

# The Virtual Fishbowl



## Real-Time, On-Line Organic Chemistry Tutoring

For Fall, 2001, Chem 0310, Virtual Tutoring was available as follows:

1. Via the "[021 - Chemistry - Virtual Fishbowl](#)" CourseWeb Course. Corey Stephenson staffed this as noted on the CourseWeb info page for that course...

For Fall, 2001, the Virtual Classroom of this Virtual Fishbowl CourseWeb site will be staffed Sunday evenings, from 9:00-11:00 pm. If you wish additional or alternate hours please make an appropriate entry on the Discussion board.

In addition, three times during the term (immediately before three of the four in-class exams), we rearranged the schedule so the two hours happened the night before the exam.

2. Stefan Mischuk, a volunteer undergrad, staffed the Virtual Classroom inside my CourseWeb site, for 1 hour, 8-9, the same days as in #1.

The "statistics" on how my Fall, 2001 section of Chem 0310 students used these resources are as follows:

- 59 different students used the Virtual Tutoring at least once.
- 139 student's name appeared on the final grade roster sheet. 132 Students took Exam-1 and 108 students took the Final
- 45% (59/132) of the students who participated in Chem 0310 used Virtual Tutoring at least once.
- On average, 11% of the students who submitted a "take-home" assignment on Monday, used Virtual Tutoring the night before (range 8 – 22%). Average number of take-home

submissions was 114, absolute range of number of students accessing VF the nite before was 7-31. Average head count of number of students accessing VF the nite before an assignment was due is 13, and the median was 10.

- On average, 3% of the students who took an in-class hour, used Virtual Tutoring the night before (range 0 – 5%).
- On average, if a student visited Virtual Tutoring once, they used it 2.7 times (range 1 –13 times).
- There were 11 assignments due, plus VF was available before the 4 in-class finals (i.e., VF was available a total of 15 times, in principle). On at least of the scheduled times, the modem pool was not available (flooded). No student accessed the VF just prior to the final. So of the 14 times that anyone could access it (including the time just prior to the final), the maximum time one person used it was 13, and the low usage was 1.
- All of the above data reflects students who were on JJG's course roster for 02-1 and reflects usage for 3 hours of scheduled Virtual Classroom per week.

It would be good to compare the above type of statistics to Real Fishbowl Usage, and to Faculty Office Hours. I don't have such data, but will see if I can keep track of office hour visits in 02-2. The above statistical generation was greatly facilitated by the automatic log generated in v5.0 of Blackboard, newly installed on Pitt's servers for 02-1.