

Letter from the Associate Director

This past year has been a time of exciting growth in the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL). The end of the spring '06 semester marks our third year and finds us expanding the kinds of support we are able to provide.

Between the STEP Program, Blackboard technical support, and day-to-day general educational planning and guidance, we have assisted a great number of faculty members throughout the year. We could not do this without the cooperation of such departments as Information Technology and Media Services, Administrative Services and Facilities, Admissions, Budget Planning and Analysis, Building Services, Public Affairs, Development, the Dean's Office, and others with whom we have worked closely. Of course, we could also not do this without the support and commitment of the Stern faculty whom we serve.

While this report will detail some of the initiatives and accomplishments of the CITL over the past year, I would like to highlight a few achievements we are particularly proud of:

- new CITL website which reorganized the wealth of information available for faculty
- successful opening and use of the Enhanced Classroom in KMC 3-120
- interactive online podium training
- release of several interactive Blackboard tutorials

We are pleased to be in a position to provide a high level of service to a faculty committed to improving and refining their teaching methods. We look forward to providing the same level of support over the next year.

Sincerely,

Chris Jennings
Associate Director
Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Blackboard

Due to our work with ITS at NYU Central, Blackboard had a new look and feel in the fall that more closely matched the NYU main website and NYUHome. The CITL helped select this look and feel and campaigned to have several useful features turned on such as a multi-file upload tool, a more sophisticated tool to add users, and a better groups tool that allows instructors to randomly assign groups. We will continue to work with ITS to expand the platform and make it run more reliably and with extended functionality.

Since last spring, the CITL has begun actively collecting statistics on Blackboard usage so that we can understand better how to serve Stern faculty. The most recent fall statistics are featured on pages six through eight and this year we have broken

them down by the undergraduate and graduate segments here at Stern. Some general observations from these stats include:

- Nearly all instructors using Blackboard utilize it to organize course materials and use multiple tools
- About half the instructors using Blackboard use Announcements and Folders to organize the course and almost half use the Gradebook function as well
- About a quarter of instructors use the Discussion Board and Groups tools to facilitate work outside of the classroom

This year, the CITL also generated its first set of Frequently Asked Questions (available at http://w4.stern.nyu.edu/faculty/citl/blackboard.cfm?doc_id=4245) specifically culled from instructor help requests. This is a great resource for faculty looking for quick answers to common problems.

To provide even better training and support, the CITL embarked on the development of quick, online, interactive tutorials that explain how to use basic tools in Blackboard. The CITL has released a training module for the Groups Tool and will soon add ones for Gradebook, Assignments, and Adding/Managing Users. These tutorials range from 5 to 10 minutes and allow instructors to get comprehensive training or even just quick answers to questions at any time without having to schedule a one-on-one session. Of course, if you prefer to work with us one on one, we are available during business hours to sit down with you and assist however we can.

Finally, for the upcoming summer semester, the CITL included “boilerplate” instructions in your course that you can use to explain how Blackboard features work for students. We have created these in a folder unavailable for student viewing in the Course Information area of your course site. To activate, simply follow the instructions in the Course Information area to copy the piece of content to the desired area and make it available to students. This will allow instructors to describe how students should submit assignments using the Assignments Tool, change their Blackboard e-mail address, create a web profile (homepage), or access library links off campus.

New CITL Website

Last June, the CITL finished major renovations to its website that better organized the volume of information available to faculty members. These changes included a new look and feel to the site, better overall site structure, and customized menu systems that faculty can select to reveal specific information.

Please bookmark this site and visit it frequently for all of your important questions: <http://w4.stern.nyu.edu/faculty/citl/index.cfm>.

Enhanced Classroom in KMC 3-120

In August, after a year of planning, the CITL officially opened the Enhanced Classroom in KMC 3-120. Yael Yankelev did a tremendous job working one on one with faculty to find ways for the room’s technology to enhance their teaching

methods. In fall '05 we had eight instructors teaching in the room and 10 instructors this spring.

Surveys conducted with both students and faculty in the fall and spring showed overwhelmingly that the physical structure of the room had the desired result of making classes more participatory. Microphones at the desks and the placement of the desks and moveable chairs allowed students to interact more freely with each other and work collaboratively. Faculty also used many of the technologies in the room including the Sympodium (or writable screen), multiple projectors, laptops, whiteboard wallpaper, document camera, and Apreso lecture capturing software.

Perhaps the most telling indicator of the success of this classroom has been the Stern Undergraduate school's plan to build a similar classroom by renovating Tisch 201. We look forward to working with all those involved to help make this latest enhanced classroom endeavor as successful as KMC 3-120.

STEP Program

In November, our Senior Faculty Development Coordinator Stephanie Nickerson retired. We are most fortunate that Ian Stewart, who has taught courses in financial accounting for 30 years and most recently worked as the Director of the Faculty Center for Professional Development at Cal Poly Pomona, joined us in her place. Ian seamlessly took over to continue providing STEP consultations for faculty. This last academic year, 64 consultations were completed.

Faculty Forums

This last year the CITL also hosted several faculty forums, playing with the format a bit to try to engage the faculty in some of the active learning principles we espouse. In the fall, we featured forums on new Blackboard tools, instructors who use active learning techniques to engage students in course materials, and features of the Enhanced Classroom. In the spring, we hosted a workshop in which faculty used laptops to set up online assignments and grades using the Assignments tool in Blackboard, and a forum in which we had faculty members uncover "artifacts of knowledge" surrounding student learning using different presentation technologies in the Enhanced Classroom.

As always, we love to receive feedback on what faculty forums would be most valuable to you. Please e-mail us at citl@stern.nyu.edu with any suggestions.

Interactive Online Podium Training

As a center for innovation, the CITL is always trying to find new and better ways of providing training and information to faculty. In January of this year, we released an interactive online podium training built in Flash that allows instructors to receive information about different areas of a virtual podium on our website while standing at a live podium in a classroom. We have heard rave reviews of this tool from instructors who can do this without having to schedule a time with a live staff member. Of course, as always, we're available to answer any questions or give personal assistance in your classroom or office.

Executive MBA Conferencing System

This past fall, EMBA approached us asking for our suggestions in using an online and telephone conferencing system to conduct review sessions and communicate with their students at a distance. After researching a bevy of different conferencing systems, the CITL recommended "WebEx meeting center," an industry standard which includes data, voice, and video in browser; recordability; a whiteboard; integrated audio/video; application and document sharing; chat; desktop sharing; cross-platform support; and an intuitive user interface. EMBA has been using WebEx meeting center throughout the spring semester with great success.

Staff News

This past March, the CITL hired its first additional staff position since its inception -- Educational Technologist Lillian Moran. Lillian has a Bachelor's of Science in Information Systems Management from the Institute of Technology in Sligo, Ireland, as well as a Master's in Information Technology in Education from the University of Dublin, Trinity College, Ireland. Her Master's thesis explored the ability of adaptive hypermedia systems to enhance the environmental factors of successful adult education. Lillian has been doing a wonderful job as the front line of Blackboard technical support and is currently involved in many other projects with the CITL.

Also, I would like to formally congratulate Yael Yankelev in our office who just finished her Master's degree in Educational Communications and Technology from NYU's Steinhardt School (while working full-time for the CITL). For her thesis, Yael analyzed how the Enhanced Classroom here at Stern created unique opportunities for instructors to focus on student-centered learning versus the traditional lecture-style format. Please join me in congratulating Yael on this outstanding achievement.

New Academic Director

After almost two years in the role of Academic Director for the CITL, Marti Subrahmanyam has stepped down and will be replaced by Tom Pugel, Professor of Economics and Global Business. Tom, who is the Academic Director of the Langone MBA Program and sits on a host of committees, is well situated to lead the CITL. We have worked closely with Tom in the past on the Enhanced Classroom and he has been a member of our Faculty Advisory Board since day one. Thanks to Marti for all of his excellent guidance over the past year and we look forward to working with Tom and accomplishing great things.

Going Forward

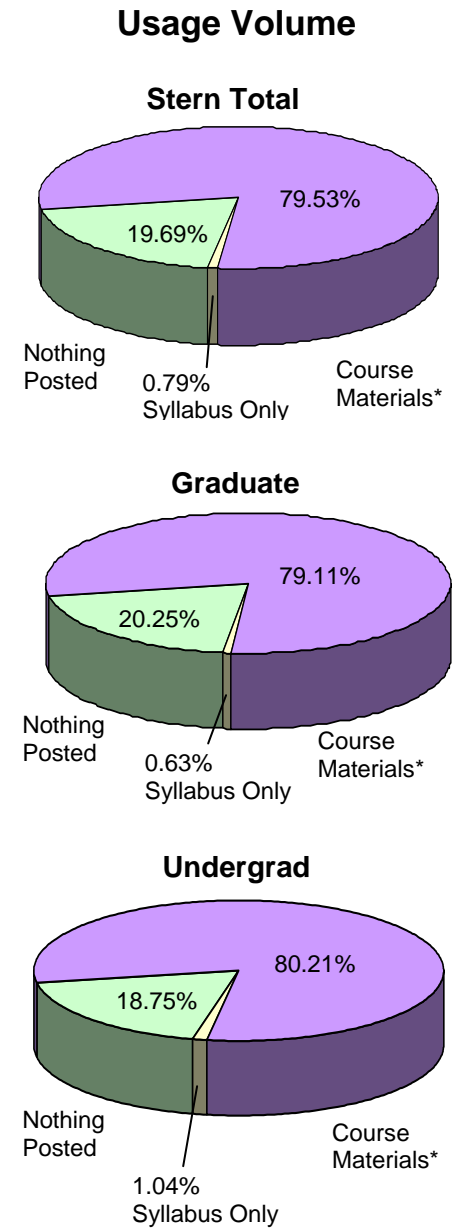
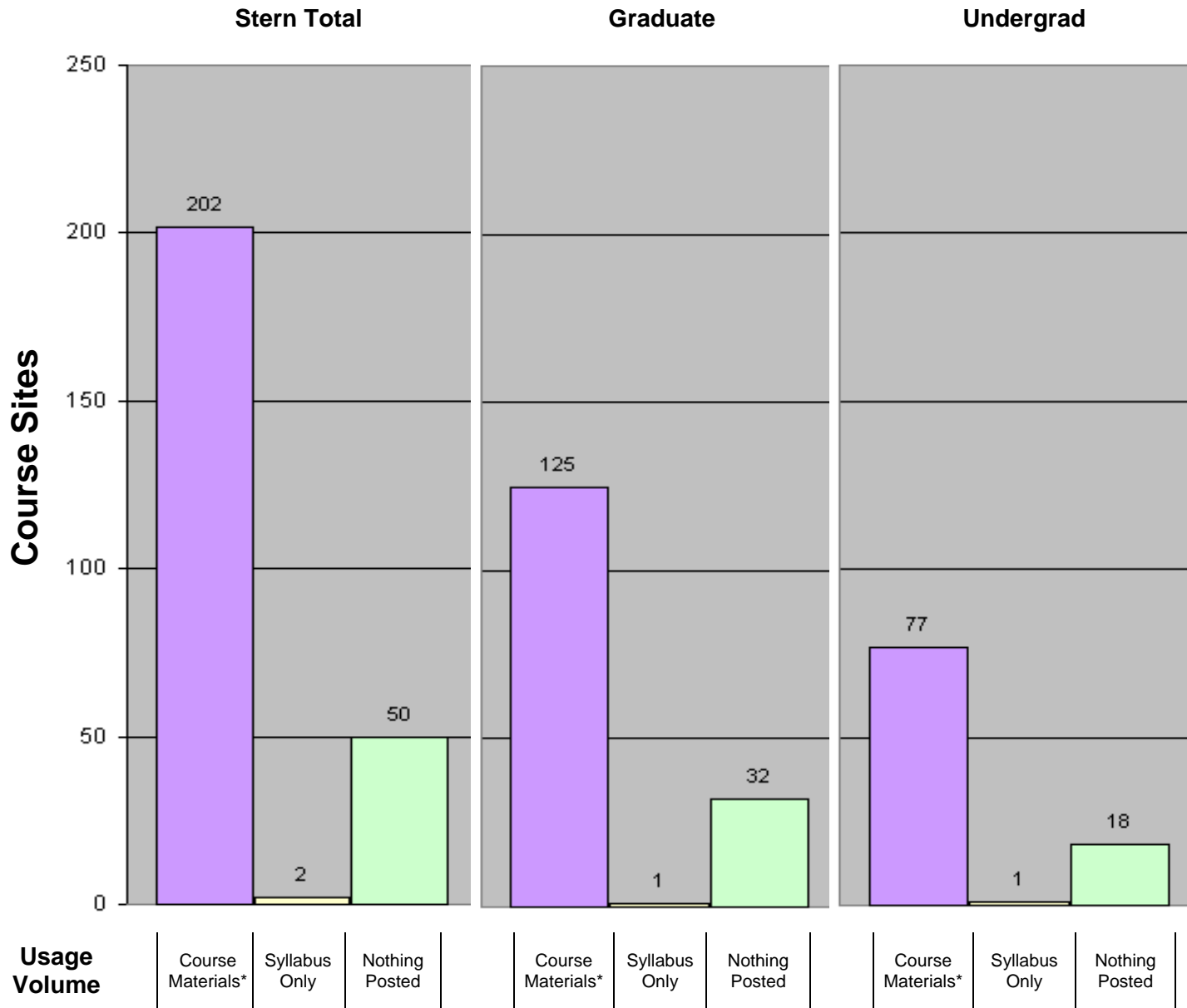
There are many opportunities on the horizon for the CITL to continue to encourage successful teaching methods and support faculty. We plan to develop several more interactive tutorials that describe getting started with Blackboard and uploading course content. We also plan to keep compiling statistics on Blackboard usage to know the demands and trends of our faculty and will hold Blackboard office hours on June 5th for those teaching in the summer.

We foresee ourselves continuing to be involved in the development and renovation of new classrooms, as much of the technology yields great opportunities for deep kinds of student learning. We will also continue to consult with Stern faculty, whether through the STEP program, informal consultations, or by integrating technology with your teaching methods.

We are also exploring several technologies which are gaining currency in academia. These include wikis (or collaboratively created websites), new versions of the classroom clicker systems, and podcasting, as well as reaching out to other schools' centers for opportunities in collaboration.

Once again, we are thankful to have open-minded faculty members who continue to try out new techniques and technologies in the service of better teaching and learning. We should also not neglect to mention that we owe a debt of gratitude to Kim Corfman, Vice Dean of MBA and the members of our Faculty Advisory Board that guide us in this mission: Aswath Damodaran, Joe Porac, Sridhar Seshadri, Lee Sproull, and Aaron Tenenbein.

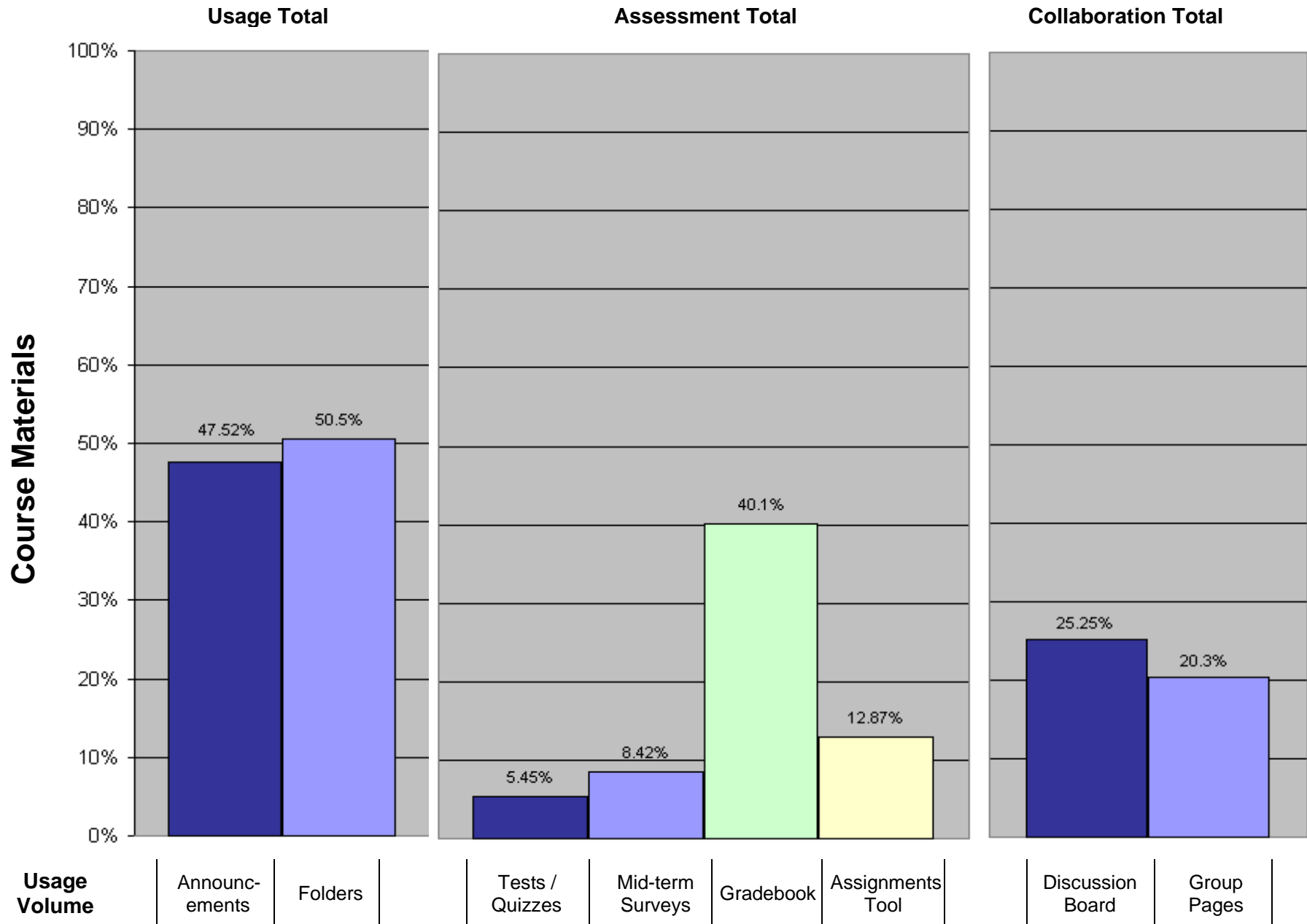
BlackBoard Usage Overview (Fall 2005)



*Includes basic organizing course materials such as folders, PowerPoint slides, lecture recordings, etc. (see breakdown on following pages).

Course Materials Breakdown (Fall 2005)

Stern Total



Course Materials Breakdown (Fall 2005)

Grad vs. Undergrad

