

# Sloan-C View

## Perspectives in Quality Online Education

A Publication of the Sloan Consortium

[A Letter from the Editors, 2](#)

[New Programs in the Sloan-C Catalog, 2](#)

[Sloan-C Seminar: Copyright Compliance for Online Educators, 3](#)

[Alfred P. Sloan Fdtn Announces National Study of Online Learning in K-12 Schools, 3](#)

In September 2005, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation awarded a grant to Hunter College and the Sloan Consortium for a national study of online learning in K-12 schools.

[European Humanities Institute: Online Learning Opportunities for Belarus Students of Higher Education, 4](#)

Online learning is providing hope, promise and educational opportunities for faculty and students in Belarus through the European Humanities University.

[Calendar, 6](#)

Upcoming events in Online Education

[Newsletter Registration](#)



THE SLOAN CONSORTIUM  
A Consortium of Institutions  
and Organizations Committed to  
Quality Online Education

## Waking a Sleeping Giant

*Tana Bishop, University Maryland University College*

In our June 2005 issue (see [Blended Learning: Sleeping Giant](#)), we introduced the notion that blended learning is a "sleeping giant" because of its potential contribution to the shifting higher education landscape. Since then, some of the educators who participated in the **Sloan-C Workshop on Blended Learning and Higher Education** have conducted case study research of pedagogical practices on their campuses. The combined efforts of this group have been fruitful. Their research contributes to our understanding of blended learning, a new research strand within ALN, and also extends our thinking in terms of conceptual frameworks.

At the [University of Illinois at Chicago](#), faculty members in health sciences have adopted a blended model for courses in human physiological anatomy. A key reason for offering this option is to increase access since the campus has limited physical space to accommodate these large enrollment courses that serve students from several colleges across the institution. [William Rainey Harper College](#)'s chemistry department similarly uses a blended model to teach a very dynamic introductory course. As an important foundation course in the curriculum, careful attention has been given to the determination of the blended mix and which aspects of the course would convey well in an online environment. [Olin College](#) offers a blended experience to all students by using the Capstone Business Simulation in their "Foundations of Business and Entrepreneurship" course. This has been a very successful teaching tool and one that easily lends itself to a blended environment. Students combine team and individual work as they interact online with the simulator.

On a somewhat larger scale, the [Rochester Institute of Technology](#) has initiated a campus-wide blended learning pilot project that encompasses multiple disciplines. Their mixed mode courses, such as "Their Immigrant Voices in American Literature," reflect the many ways in which faculty are reexamining their teaching methods and critically thinking about student-centered learning. At [University of Maryland University College](#), blended degree programs have been part of the inventory for several years, in both executive programs and the MBA.

Although blended courses are not yet ubiquitous, this modality continues to gain interest. One reason is that it offers institutions yet another way to meet the needs of diverse learners. A forthcoming Sloan-C monograph will include case studies on these and other schools. The preliminary findings from the research suggest that blended learning not only can address key issues such as access but also can be a catalyst for positive change in the higher education environment.

forward ►

# ... From the Editors

A letter from the editors of the *Sloan-C View*

**This issue reviews some Sloan Consortium initiatives relating to rethinking paradigms for teaching and learning, in K–12, in higher education, and in international education:**

- In "Waking a Sleeping Giant," **Tana Bishop** of UMUC reports that institutions are strategizing to use blended courses and programs as a catalyst for positive change.
- Winner of the 2005 Sloan-C Award for **Most Outstanding Online Teaching & Learning Program**, UMUC lists its online degree and certificate program in the [Sloan-C Catalog](#).
- Funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the "National Study of Online Learning in K–12 Schools" will provide data to help policy makers with decisions about virtual schools, programs, or courses.
- The "European Humanities Institute" by **Gregory Miniankou** is a story of "hope, promise and educational opportunities."
- Upcoming online workshops are opportunities to learn and to network with colleagues worldwide. Join Sloan-C for [Online Events](#). [Sign up here to be notified of new events](#).
- Interested in learning more about Effective Practices in online education? Visit [Sloan-C Effective Practices](#) and answer a short survey to enter a drawing for ALN resources.
- There's still time to register for the [11th ALN Conference: The Power of Online Learning: Mobilizing to Expand Community](#), in Orlando, Florida , November 17–19, 2005. Remember, [premium members](#) receive discounts on conference attendance.
- Coming soon: Look for at-a-glance changes in the format of the Sloan-C View that will make it easier to find what interests you.

For a wealth of useful information, please visit the Sloan-C [free resources](#) page. And, to contribute in kind, please share your effective practices with the higher education online community in the Sloan-C [effective practices](#) collection.

We look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you online,

... for the Sloan Consortium  
Frank Mayadas, John Bourne and Janet Moore

*The purpose of the Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C) is to help learning organizations continually improve the quality, scale, and breadth of their online programs according to their own distinctive missions, so that education will become a part of everyday life, accessible and affordable for anyone, anywhere, at any time, in a wide variety of disciplines.*

You are welcome to join Sloan-C: <http://www.sloan-c.org>.

The [Sloan-C JOBLINE](#) lists openings in online education. Members are welcome to post openings.

## Welcome to the New and Updated Programs in the SLOAN-C CATALOG

Note to members: Listing ALN programs in the Catalog is a member benefit. ALN programs are instructor-led, cohort based, requiring less than 20% face to face time, and emphasize interaction with instructors and peers. To submit an ALN program for peer review and approval, login to the Sloan-C web and click on [Catalog](#).

### University of Maryland-University College

Bachelor

- \* [Business Administration](#)
- \* [Communication Studies](#)
- \* [Computer and Information Science](#)
- \* [Computer Studies](#)
- \* [English](#)
- \* [Finance](#)
- \* [Fire Science](#)
- \* [History](#)
- \* [Humanities](#)
- \* [Information Systems Management](#)
- \* [Psychology](#)
- \* [Social Sciences](#)

Certificate

- \* [Accounting](#)
- \* [Certificate in Advanced Accounting](#)
- \* [Certificate in Database Management](#)
- \* [Certificate in E-Commerce Management](#)
- \* [Certificate in Human Resource Management](#)
- \* [Certificate in Internet Technologies](#)
- \* [Certificate in Introductory Accounting](#)
- \* [Certificate in Management Foundations](#)
- \* [Certificate in Object-Oriented Design and Programming](#)
- \* [Certificate in Visual Basic Programming](#)
- \* [Certificate in Workplace Spanish](#)
- \* [Environmental Management](#)
- \* [Legal Studies](#)
- \* [Software Engineering](#)
- \* [Technology and Management](#)

Master

- \* [Electronic Commerce](#)
- \* [Information Technology](#)
- \* [Master of Arts in Teaching](#)
- \* [Master of Business Administration](#)
- \* [Master of Distance Education](#)
- \* [Master of Education](#)
- \* [Master of International Management](#)

Continued on [page 5](#)



## 2006 Sloan-C College Pass

*Your pass to a successful  
online program!*

**Up to 15 "seats" in EVERY 2006  
Sloan-C online workshop for one low  
price. Save \$1000's on online faculty  
and administration training.**

For more info go to  
[www.sloan-c.org/info/premium.asp](http://www.sloan-c.org/info/premium.asp)

## Copyright compliance for Online Educators

*New November Dates!*  
**November 2nd-10th**

**Non-members: \$195**  
**Free Members: \$175.50**  
**Premium Members: \$97.50**

Worried about  
copyright  
infringement?

You're not the only  
one! Join Sloan-C in a  
seminar addressing the  
most pressing legal  
issue facing educators  
today.

[www.sloan-c.org](http://www.sloan-c.org)  
for more info

In Partnership  
with:  
UMassOnline


## Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Announces National Study of Online Learning in K-12 Schools

At a meeting of its trustees in September 2005, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation awarded a grant to Hunter College and the Sloan Consortium for a national study of online learning in K-12 schools. Leading this study will be Anthony G. Picciano, professor of education leadership at Hunter College, and professor of Urban Education and Interactive Technology and Pedagogy at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and Jeff Seaman, the chief information officer for the Sloan Consortium. The overall objective of this proposal is to provide baseline data on online learning in K-12 environments, surveying approximately 7,000 of the 15,000 chief school administrators or superintendents. An important objective is to begin a process of data collection and dissemination to assist K-12 policy makers in decisions about establishing virtual schools, programs, or courses. This data, combined with the expertise of the Sloan Consortium and others will be provided to educators at all levels in this country. Preliminary reporting is anticipated in Spring 2006.


The study's importance stems from the growth of online learning throughout higher education and corporate training. The impact of more than 55 million students in K-12 education can be as great if not greater than in higher education.

Going beyond basic enrollment numbers, the study will seek in-depth information on the reasons why school districts are embarking on online education programs, what student needs are being served, who the major online education providers are, how teachers in these programs are being trained, and what the future directions of K-12 online programs are.

Continued on [page 4](#)



**The Eleventh Sloan-C International Conference on Asynchronous Learning Networks (ALN)**



**November 17 - 19, 2005 Rosen Centre Hotel Orlando, FL**

Come celebrate the 11th year of our conference with us. It just keeps getting better! Distance learning is one of the most talked-about topics today in higher education and corporate training. Asynchronous learning is the fastest-growing approach to distance learning. This conference, which will provide the latest information on asynchronous learning programs, processes, packages, and protocols, is geared to both experienced professionals and interested newcomers to online learning who hail from a variety of work sectors, including higher education, continuing education, business, government, health care, professional associations, and nonprofit organizations. It is especially designed to meet the needs of:

- College-level faculty and administrators
- Instructional technology and media professionals
- Instructional designers
- Trainers in public- and private-sector organizations

[www.aln.ucf.edu](http://www.aln.ucf.edu)

## European Humanities Institute: Online Learning Opportunities for Belarus Students of Higher Education

Dr. Ryhor (Gregory) Miniankou, European Humanities Institute

Online learning is providing hope, promise and educational opportunities for faculty and students in Belarus through the European Humanities University (EHU). Online learning has now become their lifeline since the closing of EHU as a campus-based facility. Founded in 1992, EHU became a prestigious public institution, and in the span of 12 years, it grew into a strong intellectual community of 1,400 full-time students, recognized for its high-quality bachelor, masters and doctoral programs.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union when many satellite countries began a hopeful and new independent journey to national sovereignty, the University began as a romantic experiment of intellectuals and grew to become a leader in the internationalization of higher education in Central and Eastern Europe. EHU developed into the only University in the history of higher education in Belarus to obtain real University autonomy, and retained it despite powerful outside pressures. Thanks to international cooperation, the University created research centers, institutes and programs which were unique in Eastern Europe, conducting in-depth study in various spheres of the social sciences and humanities.

In August, 2004, due to political pressure from the Belarus government, the University was forced to stop activity and close its campus. Most of EHU's 1000 students enrolled in universities in Europe and the USA. In the meantime, in the spirit of academic freedom, EHU started a new academic year in 2004 as a Virtual University. The new EHU, a network University, is being developed with support and advice of the University's friends and partners from many countries. Financial support was provided by a number of foundations, among them MacArthur Foundation, Open Society Institute, Carnegie Corporation and the Eurasia Foundation.

Online programs now offered by EHU provide education and keep alive common European values. These programs are attractive not only for adults (as in traditional distance education) but for Belarusian young people since at present

Continued on [page 5](#)

## K-12, continued from [page 3](#)

The study will determine whether school districts are developing online programs because they *have* to (because shortages of teachers in specialty areas, or population growth) or because they *want* to because of perceived educational benefits (such as extended learning activities and reflective pedagogy). Among concerns are the ages of students working online, social maturation issues for fully online K-12 students, the training of teachers and online course developers, the nature of technical support services, and the track records of K-12 online learning providers, especially for-profit entities.

The study will identify frameworks and models (e.g., self-contained K-12 online learning providers, higher education/K-12 partnerships, corporate online providers, and home schooling) to provide insight into the K-12 online learning phenomenon.

There is a significant potential for K-12 institutions to partner with colleges and universities, cultural institutions, and corporations which have been developing online expertise for a decade or more. K-12 partners can benefit from college-level online development expertise while colleges and universities can see their programs expand, building important connections to K-12 schools.

Concerns about the relevance of the high school curriculum in an expanding global economy, the transition of high school students to college, and the shortages of K-12 teachers in specialty areas such as science, mathematics, and foreign language are issues that might be addressed by expanding educational opportunities by moving K-12 schools from strictly brick and mortar buildings to online environments. These issues are not only important for K-12 schools but may be critical for the overall educational, social, and economic goals of our country. This study will provide valuable information to the national dialogue on school reform and spur additional research in this area.

**EHU**, continued from [page 4](#)

it is the only avenue open to them for contemporary higher educational opportunities.

The Lithuanian government has declared its support of this project. The European Union has shown its readiness to back this initiative with all possible assistance. The reopened virtual EHU, in cooperation with its partner universities in Europe and America, utilizes its predominantly Belarusian faculty to offer programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels in Social Sciences and Humanities primarily to students still living in Belarus. This semester, EHU enrolled 400 degree-seeking students plus 500 non-matriculated students. EHU's academic community continues to thrive, enabled through online learning and international partnerships.

**About the Author:**

Dr. Ryhor Miniankou, Professor of Philosophy and one of the founders of EHU, is Dean of the Philosophy and Cultural Studies Department of the European Humanities University and is currently on a Fulbright Scholarship at Michigan State University working with MSU Global to study Western models of virtual universities and online learning pedagogy. He is available for speaking engagements through December 2005; email him at [grimin@mail.ru](mailto:grimin@mail.ru).

**For Further Reading:**

**Fanton, J. F.** From exile, a beacon of hope for Belarus, *International Herald Tribune*, June 28, 2005.

**Finn, P.** School of 'Partisans' Goes Underground in Belarus, *Washington Post*, October 17, 2004.

**Macwilliams, B.** Imposing an Ideology in Belarus, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 2005, Volume 51, Issue 25.

**Myers, S. L.** Voices of Freedom Are Stilled by Europe 's Last Dictator, *The New York Times*, October 27, 2004.

**Look for a New View Next Month**

Beginning with the December 2006 issue, the Sloan-C View will have a new, email format to make it easier for you to scan for items of interest. The email version of the Sloan-C View will contain brief news items, a calendar, a quick links section, a membership section, a section on new projects in ALN, and more.

**Pro Bono: Sloan-C Call for Faculty Facilitators for Online Workshops**

Sloan-C online workshops are an opportunity to network with new colleagues and master new technologies. If you have time to contribute and would like to help facilitate online workshops, please send your resume and description of interest to [workshop@sloan-c.org](mailto:workshop@sloan-c.org).

**Become a Sloan-C Member...it's FREE!****Why?**

- \*Join a leader in understanding quality practices in online learning
- \*Access the **Journal of Asynchronous Learning Networks**, the premier research journal about online education
- \*Participate in an annual conference, research initiatives and a variety of workshops, roundtables and online seminars
- \*Share knowledge about online learning continuously with other consortium members
- \*Collaborate with members on initiatives to improve your online learning programs
- \*List your programs (degree and certificate) in the Sloan-C member catalog
- \*Receive yearly publications about the current trends in online learning
- \*Advance the field of online education through Consortium activities

**Membership Benefits**

- Knowledge center:** database of innovations in practice, research and development
- Publications:** books, news, reviews, journal, analyses of emerging issues
- Communications:** listservs, focus groups, industry-specific roundtables
- Community building:** seminars, conferences, workshops, consulting, networking, collaboration, job-line
- Recognition:** advertising, awards, affiliation with respected membership

**How?**

visit [www.sloan-c.org](http://www.sloan-c.org) to join

**UMUC Programs**, continued from [page 2](#)

- \* [Master of Science in Accounting and Financial Management](#)
- \* [Master of Science in Accounting and Information Technology](#)
- \* [Master of Science in Biotechnology Studies](#)
- \* [Master of Science in Computer Systems Management](#)
- \* [Master of Science in Environmental Management](#)
- \* [Master of Science in Financial Management and Information Systems](#)
- \* [Master of Science in Management](#)
- \* [Master of Science in Technology Management](#)
- \* [Master of Science in Telecommunications Management](#)
- \* [Master of Software Engineering](#)



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If you know of, or are hosting, an event that should be listed on the Sloan-C View Calendar, please send the details of the event and url to [publisher@sloan-c.org](mailto:publisher@sloan-c.org).

**ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN 2005**

Date: November 30-December 2, 2005  
Location: Berlin, Germany  
URL: <http://www.online-educa.com>

Meeting the needs of the international e-learning and distance education industry, the annual Online Educa Berlin conference is a net-working venue for strategists and practitioners from all over the world.

**Sloan-C Seminar: Copyright Compliance for Online Educators**

Date: November 2-10, 2005  
Location: online, designed to fit your schedule  
URL: <http://www.sloan-c.org/info/11/vcopyright.asp>

Join Sloan-C in a seminar addressing the most pressing legal issue facing educators today.

**WCET's 17th Annual Conference E-Learning E-Ilusions Triumphs: Re-imagining the Academic Ecosystem**

Date: November 2-5, 2005  
Location: Westin St. Francis on Union Square in the heart of San Francisco  
URL: <http://conference.wcet.info/2005/>

In response to the increasing demands on higher education, institutions are finding creative ways to use e-Learning and other technology-supported services. Can some of the best practices from institutions around the world inspire a new image for higher education in a global economy? Can we develop a cohesive vision for a new academic ecosystem that incorporates what we have discovered about e-learning, both from our past errors and "e-lusions" and our current successes in policy, pedagogy, and services? WCET's 17th annual conference will address just these issues. The program features more than 200 speakers covering the latest trends and most innovative thinking in e-learning policies, practices, and services across six topic strands: Beyond the Institution, Emerging Technologies, Faculty Focus, Institutional Level, International, and Student Focus. Join us...and re-imagine the academic ecosystem!

**Sloan-C International Conference**

Date: November 17-19, 2005  
Location: Rosen Centre, Orlando, FL  
URL: <http://www.sloan-c.org/info/11/valnconf.asp>

Come celebrate the 11th year of our conference with us. This conference, which will provide the latest information on asynchronous learning programs, processes, packages, and protocols, is geared to both experienced professionals and interested newcomers to online learning who hail from a variety of work sectors, including higher education, continuing education, business, government, health care, professional associations, and nonprofit organizations.