

## Enhancing the Presence of MHCC in Second Life - *Progress Report*

*Michael Russell, Valory Thatcher and Walter Shriner*

*Summary:* Progress is occurring, and we are very pleased so far! A final report should be available by early Fall 2008, but here are some highlights:

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**Public Outreach:** We have offered a presentation about Second Life to MHCC employees and staff during the following times:

- Monday, March 3, noon, TLC: “**Second Life and MHCC**”, for the Teaching and Learning Cooperative
- Thursday, March 13, 2 PM, Board Conference Room: “**Second Life as a Promotional Tool**”, for the MHCC Creative Team
- Wednesday, April 9, 2 PM, Career Conference Room: “**Second Life as a Counseling Tool**”, for the Career and Counseling Center
- Monday, May 5, noon, TLC: “**Second Life and MHCC**”, for the Teaching and Learning Cooperative
- Friday, May 9, 1:30 PM, AC 3333: “**Second Life Show and Tell**”, for everyone in the MHCC Community

Also, we have started the **mhccsl** email mailing list to encourage the communication about Second Life ideas and opportunities amongst the MHCC community. At least four non-MHCC mhccsl participants subscribe to our email list.

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**Inworld Outreach:** We have created a host of promotional materials from within Second Life itself. These items include:

- At least three freely joinable Second Life groups have been created through our efforts. They include **MHCC SL** (for all MHCC enthusiasts within SL), **MHCC Anatomy and Physiology** (for Valory’s Anatomy and Physiology Students) and **PKAL** (for members of Project Kaleidoscope in Second Life.)
- We have created several shirts, flags, signs and more which promote MHCC from within Second Life.
- Michael’s home in Second Life (named **MhChem**) has become an impromptu **promotional stage for MHCC**. The first floor contains pictures of MHCC (including a promotional video from Al Sigala and a self-running PowerPoint-like presentation created through a collaboration between Al Sigala and Luis Juarez and Michael Russell.) In addition, Michael spends \$L30 weekly to add MhChem (and its associated MHCC promotional materials) listed in the “Search” function within SL (the “Google” of Second Life.)

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**Connections Between MHCC and Second Life:** We are constantly trying to make direct connections between MHCC and Second Life.

Valory and Michael have offered **office hours within Second Life** with mixed success. Some students attend, but often distractions occur (non-MHCC people appear, etc.) This is a work in progress.

Michael has offered his **spring term 2008 chemistry students** an **extra credit opportunity** to enter Second Life and participate in a relatively simple assignment. To receive the extra credit, students must attend two mandatory meetings in Second Life. The participating students are placed into groups of two or three avatars, then they are told to search for “as many science-related Second World sites as possible.” They can then create a Landmark for the Science site, and finally create a group note card (with the landmarks attached inside) to give to me for their “final project.” This is a work in progress which should commence on June 1, 2008; additional details will be provided in the final report this fall.

Michael has been an active participant in the development of the “**OR Community College**” **island**, funded through a grant written by the Oregon Community College Distance Learning Association (OCCDLA). A pictorial description of this activity can be found here:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/marsmars2/ORCommunityCollegelIsland>

More details shall be found in the final report this fall.

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Hopefully this has provided you with a brief overview of our success with this Teaching and Learning Cooperative Innovation Grant to date. Additional details shall be forthcoming in our Final Report (expected delivery during early Fall Term 2008.)

Thank you for the opportunity for us to explore the potential of Second Life! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Sincerely,

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