

# Lake Superior College Online Student Mentors



# Student Mentor Program

- The LSC Online Programs Advisory Committee (OPAC) engaged in discussions related to this concept during the spring semester of 2003.
- Four faculty members used student mentors for the first time at LSC during the fall semester 2003.
- Each faculty member decided how to best use the mentor for assistance.

# By the Numbers

Online Student Mentor Program for LSC Virtual Campus						
	<u>Fall 03</u>	<u>Spring 04</u>	<u>Fall 04</u>	<u>Spring 05</u>	<u>Fall 05</u>	<u>Spring 06</u>
Mentors	5	9	11	14	13	15
Faculty	4	10	10	17	16	19
Courses	5	14	14	20	22	25
Sections	8	23	20	26	24	32

- During FY07, we expect faculty participation to increase by 25-30%.
- We hope to employ 40 students or more as mentors by 2008.

# Money, Money, Money

- Student mentors are paid a \$50 base plus \$100 per credit for each course mentored.
- For example, the pay would be \$350 per semester for a 3-credit class.
- Work/Study dollars are used for those students who qualify. Others are paid the same rate from the Virtual Campus budget. This is one of the things provided through a \$20 per online credit tuition differential.

# Why Student Mentors?

- Student Mentors were seen as a possible solution to relieving a portion of the sometimes overwhelming crush of electronic communications....especially those questions not related to course content.
- As a 2-year school, we don't have the ability to use Teaching Assistants or similar employees.

# Our Model

- Mentor is “tied” to a particular course.
  - Help with technical aspects—especially at beginning of course
  - Answer general questions
  - Support the instructor
  - Help with assignments/material (limited)
- They are NOT: subject tutors, counselors, proofreaders, graders, friends to students or instructors, disciplinarians.

# Other Models

- Some schools take the “advisor approach” to peer mentoring.
  - Students are assigned a peer mentor.
  - Mentors are not tied to a particular course but to a particular student.
  - Mentors help more with student services and/or business services functions than with academic course functions.

# Selecting Mentors

- Faculty members select students (usually “star” students) and invite them to be mentors for the class in future semesters.
- Students who are familiar with the program will often initiate the conversation with the faculty member in an effort to become a mentor.

# Actual Email #1

- Hi, I want to say how much I have enjoyed this class, and how I want to take it over and over again! I am interested in being a student mentor. I don't know how to be one, or even if you need one next semester. But if you do... ***I would be interested and honored to be a student mentor for this class.*** Thanks, Ann

## Actual Email #2

- I just want to tell you how much I loved your class!!! I was not looking forward to a lit class, but your class ended up being my favorite!!! I was just wondering if that student mentor thing is a work/study thing and if I could possibly do it next semester. I qualify for work/study, *but I couldn't do it this past semester since I don't live in Duluth.* Danielle

# Basic Qualifications

- Experienced online student—preferably taken the same class previously
- Successful (A or B) student
- Technologically savvy and confident
- Responsible and timely
- Currently enrolled student
- Able to commit 3-5 hours per week for a three-credit class

# Mentor Creating Helpful Content

My Home / Email / Journal / Locker

LSC online

ENGL 2140: Modern World Lit 55

Course Home / Content / Discussions / Dropbox / Quizzes / Classlist / Grades

Mon

Welcome!

My Settings:

- [My Preferences](#)
- [My LSC NetMail](#)
- [My Homepage](#)

Updates

- 1 [New Dropbox Submission](#)
- 385 [Unread Discussion Messages](#)
- 0 [Ungraded Quiz Attempts](#)

Contact LSC

Search News  Change Order Add

▶ PAGER INFORMATION

**From Our Student Mentor:**


Some of you may be wondering what that little black square (top right hand corner of your screen) is...This tool is a **pager**. It's really useful and has been pretty helpful to me so far.

All you have to do is click on it and it will bring you to a new screen. First, click Add. Next, click on "add classmate". Then, you have to click on ENGL 2140 (which is the code for this class). Then, it will give you a list of your classmates names. You may choose to add whomever you want.


Of course, I will listen for the beeping tones and be able to respond back to you as soon as I hear them. It's much faster than email and a lot less trouble. I will add all of you into mine, and hope you all do the same. With some bigger projects coming up, I hope to hear from you all soon!!

**Stephanie**


# Mentor Giving a Helpful Answer



My Home / Email / Locker / Journal / Chat
FAQ

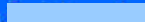
## PHIL 1130: Ethics 55 & 56




Course Home / Content / Discussions / Dropbox / Quizzes / Classlist / Grades
Monday February 6, 2006 / Edit Course / Help / Logout


Introductions  - Introductions
[Display Options](#)

**Subject:** Re: Hello 


**Authored By:** Virginia  (Jan 17, 2006 2:02 PM)

Flag Message
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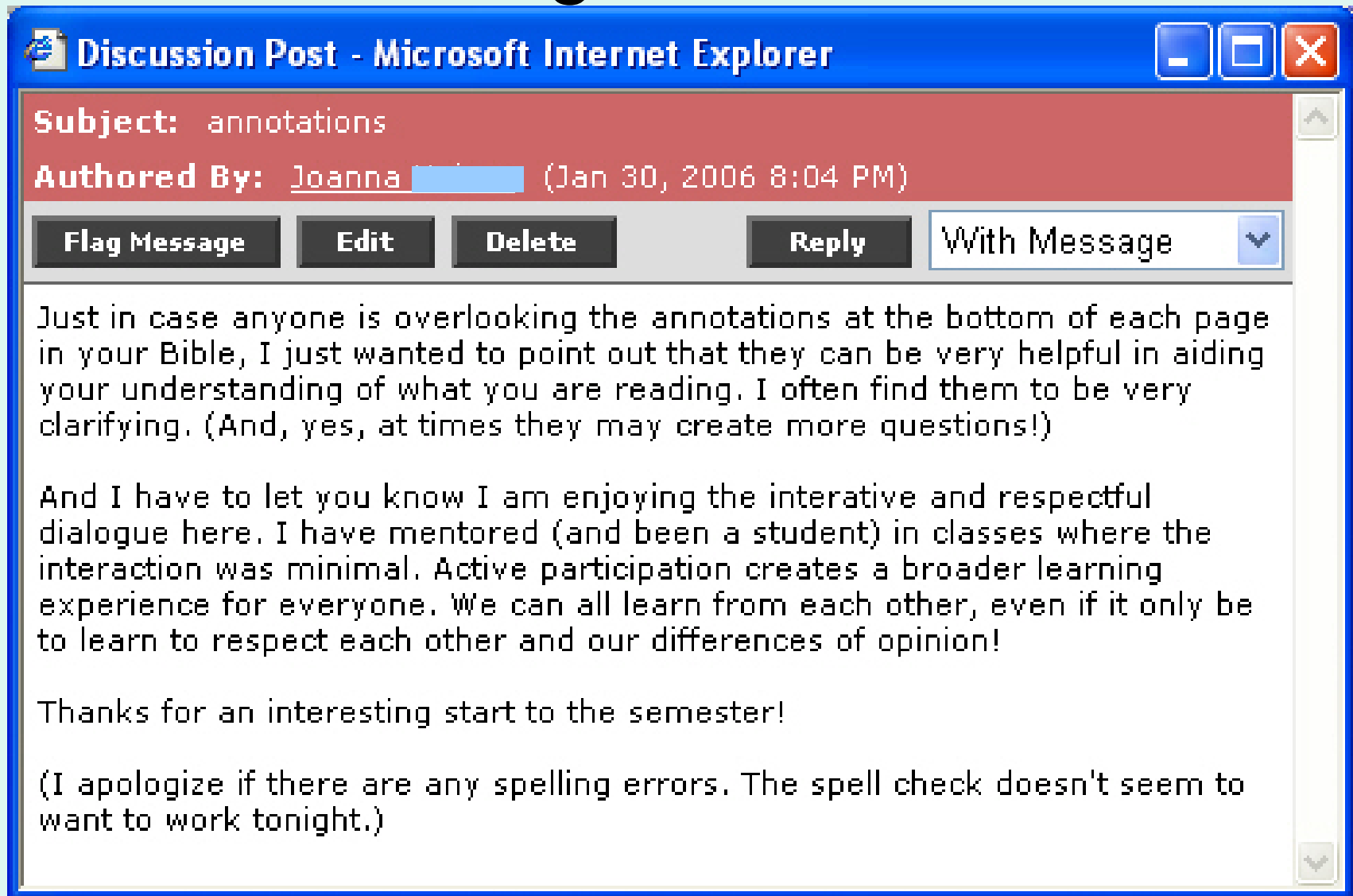
Prev
Reply
With Message 

Nanette,  
 The time required for this course online is similar to the amount of time that would be required if you were taking the course on campus. I put in approximately 10 hours a week for this class when I took it last semester. It will vary with how fast you read, and comprehend what you are reading, and how easily you can express what you are thinking into writing.  
 Virginia  
 <<< Replied to message below >>>  
 Authored by: Nanette   
 Authored on: Jan 17, 2006 1:37:38 PM  
 Subject: Re: Hello

Hello Virginia,

My name is Nanette . I am taking this on line coarse because it is required for my nursing degree. This is the first time I have taken an on-line coarse, so I am very nervous. Can you tell me approximately how many hours I will need a week to complete this coarse successfully? I would appreciate any information you can help me with.

# Mentor Giving a Good Reminder



**Discussion Post - Microsoft Internet Explorer**

**Subject:** annotations

**Authored By:** Joanna [redacted] (Jan 30, 2006 8:04 PM)

[Flag Message](#) [Edit](#) [Delete](#) [Reply](#) [With Message](#)

Just in case anyone is overlooking the annotations at the bottom of each page in your Bible, I just wanted to point out that they can be very helpful in aiding your understanding of what you are reading. I often find them to be very clarifying. (And, yes, at times they may create more questions!)

And I have to let you know I am enjoying the interactive and respectful dialogue here. I have mentored (and been a student) in classes where the interaction was minimal. Active participation creates a broader learning experience for everyone. We can all learn from each other, even if it only be to learn to respect each other and our differences of opinion!

Thanks for an interesting start to the semester!

(I apologize if there are any spelling errors. The spell check doesn't seem to want to work tonight.)

# Success Stories

- Development of future teachers
- Employment for distant students
- Employment for students with unique circumstances
- Mentors benefit from additional review of course materials and from different perspectives brought to the class by other students

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