# Zebu: WWW-based Educational Groupware

Esther L. Tiessen & Douglas R. Ward

MC2 Learning Systems Inc.

Simon Fraser University

Burnaby BC Canada

A major goal of the ALiVE! (Active Learning in Virtual Environments) Project is to design and develop network-based tools that support teachers and students in collaborative project-based learning. Zebu is a web-based educational groupware application which allows teachers and students to create, publish, and participate in interactive, online projects both in their classrooms and around the world. The development of Zebu has been a joint venture between members of the ALiVE! Project research team at Simon Fraser University and MC[2] Learning Systems, Inc.

In this demonstration, we would like to demonstrate the Zebu software and highlight three of our design goals for the software:

*1. take advantage of networked technologies to support communication, cooperation, and collaboration within one seamless environment.*

Zebu, provides project structures for sharing student work, embedded discussion facilities, shared reference collections of information resources, and shared collections of multimedia components for students to use in constructing their own representations.

*2. support progressive discourse, in which students are engaged in sustained activities that build on the work that students have already done.*

With Zebu, students have ongoing access to representations of their own work and that of their peers, and can build on these representations in ongoing activities.

*3. provide teachers with a flexible environment in which they design a learning environment for their students.*

In Zebu, teachers can create project structures to coordinate student activities, templates to scaffold students' construction of representations, and collections for information resources for students to access for their own constructive work.

As part of the demonstration, examples of student and teacher work will be shown.