

PHIL SEARS /Democrat
the Board of Regents ceases to exist as of July 1, the
/FSU College of Engineering will be missing three members
nine-member Joint Management Council.

cussed," said FSU Pro-
vost Larry Abele. "I still
think the basic idea is
wonderful, but it would take some real
commitment on a lot of people's part to

two vice chancellors and the
dents, vice presidents for aca

Abele

Please see COLLEGE

Some distant toward online classes

FSU attracts 400 from around world to tech confab

Elanie Yeager
STAFF WRITER

the ability to offer
classes online is changing
the way people think
about education, but uni-
versities are having a dif-
ficult time persuading fac-
ulty to become involved,
said a distance education
expert on Thursday.

Michael Simonson,
a Southeastern Uni-
versity professor and edi-
tor of the *Quarterly
Review of Distance Educa-
tion*, said, "It's terribly
difficult, especially at
large universities with
other pressures to
expand and teach ...
Faculty already have
a heavy set of obligations."

Simonson was in Talla-
hassee to talk about the
shift toward more dis-
tance education — such
as classes on the Internet
delivered through two-way video
conferencing — at the 19th Inter-
national Conference on
Technology and Education
(T&E). FSU's Learning
Technology Institute is

playing host to the confer-
ence, which runs through
Saturday at the Oglesby
Union and is estimated to
register more than 400
educators — representing
36 different countries.

"The aim of the confer-
ence is to bring together
people from around the
world who believe technol-
ogy can improve learn-
ing," said FSU Professor
Owen Gaede, one of the
conference's coordinators.

The conference gives
educators a chance to
present their research on
technology, talk about hot
topics like the ever-
expanding college classes
provided online and delve
into more serious issues,
such as how to help poor
countries improve the
education level of their
citizens.

Simonson said universi-
ties must make distance
education a priority. Of
the \$3 billion in private
money spent on higher

Please see TECH, 2B



MIKE EWEN /Democrat photos
Eastern Illinois University academic computing
director John Sfondillias teaches two different teaching
strategies at the 19th International Conference on
Technology and Education at FSU on Thursday. Above,
conference participant Robert Mann, foreground, listens.

Blackboard and WebCT
A Side by Side Comparison

For the most current and comprehensive
information on WebCT and Blackboard,
visit their respective web sites at www.webct.com
and www.blackboard.com

John S. Sfondillias, Ph.D.
Director of Academic Computing
and Instructional Technology
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Police get high-tech to curb speeding