Brock News becomes online only

EXPERTS DEVELOP NEW ESSAY TUTORIAL

There's good news for a generation of university students who are wizards at texting and tweeting, but struggle to write an essay.

Learning-skill experts at Brock University have invented an online tutorial using pop-ups, quizzes and flash cards to teach students to write essays that are organized, researched and safe from incidental cut-and-paste plagiarism.

It's called Essay-Zone. It's a hit with students and educators. And its reputation is sweeping through the international university grapevine.

While it was being developed last year, Essay-Zone was tried by thousands of Brock students. They learned to use it and, so did their professors.

But its creators soon learned that essay-writing workshops exist on campuses far beyond Brock. When Essay-Zone was demonstrated in a webinar for North American academics, email inquiries started arriving the next day from as far away as New Zealand.

This autumn, Brock officials licensed the tutorial for distribution and were soon fielding inquiries from places like Texas State University, City University in Hong Kong, Concordia University in Montreal and Mount Royal College in Calgary.

Jill Brindle, learning skills manager at Brock's Student Development Centre, created Essay-Zone with co-developers Margaret Groombridge and Philipp Lesmana.

She says it works because students understand drag-and-drop techniques when it comes to putting essay components in the right sequence.

"It's computer-based," said Brindle. "Students are very comfortable with the medium. They're used to scanning information, and with this program they have the option to "surf" it -- which is fun. There are a lot of resources out there, but nothing that’s as interactive and fun as this."

Faculty members hailed it. "The opportunity this has afforded my students and myself has been unbelievable," said one professor.

See more at the website: www.academic-zone.com

CCOVI GETS NEARLY $2 MILLION WORTH OF RESEARCH FUNDING

The federal government is injecting $1.45 million into Canada’s grape and wine industry through research done by Brock’s Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) and the Grape Growers of Ontario. Rick Dykstra, MP for St. Catharines, announced the funding Dec. 16 at a reception at Pond Inlet. The funding, which comes from the federal Developing Innovative Agri-Products program, will combine with funding from the grape and wine industry to form $1.9 million in research dollars.

"I think we’ll see a return on this investment tenfold," Dykstra said.

The funding will add two positions to CCOVI’s research team. The scientists will work on priorities identified by the industry itself.

"Not only are we adding research expertise, but also much-needed outreach support for the grape and wine industry," CCOVI director Debbie Inglis said.

The new site was developed after consultation with faculty and staff. It went online in late December. A promotional campaign continues to inform people of the site.

The new site is greener, replacing nearly 4,000 paper copies distributed each month, said Kevin Cavanagh, associate director of Communications and Public Affairs. Increasingly, he added, people prefer to get their news online.

"The need to relate significant information in a timely manner dictates that we communicate it more often than twice a month," he said.

Flip to page two to read about stories recently added to the new Brock News.

JOIN THE NEW BROCK NEWS

To get regular email updates about information added to the site:

1. Visit brocku.ca/brocknews
2. Find "subscribe with RSS or E-mail" in the upper left-hand corner of the page.
3. Click on "E-mail" and enter your email address in the space provided. No user name or password is needed.

To submit to the site, continue to use campusnews@brocku.ca

The new site allows us to share more about what happens at Brock, and in a more timely fashion.

"We hope members of the Brock community will use this as their No. 1 source for news about the University."
New committee examining workplace wellness

Human Resources and Recreation Services have partnered for the continued championing and development of programming that supports your wellness at Brock.

A newly formed Health and Well-being Committee is meeting regularly to discuss various wellness options in your workplace. Historically, the committee has provided support for Wellness Wednesdays (information sessions on wellness held one Wednesday a month for faculty and staff) and the Wellness Conference in June.

The workplace wellness committee is designing a brief employee survey to assess your wellness needs and how to improve access to this information. Please watch for the information on how to access this survey on the portal, bulletin boards and your individual departments over the next few weeks. This will be an opportunity to provide input into your wellness program.

Present resources available to you include:

- a wellness newsletter at http://brocku.ca/hr/ehs/Wellness
- Brock News website at gw2.medresouce.com
- An online health resource for you and your family.

The site offers:
- In-depth information on diseases, conditions, drugs and treatment options.
- The user name is BROCKU. The password is BROCKU001.

Committee members welcome feedback.

Brock staff — including members of Brock Dining Services, above — donated food, clothing and time to local charities during the holiday season.

Faculty and Staff

CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Ellen L. Robb, Paul Zelisko and Jeffrey A. Stuart presented “Methods play an important role in reservoir's biological effects” at the Radical Biology and Medicine Annual Conference in San Francisco, Calif., November 2009.

MATHEMATICS
Stephan Anco presented “klein geometry, group invariant soliton equations, and bi-Hamiltonian geometric curve flows” in the session on Geometry of Differential Equations held at the American Mathematical Society regional meeting in Raleigh, N.C., in April 2009.


POLITICAL SCIENCE


PSYCHOLOGY
Carolyn Hafer and PhD student Leanne Gosse presented “Beyond victim blame: Repressive coping style and sense of justice as a just world” December 2008 at the 8th biennial conference of the Asian Association of Social Psychology, Delhi, India.

Publications


Events

CFUW
The Canadian Federation of University Women will hold their monthly meeting on Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Retirement Residence, First Street in Welland. A Wellness Workshop presentation will be provided by Scott Taylor. New members and interested women are welcome to attend.

Brock News photography: You are invited to submit photographs along with your article. Electronic files are preferred. high quality print reproduction requires electronic files to be provided electronically and submitted in jpeg format. Photos will be published based on the picture quality and space available.

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For a schedule, see brocku.ca/brocknews/page._de.html

In the Brock News online:

Professor Barry Grant discusses winning the Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

Brock News will be regularly updated at its new location at brocku.ca/brocknews. For a schedule, see brocku.ca/brocknews/page._de.html

Anna Olson talked baking and higher education during a recent book signing at the Campus Store.

Sports writer Stephen Brunt discussed the famous 1988 trade of Wayne Gretzky to the Los Angeles Kings on a recent visit to Brock.

Also:

- omissions: nominations for only two internal research awards
- More faculty and staff publications and conference appearances
- Media Talk appearances
- Three questions: profiles of co-workers
- Classified ads

Brock News: You are invited to submit photographs along with your article. Electronic files are preferred. high quality print reproduction requires electronic files to be provided electronically and submitted in jpeg format. Photos will be published based on the picture quality and space available.