

Distance Education Report

By the Numbers

Videoconferences

For the **2007** calendar year, we conducted **927** videoconferences.

For the first half of **2008**, we have held **676** conferences.

Includes client programs, in-service training, meetings, seminars, interviews, classes, CE programs and conferences.

Online Modules

Since January **2008**, we have produced **110** online training modules and briefings.



National Awards

NEAFCS Early Childhood Child Care Training Award,
Coordinated by Karen Benson.

NACAA Search for Excellence in Landscape Horticulture –
Rose Short Course, Coordinated by Lelia Kelly.

Desktop Videoconferencing

Our Scopia desktop videoconferencing allows anyone with the appropriate bandwidth and a computer with a microphone and camera to connect to our videoconferences. This is a great solution for those with limited access to a videoconference unit. The value that Scopia desktop has over many other desktop conferencing systems is the ability to not only connect to other people on a computer, but to also connect to videoconferencing units like our Polycom systems.

We have used the desktop solution in a number of ways. One is as a backup in our county offices. If the videoconferencing room or unit is not available, agents have used Scopia from their desktop to connect to the meeting or training session. We have connected participants who did not have access to a videoconferencing unit in Arkansas, Florida and even Hong Kong to meetings and other programs.



Videoconference between CVM Seminar Room and Personal Computer in Hong Kong using Scopia Desktop.

Podcasting

Podcasting fills a specific need for people on the go. One program taking advantage of this instructional tool is *Mississippi in Motion*. Due to client requests, the Mississippi in Motion programs, which are also available in online modules, have been put in an audio podcast format. This allows participants to listen to the sessions while they are on a treadmill or most anywhere.

4-H has also made use of podcasting. The Legal/Illegal Horse Tack program is available as a video podcast. This demonstration type program made the rules easily accessible to 4-H agents at horse shows.

Multi-State Ag Programs

Many agents and specialists are using videoconferencing to plan for multi-state programs. The Dairy Field Day includes multiple sites in Mississippi and Louisiana. The Deep South Fruit and Vegetables Growers also include sites in Mississippi and Louisiana as well as locations in Alabama. The Peanut Growers Association has held a number of videoconferences between Mississippi and Georgia.

Quick Bites

Quick Bites continues to be a popular program with Extension employees and clients. Quick Bites is a lunchtime program held each Thursday that not only educates our clients on various issues, but also brings in new clients to our county offices. In addition, it gives us an opportunity to bring attention to various Mississippi State programs. For example, one of our recent programs called *Covering Ground* by Dr. Lelia Kelly taught clients various techniques about home gardening including soil preparation, mulching, pruning and selection of plants.



In addition to being a great educational program for home gardeners, this Quick Bites also showed off some of the gardens on Mississippi State's campus. Part of the program was conducted at the water garden in front of Thompson Hall with guest Dr. Jeanne Jones. The second half of the conference was conducted from the Veteran's Memorial Rose Garden with special guest Dr. Pam Collins.

Online Modules

The *Women in Agriculture* program was originally conducted over interactive video. Those programs were later put in an online format. Several other programs such as Quick Bites and Internal Controls also began as videoconferences and were later edited into online modules. Other programs such as the Beef Quality Assurance, various 4-H and computer training programs were specifically designed for online modules. All of these modules can provide instructional video information synchronized to PPT, demographic or content surveys, contact information and more.

BQA online module - includes, video, PPT, certification test, handouts and contact information.

