciting, it's also very serious."

~LISA KUHLMAN
GRADUATE STUDIES COORDINATOR

a copy of my resumé. I don't know if I would have elaborated as much."

Cara isn't the only student Kuhlman has helped. Every semester, Kuhlman teaches the do's and don'ts of social media in a class called Preparing to Meet the Firms.

"I encourage students to understand that while social media is fun and exciting, it's

also very serious," Kuhlman said. "College students mainly think about the here and now, but the information that they put out there here and now is available in four years when they get ready to be a professional and go out in the workforce."

Kuhlman urges students to make their professional persona available on their social media, advises them to untag themselves from posts that potential employers may find unappealing, and even speaks privately to students about grammatical and typographical errors on their LinkedIn accounts.

"She's very in tune with social media presence and how it can affect you," Cara said. "She's like a networking guru."

Social media can be a powerful tool if students know how wield it correctly. It can help them find and secure jobs and internships, and even expand their network for continued growth in their selected fields. For this reason, Southern trains students to use this and other technological tools so they can adjust and thrive in the 21st century workplace.

~Myron Madden



Alyssa Cara is one of the many students who has learned the art of social media professionalism thanks to Southern.

Timeless Teachings

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

Did You Know? Career Services Teaches Social Media Professionalism

Lisa Kuhlman is not the only campus resource helping students learn social media professionalism. The Career Services department at Southern also works to improve students' online presence.

Research has shown that professional imagery on social media sites is important, so the department worked with university photographers to take professional headshots that students could use to enhance their social media profiles.

“More than 50 students came to get their pictures taken,” said Lydia Hasan, career development assistant.

The department also designed a flyer that shares tips on strengthening social media presence and provides other advice

for career readiness.

To further prepare students for life after graduation, the Career Services department hosts a Career Development Symposium, which addresses several elements of career readiness. Topics discussed at the most recent meeting included managing student debt, community and career well-being, social media and networking, and resumé and interviewing preparation.

Social media professionalism was one of the most popular seminar sessions offered because it instilled in students the importance of monitoring and controlling their online activity.

By helping students understand how to leave a healthy media footprint, Career Services gives students a leg up when beginning their job search. If students have any questions about ways to enhance their social media professionalism, they can arrange to meet with a career counselor. This service is available to alumni as well.

~Steven Collins



Many students take advantage of Career Services' free head shots to make their social media accounts look more professional.

Q&A with Online Campus Director



Pegi Flynt, Online Campus director

How do professors use eClass to enhance courses for my child?

Professors use eClass in various ways. At a minimum, professors use it to put up a syllabus. Some professors use it a lot—they put all the content for their course online for better student access. It's logical, reasonable, and helpful. It becomes a

tool for professors to upload resources for students.

How do professors use technology in the classroom?

Some professors pre-record the lectures and post them online so students can watch the video before going to class. Students can then spend class time working with the professor or classmates on problems that are perhaps more difficult to understand when they're sitting at home. They learn things at a deeper level and really apply what they learn.

Other professors keep the class structure, but add media-rich resources to aid with understanding. One example is Loren Barnhurst, who creates tutorials for his chemistry classes using an iPad app in order to help students understand concepts that are more difficult. Then he puts that file in eClass so students can go back and reference it anytime.

There are also classes that are fully online. Students can take their class from a distance, yet still interact with their professor and other students in the course. Some of these are held using a live video conferencing tool, allowing students to receive timely feedback.

I'm interested in getting a graduate degree that can be earned online. How can I get started at Southern?

We offer master's degrees in several fields that can be earned entirely online, including business, education, and nursing. We also offer a doctorate in nursing. The best place to begin your search would be southern.edu/graduatestudies.

Staff Profile:

ELI COUREY, COMPUTER SUPPORT SUPERVISOR

Technology is not without its flaws. For some, it's a computer virus. For others, it's an inability to prevent crashes. Someone needs to be there to fix those problems, and at Southern, that's Eli Courey.

Courey, computer support supervisor, deals mainly with campus computer maintenance, but he also helps students with their computer problems. This is usually as simple as removing viruses, but Courey goes a step further by educating students to prevent them from causing the same problem again.

"I try my best to explain everything in a nice way," Courey said. "I want to be here to make students feel comfortable if they need help."

Courey and his team do most of the work for free, knowing students often can't afford the costs of computer repairs. He only charges a small amount to purchase necessary materials if the problem is particularly large.

With more students turning to technol-



Eli Courey, computer support supervisor, installs a computer graphic circuit. Courey helps students with any computer problems they may have and educates them as to best practices in computer protection.

ogy for help with school, Courey said there has been a definite rise in the number of students coming in for support.

"There are so many online resources for school work, such as journals and publications," Courey said. "You can pretty much do it all from your computer. No matter where you go now, computers are going to

be part of your life."

While Courey does much of the work in keeping computers running, he credits Southern for allowing him to provide the best possible help.

"It's nice being able to work with all of the latest technology," Courey said.

~Julia Bonney

Student Life: COMPUTER CLUB

At the mention of a club revolving around technology, it's rare to receive an enthusiastic reaction. But Southern is ready to change the way computer clubs are perceived.

The Computer Club hosts many activities for its members throughout the year. At least once a month, the club arranges a laser tag tournament, game night, or small vespers to give its members a chance to hang out, eat, and have fun.

"Not only do you get to see the professors outside of the classroom, you also get to know people who are interested in technology," said Jared Powrie, junior computer science and missions major.

While the Computer Club has students from a large number of technology-related majors, it also consists of students simply interested in learning about computers.

"The club is primarily focused on creating a community of friendship between computing and non-computing people,"

said Mario Ezra, junior computer science major. "Members and computing students are generally happy to offer any tips or advice about computers, or explain specific jokes and concepts that may make its way into normal conversation."



Both members and visitors enjoy testing their Scrabble skills during Computer Club's game night.

Computer Club members also use their unique skill set to help others. They run the technology for the Sunbelt Cohutta Springs Triathlon and volunteer to clean computer hard drives at the Samaritan Center, a local social services agency. Last year, the club arranged a mission trip to Peru to address technological needs in poorer communities. They set up mobile computer labs for two schools and offered a clinic where they performed basic maintenance on computers.

"Its purpose was to give computing majors a venue for serving while using their special skills," said Robert Ordonez, associate professor in the School of Computing. "Instead of the typical evangelism, construction, and medical work, we focused on providing and using technology in creative ways that targeted real needs. It was a pleasure to see our students tackle each new task with gusto!"

~Eloise Ravell

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What is the most interesting way a professor has used technology?

“My film professor custom built a white board that is backlit. This glow-in-the-dark tool not only helps him teach, but it also provides soft lighting that’s great for shooting movie scenes in the film editing lab. It’s a really unique resource!”

~Bryant Rodriguez,
junior film and theology major

“My favorite use of technology in the classroom has been the use of clickers for quizzes because I get to see instant statistics for each question. It really shows me where I place in my class and shows me if people reasoned the same way I did if I got a question wrong.”

~Daniel Alvarez,
junior nursing major

“In biomechanics class, my professor uses an app on his iPad to show a moveable 3D model of the body with all the organs, muscles, and tissues.”

~Ben Lacy, senior health science major

“In one of my religion classes, the professor sends us an email before every class to let us know what assignments are due the next day. It seems small, but the reminders are a lifesaver!

~Clementson Supriyadi,
junior theology major

“My professor made an auto-tuned rap song about organic chemistry!”

~Julia Dolinskiy,
senior biology major

MAY	29	First Summer Session Classes End
JUNE	1	Second Summer Session Classes Begin
JULY	24	Second Summer Session Classes End
	27	Third Summer Session Classes Begin
AUGUST	19	Third Summer Session Classes End
	19	New Student Orientation Begins
	24	Fall Semester Classes Begin

Please pray for the 100 students and staff holding several evangelistic meetings this May, both in the U.S. (North Carolina and South Carolina) and abroad (Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico). These trips are organized by the Evangelism Resource Center, southern.edu/erc.



PREPARING STUDENTS FOR WORK IN A 21ST CENTURY WORLD

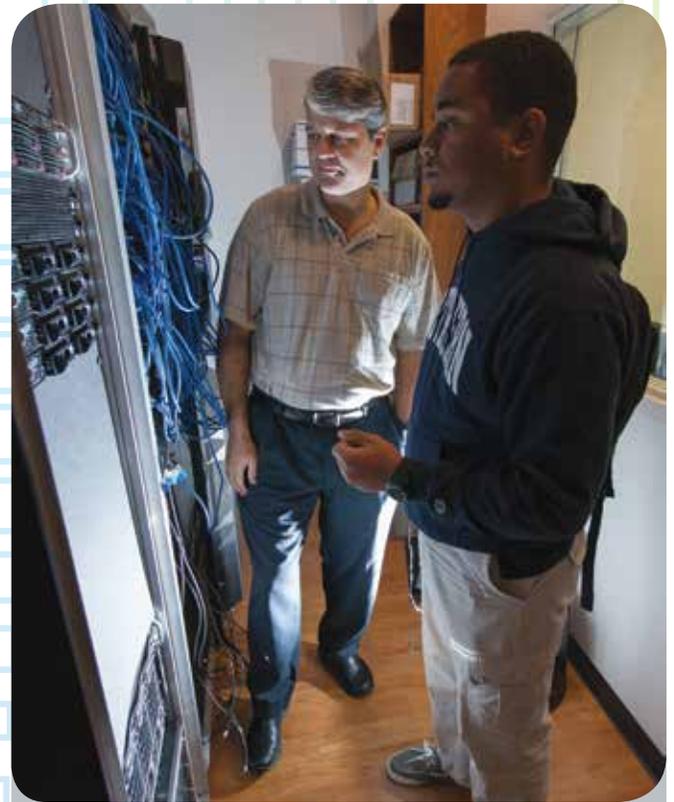


Physics students measure the properties of light with a state-of-the-art spectrometer as part of their ongoing research into the atom's structure.

Southern makes sure each of its schools and departments has the latest educational and job-specific technology. Professors integrate the technology into their curriculum, allowing students to become familiar with the equipment they will utilize in future careers.



Film students use the School of Visual Art and Design's crane to capture scenes with lots of movement or shots from above.



Computing students learn the complex make-up of a server room to help them manage technological systems.



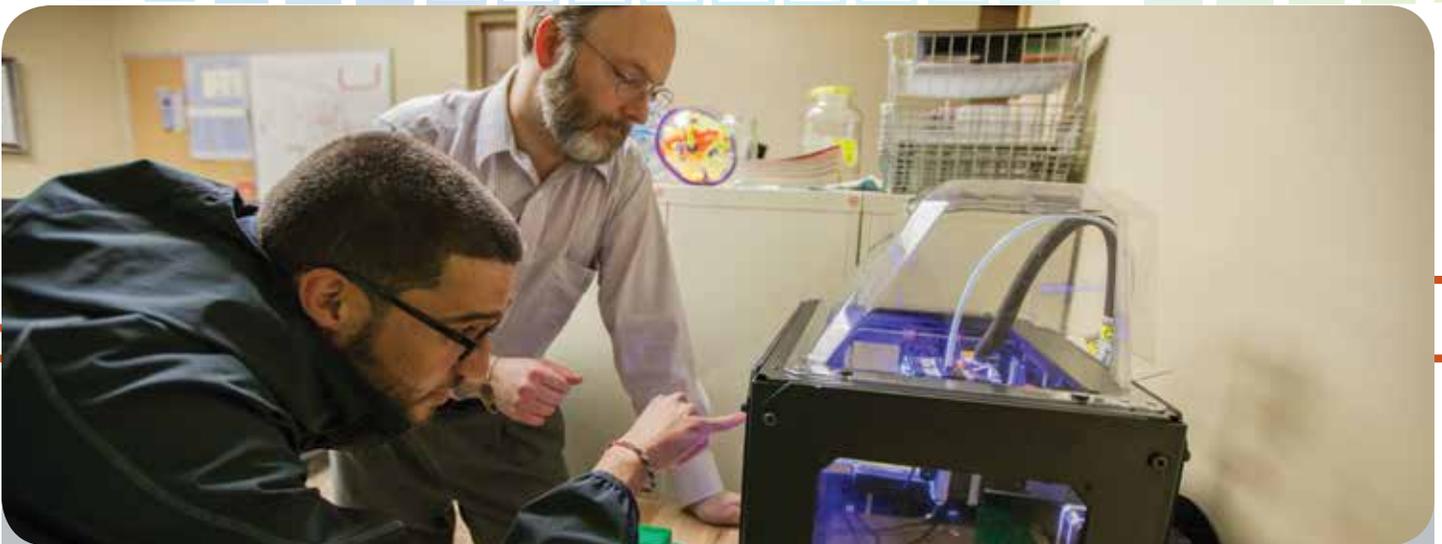
Nursing majors practice their medical skills on a training dummy in Florida Hospital Hall's simulation lab.



Broadcast journalism students direct SAU News, the campus newscast, from a control room. Students also learn to use camera equipment vital to work in their field.



Mathematics students use the software Mathematica to assist in learning modern technical computing. With this program, they can build powerful algorithms.



Ron Miller, library systems administrator (right), instructs a student on using the 3D printer in McKee Library. For a small fee, students and faculty can use the printer to create objects and prototypes for classes or personal use.