



**MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO STC
STUDENT CHAPTER MEETING
APRIL 18, 2009**

**Lee S. Tesdell, Minnesota State University, Mankato faculty and
Fulbright scholar at Birzeit University's Center for Continuing
Education**

FROM BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

○ **Where have I been?**

1. Hochschule Karlsruhe (University of Applied Sciences), Karlsruhe, Germany
 - To visit Juergen Muthig and the technical communication program there.
2. Bengalooru (Bangalore), India
 - To visit Rajdeep Gupta and others in the technical writing industry.
3. Birzeit University, Birzeit, Palestine
 - To work at the Center for Continuing Education.



FROM BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

○ Where am I?

1. I have two workplaces: Ramallah offices of the Center for Continuing Education and Birzeit University campus office of the Unit for Innovative Learning.
 1. Ramallah is 20 kms north of Jerusalem
 2. Birzeit is 30 kms north of Jerusalem
 3. They are both located in the Palestinian Territories also known as the West Bank.



FROM BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

- **What am I doing here? These are my three objectives:**
 1. I will work with Marwan Tarazi, Director of the Center, to design curriculum for teaching technical communication online which will benefit e-learning at both universities.
 2. I will work to foster long-term e-learning connections between Minnesota State University, Mankato and Birzeit University.
 3. Together we will research and write a scholarly publication about online pedagogy.



FROM BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

○ **What am I doing here? Objective one:**

- I will work with Marwan Tarazi, Director of the Center, to design curriculum for teaching technical communication online which will benefit e-learning at both universities.

○ **So what have I done so far?**

- I have helped to teach several units in short courses:
 - Two units on e-learning to Training of Trainers course
 - Four units on report writing to Stepping Stones (6ECs) course
 - One unit (and three more to come) on professional writing to center staff.
- I have studied the Center's use of "e-enabled" learning strategies in Moodle and compared it to our use of 100% online learning at MSU with D2L and Adobe Connect.



FROM BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

○ **What am I doing here? Objective two:**

- I will work to foster long-term e-learning connections between Minnesota State University, Mankato and Birzeit University.

○ **So what have I done so far?**

- I am working to facilitate a Memo of Understanding between our two universities.
- I have helped several colleagues at the center to complete applications for short courses in the United States.
- I have discussed strengthening the Fulbright program with personnel at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem. I met with Laura Alami of the U.S. State Department in this regard.
- I have encouraged several students to investigate M.A. degree courses at MSU.



FROM BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

○ **What am I doing here? Objective three:**

- Together we will research and write a scholarly publication about online pedagogy.

○ **So what have I done so far?**

- We have published a paper and presentation here:

What is the state of online pedagogy in Palestinian universities?

by Lee S. Tesdell, Ph.D. and Osama Mimi, Ph.D.

V International Conference on Multimedia and ICT in Education (m-ICTE2009), April 22-24, 2009, Lisbon, Portugal @

<http://www.formatex.org/micte2009>

- I am currently conducting further research into the potential for e-learning at Palestinian universities.

