Lullabies only, please

The university backs up our computers every night, and it can only do that if our computers are either on or asleep. If a computer is turned off, the system can’t get at it to back it up.

The gamblers among us can turn off our computers most nights and leave it asleep once or twice a week.

However! If you manually back up your computer to netdrive.uvic.ca, then it is safe to turn off your computer at night.

A sleeping computer uses a tiny fraction of the electricity sucked up by a waking one.

Teaching

Innovation is a great concept, but there’s no need to reinvent the wheel. Gustavson Assistant Professor Liana Victorino has discovered that when it comes to jacking up sustainability and ethics content in her COM 341 Operations Management course, she doesn’t even have to change the tire!

Dr. Victorino has been using the textbook Operations Management by Jay Heizer and Barry Render for years now and in the recent 10th edition, the authors supply ever more ethics and sustainability examples.

“We can’t talk about being more efficient and not realize that it goes beyond just numbers,” says the award-winning teacher. “Ethics and sustainability are important considerations in operations management and are constantly coming up in classroom discussion. As a result, almost every chapter of the class textbook has a special section dedicated to ethics and responsibility. For example, the authors talk about environmental implications of product design and production to the disassembly and disposal stages.”

Because the subjects are well integrated throughout the text, they are always at the top of students’ minds.

“They will bring up ethics and sustainability issues on their own,” Victorino says. “It adds great value to classroom discussion.”

When Victorino mentioned just-in-time systems, for instance, the students raised potential sustainability effects with regard to supply chain management.

“It shows me they’re thinking and caring about these important issues,” she says.

Textbooks like Heizer and Render’s are a boon because the truckloads of examples let Victorino map her course and navigate new content more efficiently – while staying firmly in the driver’s seat.

Clean technology

Walmart makes decisions to use clean technology on the old-fashioned bottom line, and it’s planning to keep adding to its solar power.

Closer to home, Colwood’s Royal Bay Bakery makes cupcakes with energy it generates from its rooftop PV array.

Social enterprise

Businesses or not-for-profits: car share companies ramp up the action. This Tyee story and this Vancouver magazine article explain.