

# NCWC professors present paper

By MADELINE WALLS

Two business professors at North Carolina Wesleyan College made a presentation at the Computers on Campus National Conference Nov. 12-15 at The University of South Carolina.

Patricia Matisz Smith and Ed Showalter presented the paper and topic "Collect Data on the Web With On-Line Surveys Using FrontPage."

Smith and Showalter took a laptop, demonstrated how to make a survey form, then went through the exercise of having the conference attendees respond to the form.

"Our session will feature creation of a simple survey using the form wizard," said Smith before the conference. "We will collect questions from participants and later publish the survey on North Carolina Wesleyan College's web page."

"We have used on-line surveys with the software application FrontPage to collect information on the web. In this paper we will describe three different surveys and the information we obtained

and used," she said. Smith added that the use of on-line surveys is a non-scientific method of data collection. The respondents are self-selected and may or may not give identification. The decision to use this type of data collection is predicated on acceptance of these restrictions.

The first survey described in their paper was of students who had taken a January Term class. The survey form simply asked for a general comment, the class the student had taken, user email, contact requested, and a large block for comments. The results were sent to Smith's email address. As each email arrived, it was forwarded immediately to the appropriate professor.

No data analysis was needed for this project, simply feedback and comments. The professors who received feedback said that it was useful to get the information students volunteered. The email system was fast and efficient.

Most responses were gathered within a week of the publication of the web address to the community.

The second on-line survey was more complicated. This survey was needed to provide data for the program review of the business administration major degree. There were 52 questions, many with multiple choices for answers.

It was created using the wizard available for creating the form. (Surveys are created using HTML forms.) They later edited the form to simplify its look. The results were sent to an Excel file for Showalter's analysis. The beauty of this approach is that all data

collected may be studied with sophisticated software. The survey is available online at: <http://faculty.ncwc.edu/BusDiv>.

The third project was a simple guest book for a web page. FrontPage has a guest book available to link to a site. The results from the guest book are sent by email to the designer of the page. The log is available to other users of the site after a comment has been submitted. The guest book is available at: <http://faculty.ncwc.edu/psmith/China/>

People%20to%20People.htm  
Each of the above forms created in Smith's office. FrontPage is one of the Microsoft family of products, the learning curve is not steep.

All the skills that users learn in Word and Excel come in play. There are similar toolbars. The commands cut, copy, and paste come in handy. FrontPage provides an HTML version of the form. Smith, a non-programmer used this for proofreading and some editing.

## We want what you want.

We've begun a survey of students on campus to find out what you want to see in our newspaper. If you'd like to add your opinion to our survey, please add your response to the bottom, cut out the survey, and drop into Dr. Campbell's door box, Room 182 PC.

If you'd like to contribute some of the information below as an article, then please do.

Thanks for your support of The Decree!

— Shannon St. George, Editor-in-Chief

1. Comics/cartoons that make sense
2. Sports (national) other than just colleges: NFL, NBA, etc.
3. Games
4. Calendar/dates of on-campus activities, sports, etc.
5. Coverage of clubs/organizations and descriptions of them
6. Stories/poems
7. Random comments/complaints section
8. Surveys
9. Coupons for local restaurants
10. Prices of beer at different convenience stores

Other \_\_\_\_\_

[Please add your own and drop into Dr. Campbell's box.]

**Submissions for The Decree have been opened to all students of North Carolina Wesleyan College.**

• For artwork and photos, please submit as unzipped JPG or TIFF file attached to an email or leave original in door box, Rm 182 PC.

If email attachment, send to Ms. St. George and copy to Dr. Campbell:

RE: SEStGeorge@ncwc.edu

CC: DKCampbell@ncwc.edu

Identify each person in any photo and give some identification of the event. Please put the word Decree in the Subject line of your email.

• For copy (typed part), please submit as the body of an email. Send to Ms. St. George and copy to Dr. Campbell — same as above.

Again, please put the word Decree in the Subject line of your email.

• If you have both copy and artwork or photos, the copy and photo identification should be submitted as the body of email and the artwork/photos as JPG or TIFF attachments.

• All submissions can also be left in Dr. Campbell's door box, Rm 182 PC.

For questions, please call Ms. St. George at x 4935 or Dr. Campbell at x 5194.

**NO anonymous submissions, please.**

### COLLEGE CARTOONIST: Charles M. Schulz Award

**Eligibility:**

Open to any student cartoonist at a college newspaper or college magazine in the U. S. or its territories. Student must attend same college. Material must have been published in a college newspaper or magazine during 2000.

**Sponsor:**

The Scripps Howard Foundation  
<<http://www.scripps.com/foundation>>

**Prize:**

\$2500 and a trophy

**Presentation:**

The awards for 2000 will be presented to the winner(s) at an awards dinner on April 6, 2001 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Winner agrees to attend.

**Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 5, 2001.**

If you know someone who is a college cartoonist, please pass on this information.

If you would like to contribute to our student newspaper and submit your work next year for this award, contact:

Dr. D. Kaye Campbell  
Adviser, The Decree  
Rm 182 PC  
x 5194

Also contact  
Ms. Shannon St. George  
Editor-in-Chief, The Decree

Decree meetings will be posted on Dr. Campbell's door, Rm 182 PC, and on the Decree office door, Hartness Center, behind the piano.