Purpose Statement for the IRC Web Site

The Instructional Resource Center at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine now has a fully functional webpage. The site was created with one specific goal in mind and that was to provide the faculty, staff and students with information about the office and about our services. At the first glance, on the home page, you will be introduced to the staff of our department and exactly what we do here on a daily basis. It’s very unlikely that every individual throughout the school knows about the Instructional Resource Center and who we are. The truth is that we are here to assist them in every way we can. I’m hoping this page will advertise, if you will, that we are here to help with all their instructional needs.

The site has a simple design, which was completed for a specific reason. I am familiar with the audience in which the site is intended for and that is exactly what they would prefer… simple, clean, and to the point. I chose to turn away from flashy animated objects and vibrant colors, not only because I knew my audience wouldn’t prefer such but because I wanted to keep the consistent theme of the dental school. It will be placed on the school’s server in which will eventually be opened to not only members of the school but to the general public. Therefore, whatever work I have completed will have a direct impact on the school either positively or negatively.

Visitors of this site will not only receive information about us, they will receive information about the services we provide, services we do not provide, and additional resources about other areas of technology that may be troubling in or out of the classroom. There is one specific page contained within the site that is very important to both the IRC office and students of the school. That is the Poster Preparation page. Poster preparation is perhaps one of our biggest job responsibilities here at the School of Dental Medicine, and now we have a webpage to help us out. Students now have the advantage of downloading the poster template and permission form from any computer opposed to having the hassle of coming to the office year after year to obtain one. All the guidelines and instructions are present for them on this page to limit confusion and help the process run smoothly. A goal for myself over summer will be to design an additional page to the site, which offers the students a variety of templates to choose from. We as an office will have to decide on and design the templates we want to place up and we will upload them to an additional page.

My goal throughout this whole process was to design and develop a site that is user friendly and informative to our viewers. For myself, I am not a flashy designer and I never was. I tend to prefer a clean and orderly look and tried to make it as easy as possible for viewers to find what they are looking for. I understand how frustrating it can become when you can’t find any answers to any questions you may have, therefore I tried to include the information that comes up on a daily basis here in the IRC. If I were to suggest a navigational system through the site all one would need to do is go right down the navigational menu on the left side of the screen. The site is intended to meet the viewer needs. There really is no specific order the viewer needs to follow when
navigating through the site. I placed links in areas that I think are easily found and easily accessible. If viewers have any questions or concerns about the site, I have created a contact page in which they can send directly to our office email account, which will be sent directly from the web page. It is with great thanks to all my classmates throughout the semester that I was able to take on this task. I understand this is only the beginning and there are aspects that I could possibly improve throughout the site but it’s a strong start and I will continue to take what I have learned and apply it to everyday circumstances.

Thank you all for a great semester, wishing you all the best!!!