Enhancing Online Educational Communities with Computer-Mediated Communications Tools

A Workshop by *Vance Stevens*, Petroleum Institute, Abu Dhabi, with
Buthaina Alothman, Kuwait University, and organized by *Randa Effat*, IELP-II, Cairo
Saturday, January 24 - 2 to 6 p.m Cairo time; **noon to 4 p.m. GMT**

At this mini workshop at the Central Department for In-service Training lab in Cairo, participants will receive information on free software, explore techniques and resources for community-building, and experiment with a variety of synchronous and asynchronous communication resources for language learning and teacher professional development. Participants in Cairo will work with online participants from Webheads groups online.

The activities, URLs, instructions, and outcomes of this workshop are:

#	Activity	URL and Instructions	Outcome
1	TappedIn	http://www.tappedin.org/ - Either register for membership or sign in as a Guest. Meet other online participants at TappedIn	Reach consensus on a *groupname* for a Yahoo Group
2	YahooGroups: Formation	Observe how we start a group at http://www.yahoogroups.com	Form a community portal
3	YahooGroups: Enroll	Log in to your email account and by sending a blank message to *groupname*-subscribe@yahoogroups.com	Enroll in the *groupname* community
4	YahooGroups: Photos section	Take some digital photos and put them in the Photos section at http://www.yahoogroups.com	Store at least one photo at YahooGroups
5	HTML	Examine the tutorial at http://sites.hsprofessional.com/vstevens/files/pi/very_basics/starthere.htm	Learn use of IMG SRC
6	Blogging: Introduction	Follow the instructions at http://www.homestead.com/prosites-vstevens/files/efi/blogger_tutorial.htm	Start a blog
7	Blogging: Template	http://sites.hsprofessional.com/vstevens/ files/ pi/computing2/BLOGWORK/blog_template.htm	Place at least one photo on your blog
8	Blogging: Posting and Editing	Revisit your blog and post and edit at http://www.blogger.com	Write your assessment of the workshop
9	YahooGroups: Links section	Visit the Links section of http://www.yahoogroups.com	Link your blog at the *groupname* portal

Post-session followup:

Buthaina Alothman will moderate the YahooGroup formed and help participants move on to the TESOL EVOnline Becoming a Webhead sessions if they wish:

- http://groups.yahoo.com/group/becomingwebhead/

Additional sites for community building online

Synchronous and asynchronous text-based communications tools

- GroupBoard text chat with Paint graphics and guest book - http://www.homestead.com/vstevens/files/efi/groupboard.htm
- http://www.homestead.com/vstevens/

Synchronous and asynchronous text-based and audio-based communications tools:

- A very active Chatterbox voice chat room http://www.study.com
- http://www.alado.net/webheads
- http://www.wimba.com/

Synchronous text, voice, and web-cam enhanced chat software:

- http://www.ivisit.com/
- Yahoo Messenger: http://messenger.yahoo.com/messenger/download/index.html
- http://www.paltalk.com

Web sites for setting up portals for promoting community groupings online:

- http://www.learningtimes.org
- http://www.groove.net

Webheads communities:

- http://www.vancestevens.com/papers/evonline2002/webheads.htm
- http://sites.hsprofessional.com/vstevens/files/efi/webheads.htm

You can find more information on such tools here:
http://sites.hsprofessional.com/vstevens/files/efi/software.htm

Vance's presentations are linked from: http://www.vancestevens.com/