June 9-2009
2009-10 M.E.F Class
University of Florida
Faculty Development

Dear Fellows,

It is hard to believe we have been in this course for five months already. Time flies and while I would like to think that time travels faster when one is having fun, however, some of you have expressed the opposite feeling and rather than having fun, and benefiting from what the course has offered, have considered it tedious at best. I have heard complaints especially regarding the "project" and how the course seems to be directed more towards this aspect, than to others. This cannot be further from the truth. If you look back when each of you interviewed for the course it was stated that one of the three pillars of the course was the project; the other two being tools on asynchronous teaching methods and the other synchronous teaching methods. I had to design the lecture series this way to give you time to design and complete your projects next year. If I would have spread the research lectures throughout the course, there will not be enough time for any of you to complete your project. On another note, try to complete an educational project without the guidance and support that for example Diane has given us. Take my word, when I did this course we did not have a "Diane" and this kind of support was not available, needless to say we all struggled to complete our projects.

The schedule for rest of the year is set. Go back to the first talk, the orientation and look at the “Timeline” (http://mef.med.ufl.edu/files/2009/02/orientation-powerpoint.pdf) you will have a pretty good idea what to expect for the rest of the summer, fall and winter of 2009, spring 2010 and also what is expected of each of you. We are ready to get busy with technical and non-technical tools for teaching and learning. Some of you will most likely learn about new things and computer issues will either be your thing or you may decide that one-on-one suits your specialty or personality more. Either way is fine, remember in the end each of you if you complete the course will become a leader in your department and your skills will be enhanced and refined, your individual styles and preferences will surface. But in order to pick your style and decide which are your preferences, you got to get exposure to some methods and topics that might work and be related more to others and for some specialties or areas and places of work, but maybe not for yours.

Feel free to contact me if there are any problems, issues, conflicts etc.. See you next Tuesday in Starke, we will have a guest speaker Dr John Davis who will talk to us about small group learning skills.

Sincerely yours,

Felipe Urdaneta