

**“I really like clickers. I think it is a good learning tool for the individual”.**

**“The clickers were great for review, after a lecture. I don’t think that I would enjoy taking a test with the clickers, but they would be good for pop quizzes or extra points”.**

**-Comments from the Nursing Assistant students**

## Clicker Technology



Clicker

Imagine — addressing a question to a room full of students and obtaining an IMMEDIATE response from all of them.

It is here....Clicker Technology!

Clickers are similar to a remote control. This new teaching tool provides a means for students to answer questions posed to them by their instructor and receive instant feedback. The use of clickers is an active learning technique.

Ms. Connie Meloun, Assistant Dean, Division of Health Sciences, says, “It’s a good way to gauge if all the students understand the content being presented verses a class discussion in which one or two students answer questions correctly. Another advantage is that so many of our students have grown up playing computer/video games for entertainment and for learning. Clickers have that “game” aspect which makes learning much more enjoyable.”

With clickers, students can participate anonymously, so they don’t have to feel

embarrassed about answering a question incorrectly in front of their peers. Clickers actively engage students during the class period and the instructor can determine the level of understanding of the material being presented.

Chemistry Instructor, Rita Collier, used Clickers during the Summer semester as a live polling feature at the beginning of the semester for ice breaker activities. Ms. Collier requested students to post where they lived to create local study groups within the class. Ms. Collier is using Clickers for graded activities Fall 2011 and syncing the technology with Blackboard to extend the learning experience.

*Clicker Technology was used during Summer 2011 in the Nursing Assistant Program, Nursing Education and Chemistry.*

## F.O.C.U.S. 2011

During the week of July 11-15, 2011, approximately 403 new students and 165 parents attended the F.O.C.U.S. (Freshman Opportunities for College and Unlimited Success) Sessions on Wallace Drive, Ayers and Cherokee sites. This year, an added feature of F.O.C.U.S. afforded new students the ability to ask questions during the “What Students Need to Know” presentation by emailing the college through Facebook from their cell phones. This segment was a HUGE hit! Student F.O.C.U.S. Leaders and Campus Ambassadors assisted Faculty and Staff and all did a great job! The Counseling and Advising Office staff thank everyone for their time, support and partnership!

### Assessment of the QEP

**Faculty** in all disciplines will work towards implementing technology-based activities and/or projects that will prompt students to become engaged learners. Within disciplines, divisions, and programs, instructors will develop rubrics or other means to assess students' ability to (1) **use** specific technology to gain computer competency; (2) **gather and synthesize** information from a variety of electronic sources; and (3) **learn** to communicate their findings with others.

Additionally, standardized assessment tools including CSP (Computer Skills Placement)

by College Board and ACCUPLACER, the Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills (SAILS), and the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) will be administered throughout the five-year period.

A combination of these quantitative and qualitative assessment measures will allow the College to determine students' abilities as they actively engage in acquiring the basic skills (i.e. computer competency, information literacy, and communication aptitude) necessary for success at four-year institutions and in the workplace.



Automotive  
Service  
Technology Shop

### Automotive Service Technology Follow-up

The Automotive Service Technology building on the East Broad Campus is complete! The new facilities provide a clean learning and working environment. The 33 seat student classroom is equipped with internet access and 8 computer stations. Students have access to online data, information and schematics, and repair instructions in both the classroom and shop. The shop (with a new exhaust system) holds 8 vehicle bays with a lift in each. Each bay easily accommodates a peer mentoring learning environment promoted by instructors. There is also a new Hunter 4-Wheel Alignment Machine in the shop. This machine is state-of-the-art and the only such unit in North Alabama! [See Instructor Harold Waddell demonstrating the Hunter Alignment Machine!](#)

## TEC Initiative SLOs and Commitments to Use Technology

How can you make sure these learning outcomes are attained? Incorporate assignments and learning activities that support these outcomes in your classes. **Document, Document, Document!**

Every one of these learning outcomes can't be incorporated into every class, but an emphasis on use of technology will work at some level almost everywhere.

- Students will be able to **connect** to other students and their instructors via email
- Students will **learn to submit** assignments electronically

- Students will **develop/demonstrate** the **ability to initiate searches** when in need of specific information for special projects/assignments in all courses
- Students will be able to **recognize reliable sources and determine the usefulness** of information gathered using technology resources
- Students will **develop skills that allow them to incorporate a variety of formats to share** information with each other and instructors.

## Human Cadaver Dissection Lab

In 2008, the Biology Department added Biology 271 "Human Gross Anatomy and Pathophysiology" to their taxonomy of Biology classes. Human Cadaver Dissection Labs are located in Browder Hall (Wallace Drive Campus) and the McClellan Center (Anniston). Gadsden State is the first two-year college in the State of Alabama to construct a gross anatomy lab where students can learn from human cadavers. The "gross lab" enhances student skills that are required in Biology 201 and 202 and assists them in the clinical hospital setting and any anatomical course they may take furthering their education. In order for students to register for the class, they must have completed BIO 201 with a grade of B or higher and entering into a health-related field or Biology. Classes also are enriched by computer generated dissection models which students can view on Blackboard.

Mr. Phillip Snider and Ms. Kaci Rodgers, Instructors for BIO 271, bring in local physicians to speak and demonstrate to the students.

Dr. Daniel Sparks, Orthopedic Surgeon from Gadsden, will speak and demonstrate total knee replacement, ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) repair and discuss the anatomy of the knee during Fall 2011 semester. Dr. Ed Ferguson, Cardiologist, will speak to the students at the Wallace Drive campus BIO 271 courses.



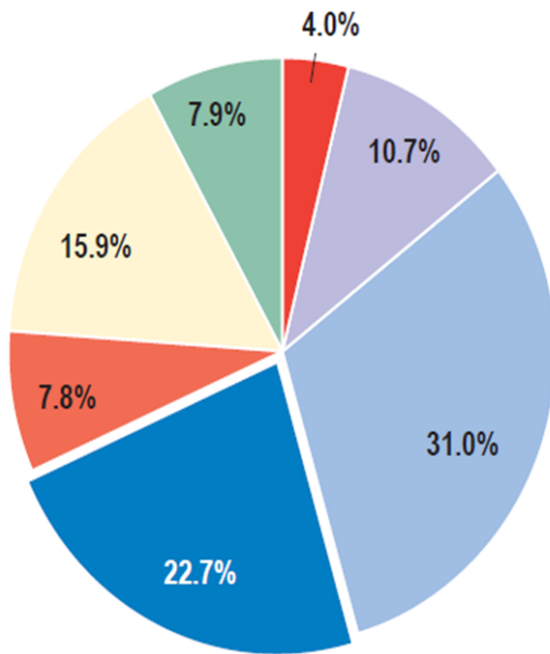
**Ms. Kaci Rodgers & Mr. Phillip Snider**

Each semester, the students take field trips to University of Alabama—Birmingham (UAB) medical gross anatomy lab and anatomical donor facility. High school Biology teachers and students in the surrounding areas

of Gadsden State visit the lab for "hands-on" activities.

Students say, "This is so much better than looking at just models and diagrams" and "I gained a newfound appreciation for the scientists and researchers who have mapped out the anatomy of the human body."

Each semester, the college acquires bodies from the UAB Anatomical Donor Program. For information on UAB's Anatomical Donor Program visit: <http://medicine.uab.edu/giving/71008/> or email at [anatomicaldonor@uab.edu](mailto:anatomicaldonor@uab.edu)



Levels of education for Alabama residents, ages 25-64

Less than ninth grade	97,854	4.0%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	259,730	10.7%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	757,350	31.0%
Some college, no degree	553,968	22.7%
Associate degree	191,594	7.8%
Bachelor's degree	385,123	15.9%
Graduate or professional degree	194,123	7.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,439,742</b>	<b>100%</b>

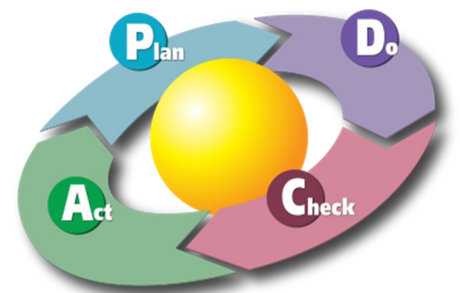
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

**Blackboard  
Instant Messaging  
Update**  
\*As of  
10/10/11, there  
was a total of 365  
users (43 of those  
were instructors)  
..... 71% of users  
have more than  
one personal  
contact

## What is Program Evaluation?

**\*Carefully collecting information about a program or some aspect of a program in order to make decisions leading to program improvement.**

Shewhart Cycle



**Our next  
Newsletter Spotlight...  
Transfer Courses**

Dr. Donna Wood, QEP Director  
Ms. Christina Isom, QEP Chair, Newsletter Editor  
Dr. Teresa Rhea, Institutional Effectiveness, Contributor