

Students Build Websites for Local Non-Profits

What happens when you give 25 college students the opportunity to help their community using the skills they learned in class? They step up and they do just great.

Some of you may know that I occasionally teach computer classes at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Last semester I taught Computer Management and Information Systems (CMIS) 300, a web site design course. To give my students a unique challenge I was able to find five non-profit organizations that needed web sites.

My hopes were for a win-win situation for all involved. The students would get the opportunity to work with real clients, building a real web site, and helping the community. The non-profits would get a web site for their organization.

In a matter of eight short weeks the students and the representatives from the non-profit organizations had designed, developed, and tested six web sites.

The students met the challenge by:

1. Meeting with their clients to help them develop their requirements
2. Developing the web site using the technical and design skills they learned in class
3. Managing the client relationship throughout the development process
4. Testing the site thoroughly
5. Presenting the site to the class and representatives of the non-profit organizations explaining the client's requirements and how the site met those requirements.

If you would like to view the new web sites please click on the links below.

[Cerebral Palsy of Southwestern Illinois](#)

[Unlimited Living Options](#)

[West County Daylily Club](#)

[Greater St Louis Iris Society](#)

[The HALO Group](#)

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welcome

2009 is here. Out with the old and in with the new. Let's welcome in the new year with excitement and optimism. We hope that 2009 will be a great year for you and your family.



Lynn & Dick Slackman
Owners of tenby technologies

more news

The Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society web site has just undergone some significant enhancements. The site now reflects last year's events, as well as, showcases 2009 events and shows. stldaffodilclub.org

quotes

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me. – **Noel Coward**

Computer Science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescopes. – **E. W. Dijkstra**

Students *continued from page 1.*

ALIVE: Alternatives to Living In Violent Environments (This site was developed, but is not available to the public until it has been approved by the organization's board.)

I would like to convey my thanks to the non-profit organizations for participating in this endeavor, as well as, everyone who helped me find the non-profit organizations.

Google Advanced Features

Google is so ubiquitous that it is sometimes taken for granted, but it has a number of advanced features that are not widely known. Here are a few that might be useful to you.

To search for a specific string of words enclose the phrase in quotes: **"three blind mice"**. Google will only display results containing this exact sequence of words.

To exclude words from a search precede the search keyword with a minus sign: **cardinal -baseball**

To search for a word and all of its synonyms, use the tilde symbol: **~car** This search returns entries for car, auto, van, motor, automobile, etc.

You can use Google like a calculator, just enter your calculations followed by an equal sign: **5+22-(33/3)=**

You can use Google like a dictionary, just enter the word define followed by the word in question: **define accubation**

You can use Google to calculate conversions. For example, converting US dollars into New Zealand dollars: **100 USD to NZD** or converting inches into centimeters: **15 inches to cm**

To find the movies playing in your area, type movies followed by your zip code: **movies 62221**

You can find the time anywhere in the world, for example: **time London**

Just for fun if you need directions to other planets Google has some maps:

[Sky Google](#)

[Google Mars](#)

Send us your questions and if we use them we will send you a gift. Email your questions, with your name and address, to [QUESTIONS](#) . Thanks.

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just for fun

Cuteoverload.com

recommended reading

Why are a disproportionately large number of professional hockey players born in the months of January, February, and March?

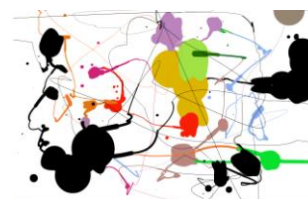
Why does the world's smartest man live in relative obscurity in Northern Missouri?

How much practice does it take to become a concert pianist?

These are not random and unrelated questions, but are the pattern underlying the premise of **Malcolm Gladwell's** new book **Outliers**.

Gladwell asks the age-old question "Why are some people more successful than other people"? He answers this question by overturning some of our widely held beliefs and offering some unique alternatives.

Outliers, by Malcolm Gladwell



recommended
web sites

Here four web sites that might stimulate your artistic and creative sides.

jonathanyuen.com Beautiful and calming web design.

jacksonpollock.org Hint: To use the site start moving your mouse.

toxel.com Creative and unusual design ideas.

playAuditorium.com An interesting puzzle.

specials

The higher your web site is ranked by search engines the more visible your site will be. During the month of January we are offering a special on Search Engine Optimization (SEO). SEO is an art & science of "tuning" a web site to make it more accessible by search engines.

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