

A COMPUTERIZED PICTORIAL CLASS ROLL SYSTEM FOR TAKING DAILY ATTENDANCE AND RECORD KEEPING

TUTORIAL PRESENTATION

*James Hu and Grace Hu
Southeastern Louisiana University
jhu@selu.edu*

TUTORIAL ABSTRACT

This tutorial describes a simple computerized pictorial attendance system for roll calling and record keeping. During the first week of a new semester, a digital camera takes pictures of all students in a class. The picture-taking process is easy and quick and is complete for the whole class in less than fifteen minutes. If a student wishes to submit his or her own picture, the picture can be converted to a digital picture using a scanner. Either method or a combination of the two methods is used to generate digital pictures. These digital pictures ultimately comprise the new pictorial class roll. For the entirety of the semester, this pictorial class roll is used to take daily attendance and to record the attendance information.

During routine roll calling, the pictorial class roll is displayed on the computer monitor for the instructor to view and to record the attendance information online. If a PC-based projection system is available, the pictorial class roll can also be projected on a large screen for students to view. Some benefits of this electronic pictorial class roll are listed below:

1. Improves the teacher-student relationship.

Learning and using students' names is imperative to improving the teacher-student relationship. Remembering students' names and faces is difficult, especially in a large-sized class. This pictorial class roll can be viewed in the instructor's office to facilitate the recall of student names and faces. Frequent use of student names without the embarrassment of inaccurate recall enhances the teacher-student relationship. Remembering and using names creates an atmosphere that is conducive to teaching effectiveness.

f. Improves the student-student relationship.

The projection of the pictorial class roll on a large screen helps students to remember other students' names and improve the student-student relationship.

- g. Improves student attendance and behavior.

Because of the display of the pictorial class roll on a projection screen, absences are especially conspicuous. Students will feel more motivated and are more likely to attend class. This pictorial class roll system also helps eliminate substitute test-takers in large classes.

To implement this electronic pictorial class roll system, one needs a digital camera or a scanner, a PC or a PC-projector, and Excel or Lotus 1-2-3. These items are relatively inexpensive and are commonly available instruction tools in a classroom. This tutorial will demonstrate the steps required for creating and for using this pictorial class roll system.