



News from the Blue Ridge



Volume 2

Claire & Lorin Cranford
July 1999

Issue 7



Family Events:

Numbers 9 and 10 are on the way! Greg and Jennifer have informed Grandpapa and Mimi that grandchild number nine is due next January in College Station. Another Texas Aggie in the family!!! This is their first child and we're thrilled beyond words! Then, a few days later, came news from Brian and Angie that next February grandbaby number ten should arrive. This will be their second child. We're quite excited about Clay having a playmate. This will expand our immediate clan to 21 members! What a joy and delight for us, even though we live quite a ways from most of them.

The **final full week of June** has been absolutely delightful with the girls -- Angie and Carrie -- along with Clay here for a full week's visit. The weather has been spring-like with lows in the low 60s and the highs in the upper 70s to low 80s. Breakfast out on the deck on Sunday morning necessitated heavy robes with the temperature in the low 60s. Although I've been tied up with summer school responsibilities, Claire has been completely free to spend time with the kids doing things and seeing new sights around our area. What a wonderful prelude to the vacation trip back to Texas to see family and friends.

You'll have to see it to believe it! The beauty of the Boiling Springs area this spring and early summer is absolutely breathtaking with a lot of rain and pleasant temperatures. Summer school duties requiring me to stay in doors have been quite constraining in the face of lovely days beckoning one to get out into the countryside and enjoy its beauty. Added to all this is very little environmental pollution. Breathing clean air is a wonderful experience after living in the pollution of the metroplex for so many years.

One last time, our schedule for the **Texas trip**:

July 2: Bill & Beverly's in Tulsa, OK

July 3-4: Lynelle and John's in Rockwall, TX

July 5-9: Ruth and Billy Allen's in N. Richland Hills (838-3993)

Mon: family get-together in evening

Tue: Lorin: 10:00 am meet Bob Hedricks; after lunch go to Mineral Wells to visit Nita; Allen-Harris family get-together in evening

Wed: Lorin: 7:30 am breakfast with Mike Brinkley; lunch with Harry Hunt & Alan Brehm; Birdville Church supper and Wed evening services

Thur: dinner with Chris, Charis & the kids

Fri: Lorin: 7:30 am breakfast at Paris Coffee Shop with Bill Holt and Glynn Mathis

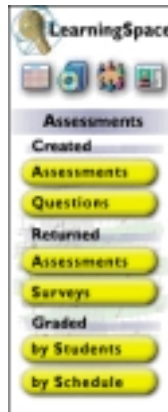
July 10-11: Greg & Jennifer's in College Station



University Happenings:

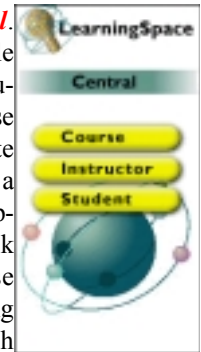
This month continues the overview of the Lotus LearningSpace program for Online Courses -- from the prof's perspective:

"Robust database modules provide you with a dynamic environment for developing and delivering courses. Robust database modules provide you with a dynamic environment for developing and delivering courses Research shows the highest level of learning occurs in an instructor-facilitated, team-centered environment with anytime/anywhere access to rich content. LearningSpace encourages all aspects of such a collaborative environment through five highly integrated database modules."



Assessment Manager. "An instructor-only tool for creating and reviewing tests, surveys and self-assessments as well as managing the grading process."

LearningSpace Central. "A multifunctional module that contains several valuable tools including: Course Management Tools Create and manage courses with a full range of automatic helpers. The new CoursePack feature condenses course content for easy moving, copying, sharing and distribution of existing courses with other colleagues, sites or institutions."



Customization Libraries. "Tailor or replace the existing course graphics with your own logos or artwork to match your organization's identity. Choose from a wide variety of page layouts to create personalized Course Welcome Pages. Administration Tools Quickly and easily control course access and enrollment. Maintenance options help to restart, archive or close a completed course. How easy is it to create a course, really? Whatever type of course you want to create, LearningSpace templates enable you to quickly and easily shape your online curriculum without any programming or other technical skills. Our new Course Creation Helper guides you step-by-step through the course creation process and automatically creates the structural framework for your particular LearningSpace course."

I'm becoming quite excited about getting the MDiv course on Thessalonians up on the server and ready to go this fall. The summer's experiment with the NT survey course mostly online has generated some very positive feedback and insights!

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For all kinds of info about us as well as a PDF copy of this newsletter, check out our homepage [Cranfordville at http://www.shelby.net/cranford](http://www.shelby.net/cranford)

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Claire's Musings:

June 26, 1999

We have just finished up the most fantastic week I could have ever imagined. Carrie, Angie, and Clay just left after a full week's visit. It was full of fun and lots of laughter. We filled each moment that we could just enjoying being together. We explored new places (new even to me), especially the mountains.

One day we went to Blowing Rock and enjoyed shopping. Then we started traveling on the Blue Ridge Parkway and the fog (clouds on the ground to Clay) became so thick we couldn't see anything, so we went back another route (the scenery was still just as beautiful). The next day we went to Linville Falls where we hiked to see the falls. One of the scenes from "Last of the Mohicans" was filmed there. Then we went through the Linville Caverns. Another day we traveled to Kings Mountain and saw a very interesting Living History Farm. It was complete with the log house and furnishings and various buildings a farm needed (even including the out-house).

Each of these days we hiked long distances, including our river walk close to our house. Even though Clay is only four years old, he did remarkably well. He usually was our line leader and insisted that he should always be in front. We were so exhausted from so much exploring and hiking, we had to take the last full day and do some relaxing.

A couple of evenings we enjoyed going to some interesting restaurants. At the steakhouse we enjoyed getting to throw our peanut shells on the floor. The best, though, was the Japanese restaurant, where the chef prepared the food in front of us. The chefs were quite entertaining. One flipped a burning item into his cap, where the fire promptly burned out. This was all new for both the girls and Clay. It was amazing to see how big Clay's eyes could become. The girls finally talked me into watching "Titanic", which I had to admit was good. We spent as many evenings as we could (when not too exhausted from the day) playing cards or dominoes.

The week was so perfect. The only way it could have been better would have been if Brian (Angie's husband) could have shared it with us. Also, Lorin was so busy finishing up his semester, he had to spend most of the time working.

Now it is time to start thinking about our Texas trip. I hope to see as many of you as possible. Also, I have a new computer now and I am learning to e-mail. That means I can chat with some of you more often.



in the formulation stages. The abundant rainfall, mild climate etc. create a wonderful opportunity for really creative work in making our home even more enjoyable.



Lorin's Musings:

Summer school: Not a real pleasant thought for either student or professor! I'm discovering at the undergraduate level it's a more negative thought than at the seminary MDiv level.

Most students have no desire to hang around after final exams at the end of the spring semester and pick up courses through the summer terms. The big exception to this are the students in GWU's G.O.A.L. program -- the evening adult school. Highly motivated to complete a degree program ASAP, these students sign up in large numbers for summer term classes. And they become some of the most delightful teaching experiences for the professor.

This summer, with the expansion of web authoring activities, I shifted both NT survey classes to a multi-media room in Hamrick Hall -- our business school. By being able to project large screen images of the course materials at Cranfordville and supplement them with Corel Presentations generated materials and the hyperlinks to the internet, I have moved substantially closer to a long time goal of creating a classroom environment that impacts a wide range of sensory experience and communication mediums.

One of the insights gleaned from this summer is that the student's focus of attention in this environment is shifted literally from the professor to the visual images on the screen. Also, with massive amounts of information instantly available -- via the web page, both in the classroom and individually to the students, greatly reducing the volume on notetaking -- the classroom instruction can give dramatically greater amounts of time to discussion and interaction, rather than to a mere transfer of information. Thus learning takes place at a higher level of skill development.



Getting the three **new computers** set up at our house and the GWU office has become quite satisfying. The speed and efficiency with which they operate is thrilling, although the cruddy programming of Windows 98 already has created several lockups - more often than the old 486 running under WARP 4.0! Very soon two of these new machines will migrate into a multifaceted world of WARP, LINUX and rare Windows. Out of principle I refuse to perpetuate the nonsense coming out of Gatesland in WA.

The really exciting aspect of all this is getting the **home office** fully equipped and able to handle all my research and writing needs. The library room is almost set up with seven book cases; the office will gradually have some eight or nine book cases and a new U-shaped desk to handle all of the library and equipment.

Also at home has been the addition of a new **John Deere LX255** mower. My age and time constraints triggered the purchase in face of a huge lot to mow. If this one lasts half as long as my dad's - over 20 yrs -then I'm set for life. The initial use demonstrated dramatically how helpful it will be. A 2 1/2 mowing job was cut down to less than 45 minutes! Future attachments such as an attached dump-bed on the back and a front-end loader will enable me to begin the massive landscaping of the yard, especially in the back. Terracing the sloping terrain with flower beds and shrubs, waterfalls, a fish pond etc. are all