



Developmental Math 097 Software

Kumars Ranjbaran, a member of Mountain View's math faculty and a Title V contributor, spent the last year developing a software application to support his Developmental Math 097 classroom lectures.

Kumars finds that it is important to have the freedom to interact with his students during class. With the help of this application and a remote control, he is able to walk around his classroom and interact with his students as they work, walking them through each problem step-by-step.

"If the students can see examples on the board, then I can walk around and help them while they are copying things down, rather than having to stand by the board and write it out for them," he said. "This helps us use time more efficiently in the classroom."

This application can also help students study before class and then review material after class.

"Sometimes students don't fully understand something and are too shy to ask about it. So, I thought they could have this opportunity to take a look at it before they come to class or after class. It can also be used if someone misses a class," said Kumars.

While Kumars used the application to a small degree this past spring semester, all of its advantages are yet to be seen. Students, he says, have been pretty receptive of the applica-

tion, and after seeing how beneficial it is, there is a possibility that Kumars will develop additional applications in the future for other classes.

Another possible future development is using Kumars' application in conjunction with the Symposium Displays, which can turn it into a fully animated tutorial, complete with audio explanations.

In November Kumars plans to attend The American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges through Project ACCESS, a mentoring and professional development initiative for two-year college faculty funded by the ExxonMobil Foundation. There he will present the software to his peers in line with the project's goal: "to provide experiences that will help new faculty become more effective teachers and active members of the broader mathematical community."

The Developmental Math 097 software has been installed on all of the computers in the Learning Skills Center located in W170 and on all of the computers in the W40 lab, and is available for student use in these areas.

For more information about his DMAT 097 software, contact Kumars Ranjbaran at 214-860-8854 or kxr6460@dccd.edu.

"This helps us use time more efficiently in the classroom."

Staff Spotlight:

Dr. Mohammad Zouyousefain

Dr. Mohammad Zouyousefain (Dr. Z) is an esteemed faculty member at Mountain View, and also a valuable member of the Title V department.

Dr. Z grew up amid vineyards and fruit trees in the mountain region of Iran. He describes Borugerd, his hometown, as “the most beautiful city in the whole entire world.”

He left Borugerd to attend Business College in Tehran, where he received the first of his degrees, a BS in Business Administration. He began his graduate level study in Iran, but left at the age of 25 for the United States where he continued his education, eventually earning a Master of Management and Administrative Sciences from UT Dallas and a PhD in Mathematical Sciences from UT Arlington.

Before coming to Mountain View, Dr. Z spent nearly 10 years working with Project SEED, a national math organization that uses a Socratic, or inquiry, method of teaching, which incorporates questioning instead of lecturing.

While working with Project SEED, Dr. Z gained experience in teaching math to students in kindergarten through high school, teacher training and curriculum development.

During his tenure with the organization he worked in Philadelphia and Indianapolis, where he helped establish programs and trained Project SEED Specialists, as well as in Dallas.

Dr. Z first began teaching mathematics at Mountain View part-time in the mid 80's. During this time he also taught at Northwood University in Cedar Hill and took what he calls a “one-year vacation” to teach at the University of South Carolina at Myrtle Beach.

A full-time faculty member at Mountain View since 2002, Dr. Z teaches all sections of



mathematics, from developmental courses to calculus. He also served as Interim Executive Dean of Math and Sciences for one year. His love for math is apparent.

“Mathematics is a very beautiful thing,” he said. “Really, it’s more than numbers. It’s like architecture, art, and poetry. It expands your mind and you can use your imagination to develop and create things. But, as it is true for other areas of art, you might not be able to articulate an immediate fruitfulness or a tangible result; you just keep doing it, and enjoy the mental engagement and beauty of the whole thing.”

Dr. Z has teamed up with Title V to help with implementing and advancing technology in math and science courses at Mountain View. He was one of several who introduced the Plato software to MVC, and encourages math faculty to take advantage of and incorporate other technology into their classrooms.

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Dr. Z also holds adjunct faculty math workshops every semester in order to open the lines of communication between faculty members and to discuss classroom management and teaching strategies. He uses these workshops as another outlet for promoting the use of technology.

While Dr. Z certainly spends much time on math, he does have hobbies he indulges in such as entomology (the study of insects), gardening, and riding horses. He enjoys retreating to Kemp, Texas where he keeps several bee-hives and a couple of horses. It is his desire to someday retire to Kemp where

he can enjoy the land he is so fond of.

However, it doesn't seem as though Dr. Z will ever retire from mathematics. He gains much pleasure from teaching math at MVC, and even lists math as one of his hobbies.

"I guess I'm a geek or something...and the best part of it is that they even pay me for what I really like to do: teach mathematics!" he said.

For more information concerning faculty math workshops, or for a pleasant chat, contact Dr. Z at 214-860-8832 or msz6460@dcccd.edu.

Science Learning Center

The Science Learning Center (SLC), located at W10, underwent a major facelift over the summer and is now a fully functioning science lab, complete with tutors, new computers, and new software.

Previously a "piecemeal, eclectic process," as Dr. Larry Legg, biology instructor, described it, the SLC operated with borrowed computers and little software. Now, however, it offers students a place to come for uniform tutoring and interactive labs for many science classes.



Several students take advantage of the new facilities in the Science Learning Center.

Through Title V, software for a variety of biology, chemistry, physics, and astronomy classes was purchased, as well as 10 new computers for student use, which run this software.

"We're able to do a much better job with our students now," Legg said. "We [faculty] know that when we send a student to the Center, they will find material that will help them, no matter what their needs may be."

been good. Faculty eagerly participated in the selection of software for their classes, been good. Faculty eagerly participated in the selection of software for their classes, recognizing the need to continue incorporating

technology into the classroom. Students seem to enjoy the interactive programs, and tutors in the SLC benefit from these programs as they can now help more students at one time. A student can treat the program itself as a tutor, relying on SLC tutors to offer guidance as they work.

"Every faculty member has seen the beneficial results," said Dr. Legg. "It [SLC] has fulfilled a need we always knew was there."

We want to show that science is a lot of fun and very interesting, not impossible. This new equipment will help us do just that," he said.

Contact the SLC at 214-860-8574, or visit it in W10 for more information.

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LSC hours:
 Mon.-Thur. - 8am-9pm
 Fri. - 8am-2pm
 Sat. - 8am-5pm
 Sun. - 1pm-5pm

For questions or comments regarding MVC Title V Tidbits, please contact Melanie at melaniebarry@dcccd.edu

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Title V Calendar of Events

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1
Workshop: Multiply/ divide fractions 8-9 pm	Workshop: Add/subtract fractions 4-5 pm	Workshop: Fragments, run- ons, and comma splices 8-9 pm			Workshop: Decimals 1-2 pm
3	4	5	6	7	8
Workshop: Percent 1-2 pm	Workshop: Main ideas & supporting details 4-5 pm		Workshop: Geometry 8-9 pm		Workshop: Add/subtract polynomials 1-2 pm
10	11	12	13	14	15
	Workshop: Fragments, run- ons, and comma splices 1-2 pm	Workshop: Word problems 1-2 pm	Workshop: Multiply/divide polynomials 8-9 pm		Workshop: Main ideas & supporting details 1-2 pm
17	18	19	20	21	22
Workshop: Multiply /divide rationals 8-9 pm		Workshop: 5 paragraph essays 1-2 pm	Workshop: Add/subtract rationals 1-2 pm		
24	25	26	27	28	29
Halloween					
31					

November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Workshop: Multiply/divide fractions 8-9 pm	Workshop: Add/subtract fractions 1-2 pm	Workshop: Fragments, run- ons, and comma splices 4-5 pm		Workshop: Decimals 1-2 pm
	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop: Percent 8-9 pm	Workshop: Main ideas & supporting details 1-2 pm	Workshop: Add/subtract polynomials 8-9 pm			Workshop: Fragments, run- ons, and comma splices 1-2 pm
7	8	9	10	11	12
Workshop: Main ideas & supporting details 8-9 pm			Workshop: Geometry 8-9 pm		Workshop: Word problems 1-2 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19
Workshop: Factoring 1-2pm	Workshop: Multiply /divide rationals 4-5 pm				
21	22	23	24	25	26
	Workshop: Add/subtract rationals 1-2 pm	Workshop: 5 paragraph essays 1-2 pm			
28	29	30			