Faculty member leads Web proficiency workshop

By Laura Sass
Executive Editor

Traveling on the information superhighway doesn’t have to be full of speed bumps, according to a Rider assistant professor.

Robert Lackie led a workshop entitled “X-treme Web Searching: Tips from Pros in the Trenches” on Wednesday, March 12, in Moore Library. Both students and faculty were invited to the normally three-hour lecture, which focused on making the most of the user’s time on the web.

“There is so much on the web that people aren’t aware of,” said Lackie. “Things that could make their time spent on the web much more efficient.”

Lackie has been an instruction and reference librarian at Rider for five years, as well as the reference collection development librarian. He co-leads the Library Instruction Program, in which he assists students and faculty in their research. He has taught workshops in various topics, including communication and public speaking.

This workshop was attended by about ten people and was composed of mainly graduate students and faculty.

“Everything seems to be technology based,” said Katherine Taylor, a education graduate student. “I thought this workshop would be a good way to learn about researching on the web and also just to brush up.”

Lackie began the workshop by focusing on general rules for searching on the web, including analyzing the topic, carefully selecting the keywords and choosing an appropriate search. He also suggested utilizing the advanced tool option, which offers a myriad of particular functions, such as only searching for news articles or an appropriate search. He also suggested utilizing the checklist, which is a way to determine whether or not a site is reliable. The checklist included checking the author of the site, the URL, or what type of site it is.

Lackie also went through a web site evaluation called Internet Public Library. It produced seven hits, which were much more relevant. He then went on to reveal what he referred to as one of the least known, but most effective tools on the web: internet subject directories.

He did a search on Google, which produced millions of hits, many of them irrelevant. Then he narrowed down his search in Google, which still produced millions of hits but which were much more relevant.

Finally Lackie tried his search in a subject directory called Internet Public Library. It produced seven hits, all relevant.

“I don’t know about you, but I would like to look through seven hits much more then looking through over a million sites,” he said.

Lackie also went through a web site evaluation checklist, which is a way to determine whether or not a site is reliable. The checklist included checking the author of the site, the URL, or what type of site it is, the purpose and the currency.

“You can always get quantity,” he said. “It’s quality you have to search for.”

Class of 2002 graduate succumbs to heart disease

By Sharon Kelley
Staff Writer

Amanda Sancataldo, Class of 2002, passed away of heart disease on March 9, 2003. An English writing major at Rider, Sancataldo was the recipient of two notable English awards as well as a loved student within the English department.

Sancataldo was recipient of the Paul Sherr Prize, an award within the English department for the graduating senior with the highest GPA. She also received an honorable mention from The New Jersey Project’s Student Achievement Award for Excellence in Feminist Scholarship due to her essay entitled “Perceptions: An Illustration of Gender-based Power Issues.”

According to Dr. Robbie Sethi, chair of the English Department, Sancataldo had a strong repertoire with the English professors and was thought of as a smart, active, and energetic student.

“She was full of spirit,” said Sethi. “She was amazing. We knew she was sick, but we didn’t expect this. It’s a real loss.”