

# Faculty Showcase '05: Partners in Learning

Sponsored by Academic Technology at Simmons College



## Fluency with Information Technology: What Do Our Students Need To Know?

### CAS FIT Task Force

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A PTRC  
Partnership  
Project

This project  
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### Overview

In the spring of 2004, a Fluency with Information Technology Task Force (FIT) was formed to determine the FIT education needs of all undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Through careful deliberation, the Task Force developed a rubric of FIT intellectual capabilities, conceptual understandings, and skills that every Simmons graduate needs to succeed personally, interpersonally, professionally, and as a productive member of society.

Over the summer, the PTRC worked with the Task Force to develop a baseline assessment of incoming students' FITness. Assessment results indicate that, despite considerable access to computers and the Internet, incoming Simmons students are poorly prepared to live, learn, and work in a technology-rich society. Incoming students need the most help with higher order thinking: problem diagnosis and solving; media literacy (assessing the accuracy and integrity of web sites and digital media); and grappling with the ethical challenges associated with technology.

### Project Goals

- Articulate expectations for graduating CAS students' fluency with information technology.
- Develop strategies for assessment of:
  - Student FITness (incoming, midpoint, and graduating)
  - Existing FITness-building opportunities (across the curriculum, co-curricular, in the Library and PTRC, etc.)
  - The program itself
- Offer support and incentives for enhancing the FITness-building opportunities in CAS courses.
- Provide students and advisors with the information they need to identify and address student FITness learning needs.

The screenshot shows two web pages. The top page is titled "EDIBLE VACCINATIONS" and discusses research by NSF and other agencies on using edible plants to deliver vaccines. It includes a photo of lemons in a basket and text explaining the process of inserting viral or bacterial DNA into soil bacteria. A "Sample Question" box asks about background research and site selection. The bottom page is the "DHMO.org" homepage, featuring the EAC logo, a "WELCOME" message, and a list of "DHMO Special Reports" including topics like "Dihydrogen Monoxide FAQ", "DhMO and Cancer", and "DhMO in the Dairy Industry". It also includes a "Press Kit" section with login fields for "you@domain.com".