



Technology in Teaching & Research Webletter

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2009

Introducing the Faculty of Education's Technology Webletter

Inside this issue:

INTRODUCING THE TECHNOLOGY WEBLETTER	1
START GRANT INFORMATION	1
TECHNOLOGY FOR QUALITATIVE RESEARCH	2
CLICKERS & EPORTFOLIOS IN THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION	2
GRANT OPPORTUNITY: TLEF	2
VIDEOCONFERENCING IN THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION	3
A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST IT	4
WELCOME THE FACULTY'S NEW WEB ADMINISTRATOR	4
WHO'S WHO IN TECH PD	5
TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AND IMPORTANT CONTACTS	6



Dr. Joyce Bainbridge is the Vice Dean and Chair of Tech Council.

Welcome to the Faculty of Education's first Technology Webletter! The idea for this webletter was generated in response to feedback collected from the Faculty's recent Technology Survey. The survey revealed that staff members are very interested in learning about technology initiatives in the Faculty. This webletter will serve to draw attention to these technology initiatives through regular communi-

cations that will occur throughout the year. The ultimate goal is to keep you in the loop about the work that is being done in the Faculty and to inform you about opportunities for involvement. This particular issue of Technology in Teaching & Research contains information about technology grants, technology tools for qualitative researchers, and videoconferencing facilities in the Faculty. Our experience has been that those who have accessed START grants, used qualitative research software packages, or the Faculty's vid-

eoconferencing facilities have found them to be invaluable in their research endeavors. So in the spirit of learning from others' successes, I invite you to find out more about how these technology related resources can benefit you. If you are interested in an area of technology that is not covered in this issue of Technology in Teaching & Research, the last page contains contact information of key technology supports you can access across campus. Best wishes and Happy New Year!

- Dr. Joyce Bainbridge

SUPPORT FOR TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT in RESEARCH on TEACHING

The Support for Technology Advancement in Research on Teaching (START) grant is just one way the Faculty of Education supports technology related research. The grant was founded in 2007 and was designed to fund the costs associated with conducting technology integration research projects in Faculty of Education programs. The grant is open to application by all Faculty of Education continuing tenure-track faculty members. For information about how to apply for a START grant visit <http://tiny.cc/2inxX>

START Grant Recipients 2008

M. Carbonaro et al.

Developing, implementing and evaluating a wiki-based collaborative tool in an online graduate course

M. Doherty et al.

Graduate Students' Experience with Wimba Voice Technology

START Grant Recipients 2007

P. Boechler

Developing and evaluating improvements to an on-line graduate course using psychological, research-based design principles for e-learning

C. Leroy

Interactive whiteboards in pre-service education and the nature of teaching elementary Language Arts

Did you know the following are available from IRS?

- VIDEO CAMERAS
- WIRELESS REMOTES
- SMART BOARDS
- DATA PROJECTOR & SCREEN
- COMPUTER
- OVERHEAD PROJECTOR
- TRANSCRIBER
- DVD/ VHS/ TV
- TAPE RECORDER

Technology for Qualitative Research

“THANKS
YOU SAVED
ME TIME
AND MONEY!”

In October the Technology Professional Development unit, the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology (IIQM) and the Department of Educational Policy Studies joined forces to offer a much needed information session about software applications that are available for qualitative research. Dr. Lisa Given, the director of IIQM,

delivered the seminar as part of the Educational Policy Studies Friday Forum, which is held every last Friday of the month. With nearly 40 people in attendance, Dr. Donna Chovanec a key organizer of the event noted that this seminar was the best attended Friday Forum offered to date. This is a real testament of the importance of this topic for our faculty.

Charmaine Brooks a PhD candidate in the Department of Secondary Education who attended the session found it very valuable. At the end of the session she commented “Thanks! You just saved me a lot of time and money! Al-

though I had spent some time beforehand checking out the various software options online, the session helped me sift through the different features, benefits, disadvantages of each one.” In addition she really appreciated Dr. Lisa Given’s stance that “software will not make you a brilliant researcher.”

Tracy Johnson, the coordinator of the Technology Professional Development unit was very happy with how the session went. She commented that “we are very lucky that IIQM is on our campus and that we have access to someone as knowledgeable as Lisa. I would not hesitate to

refer anyone who comes to Tech PD with questions about technology for qualitative research to IIQM.” IIQM offers training sessions and support for faculty and students who are using software in their work. If you are interested in finding out more about training sessions you can email IIQM at:

qualitative.institute@ualberta.ca.

“SOFTWARE
WILL NOT
MAKE YOU
A BRILLIANT
RESEARCHER”

ePortfolios & iClickers in the Faculty

ePortfolio Pilot Update

Tech PD will be piloting WordPress ePortfolios with 4 instructors this winter term. The Technology PD unit will support the use of ePortfolios by: developing tutorials to help students get started and get “unstuck”, providing direct support to instructors, and encouraging instructors to schedule a series of drop-in help sessions where students can get help with their ePortfolios. If you would like more information contact Jeff Warner. Alternatively, if you wish to view a sample ePortfolio simply visit the website below.

www.techpdtest.wordpress.com.

iClicker Update

Every AICT managed SMART classroom on campus has now been equipped with an iClicker receiver. If you would like a demonstration of how the system works contact the Technology PD unit. If you would like to try out iClickers in a teaching situation the Technology PD unit has a set of iClickers that can be borrowed for a class, week, or entire term. Alternatively, instructors can have a Tech PD facilitator come into their class and do an in-class iClicker demonstration. Visit the Tech PD website for more information.

www.ualberta.ca/~edtechpd

Grant Opportunity: TLEF

The Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund (TLEF) supports innovative projects that focus on integrating teaching and research to create exceptional learning experiences for students at the University of Alberta. The fund has two levels of funding, Professional Development and Special Projects or Research. Applicants for Professional Development are accepted on an ongoing basis. The deadline for submitting a Research Project Proposal to the Dean’s office is **Wednesday January 28, 2009**. All research proposals need to be ranked by the Dean’s office prior to being submitted to the Office of

the Provost and Vice-President (Academic). Applications are invited from University educators including: sessional instructors, faculty lecturers, tenured faculty, librarians, and other members of the academic staff who offer teaching and learning sessions for students. This is a great opportunity for instructors and researchers to access a grant that supports technology related initiatives. If you plan to include technology in your research proposal and require assistance contact DTE or the Technology PD unit. For more information visit: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/provost/tlef.cfm

Videoconferencing in the Faculty of Education



Videoconferencing was first introduced to the Faculty of Education around 2000 with Dr. Craig Montgomerie's Rural Advanced Community of Learners (RACOL) project. The purpose of the RACOL project was to develop a model of teaching and learning that exploited the potential of videoconferencing to reach rural areas of Alberta. The state of the art videoconferencing suite that was created for the project had a large rear projection Smartboard, a document camera, and excellent audio and video capabilities. At RACOL's official Launch Dr. Montgomerie, (now Professor Emeritus of the Educational Psychology Department) commented that, "Through this project, we want to provide the best possible learning experience for students. We are starting with students in northern Alberta and hope to eventually expand to students in remote schools across Canada and abroad. We expect this project will set a new standard for distance education."

Dr. Montgomerie's legacy is living on through 2Learn's Videoconferencing Regional Leads Network (VCRLN),

which continues to support the work he started.

When the 5-year RACOL project ended, the videoconferencing suite became available for use by the faculty. The videoconferencing suite, which is located in Education North 3-105A and is known as the Cyberport, can be booked through DTE. The room is currently equipped with POLYCOM VSX-7000e codec, two ceiling microphones, a rear projection SMART Board, and has a new video projector mounted on the ceiling. The Cyberport is set up for individual use or groups of no more than 10 people. A second videoconferencing suite was funded through a grant that was earned by Dr. Sue Gibson of Elementary Education. The room is located in room 3-119 Education North and depending on the room layout, can hold groups as large as 45 people.

Several clients are now using the facility on a regular basis. In the past year alone there have been over 200 uses of the Faculty of Education videoconferencing suites. Connections have been made to far off places such as Australia, New Zealand, India, Philippines, Brazil, Norway and Ireland. In addition, Herb Rupp, DTE's main videoconferencing contact, has connected to most universities across Canada and several sites in the United States.

There have been many interesting uses of the Cyberport over the past couple of years. Josh Claussen from

CFRN Weather has used the videoconferencing suite to reach schools in the Grand Yellowhead region. Through the use of the Smartboard he was able to have the students interact with a weather lesson as he demonstrated it here on campus. In addition, Marty Chan regularly uses videoconferences to connect with students about writing and story telling. One of the most interesting uses has been with the NASA simulation centre. Students were tasked with handling the emergency response of an island population that had a volcano and a hurricane occurring simultaneously. The students were given data from which to develop a plan that would 'save' the majority of the population. The realism that the NASA presenter provided was fantastic. Currently we have the Science FUNdamentals (Faculty of Science) using the suite to demo science topics to several aboriginal schools throughout northern Alberta. It is very interesting what a little oil and water with food colouring and a little anti-acid pill can do.

If you want to learn more about this service please check the following URL, <http://tiny.cc/DTE>. Herb Rupp provides support for the facilities and is available for consultations, bookings and training.

Herb Rupp
herb.rupp@ualberta.ca
Education North 3-110A

Videoconferencing Resources

VC Alberta

www.vcalberta.ca

VCAAlberta.ca is your one stop videoconferencing resource in Alberta. It helps you find and connect to other sites in Alberta's K-12 and post secondary system. Highlights of the site include, tools, resources, best practice videos, research, and a social network where educators, technical personnel and administrators can connect to others across the province.

VC Regional Leads Network

www.2learn.ca/VCRLN/

The Alberta Video Conference Regional Leads Network is a program established by Alberta Education and administered by the 2Learn.ca Education Society. The purpose of the VC Regional Leads Network is to support Video-Conferencing enabled learning across Alberta's K-12 Education System. The Regional Leads Network provide expertise within regions and throughout the province, to supplement professional growth of videoconferencing practice in individual jurisdictions.

A Message from the Office of the Provost (IT) & External Relations

A New Content Management System for the University!

For over five years, the University of Alberta has been using a web content management system (CMS) developed in-house by Creative Services. More than 200 websites across faculties, departments and service units now publish their web pages using this system.

“THE CONTRACT WITH SITECORE NON-LINEAR CREATIONS (NLC) WILL BEGIN A NEW ERA IN WEB PUBLISHING AT THE UNIVERSITY.”

With the popularity of new web 2.0 features and the need to incorporate content scheduling, workflows and other functionality, it is not practical to commit the resources required to upgrade our current CMS to support these technologies, while still providing the high-quality

web publishing service expected by the university.

A decision was made in 2007 to engage in a competitive bid process for a commercial CMS to become the new University of Alberta standard. This process, managed by a CMS Committee and sponsored by the office of the vice-president (external relations) and the office of the vice-provost (information technology), has resulted in the selection of a new CMS for the university.

The contract with the Sitecore/Non-Linear Creations (NLC) team will begin a new era in web publishing at the university. Sitecore CMS is the tool on which we will build our web platform, and NLC is the consultancy team that will assist with the implementation. The Creative Services web team will manage the new CMS.

Sitecore/NLC personnel will be training Creative Services staff this fall and several pilot sites will be built in Sitecore starting in November. Pilot sites include ExpressNews and the Faculty of Arts, followed by ul-

berta.ca (the homepage and top level pages), and the U of A Web Project site. The initial focus of the pilots will be on central and faculty websites.

New university web clients (and existing CMS clients that wish to migrate to Sitecore CMS) will be scheduled starting as early as January 2009. Websites in the new Sitecore CMS will be based on the new templates developed by Creative Services. A Sitecore CMS training program will be created as a partnership between Creative Services and the Technology Training Centre.

On behalf of the CMS Committee, we would like to thank the members of the University of Alberta campus community (especially in IT and communications) who provided valuable insight to this process.



Jonathan Schaeffer, the Vice-Provost (Information Technology)

A Few Benefits of Sitecore CMS

Intuitive Editing

operates similar to the Microsoft Office 2007 “ribbon-style” functionality

Multi-site Deployment

manage multiple sites and share content, code and processes across sites

Repackaging Of Content

repurpose content for multiple formats, from PDA viewing to RSS feeds

Scheduling

assign dates for content to be automatically posted or removed

A Warm Welcome To The Faculty's New Web Administrator!

Michael Fulton, the Faculty's new Web Administrator



Michael Fulton will be one of the key players in the Faculty of Education working directly with the university's new web content management system (CMS). Michael joined the Faculty of Education on November 17th as the Faculty's new Web Adminis-

trator. He comes to us from the Faculty of Engineering where he was Web and Marketing Coordinator. Michael will be working with several people and departments in the Faculty to revamp the Faculty's web presence and transition the

Faculty onto the university's new web content management system. He will be the main point of contact for all website related inquiries. Michael can be contacted via email at the following address.

michael.fulton@ualberta.ca

Who's who in the Technology PD Unit?

Technology PD facilitators provide Faculty of Education employees with advice and support regarding their use of technology in teaching, research, and administration. The unit provides professional development for

eClass (formerly Blackboard and WebCT Vista 4), Elluminate, SMART boards, web 2.0 tools, e-portfolios, iClickers, podcasting, and research posters. Staff can meet with a facilitator one-on-one, in small groups, or

even request a workshop for a specific need. This unit is also the main point of contact for mobile lab bookings and researches and tests innovative technologies for teaching and learning. www.ualberta.ca/~edtechpd

Amy Meckelborg, Technology PD Facilitator



Amy Meckelborg taught ESL adults for over fifteen years and has used

technology in her teaching for most of that time. Ultimately, her interests led her back to the University of Alberta and she graduated with a M.Ed. in Instructional Technology in 2003. She is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the TESL program in Educational Psychology and teaches EDPY 573: Computer-Assisted Lan-

guage Learning. Her areas of interest also include multiliteracy, teacher education, instructional design, and online course development. Amy has been a part of the Tech PD team since February, 2006. She takes primary responsibility for online course development, eClass and Elluminate *Live!* support.

Jeff Warner, Mobile Lab & Technology PD Facilitator



Jeff Warner has a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering (2000), a B.Ed. in

Secondary Education (2006), and is currently completing a M.Ed. In Educational Technology, from the University of Alberta. Jeff began work with Technology PD in January 2007, with his primary role being the management of the mobile computer labs. In addition to this, he contributes his

expertise in multiple eLearning areas, including projects with ePortfolios, podcasting, multimedia, screencapture, wikis and blogs. He is also active in designing and delivering workshops related to iClickers, web 2.0, SMART boards, and Lego robotics.

Tracy Boger (Johnson), Coordinator of the Technology PD Unit



Tracy Boger (Johnson) started her career as a teacher but due to her

keen interest in technology quickly became the Technology Coordinator at the High School in which she worked. This exposure to educational technology led her to enroll in the M.Ed., Instructional Technology Program at the University of Alberta which she completed in 2003. After graduating Tracy taught undergraduate univer-

sity transfer education courses at Keyano College and eventually ended up managing the Educational Technology Department there. Tracy is currently the Technology PD Coordinator in the Faculty of Education and is pursuing her PhD in the Faculty of Education.

Want to keep up with technology in the faculty?

Visit the **Tech PD Blog**

Linked from our webpage www.ualberta.ca/~edtechpd

We post 2 new articles every week. Here's a sample of some recent posts.

Scribe Post Blogs: an easy and effective way to integrate a blog into your class.

Technology and Generation Differences: consider how the youth of today are different

An international conference from the comfort of your own home: Hear about our experiences

Technology is just a tool: True or False?

eClass: an LMS by any other name...

ePortfolios: Where to Start?: Tips on getting started

Free Online Screencasting: a great way to capture content from your computer screen

Trailfire: an easy tool for navigating webpages in class

Open Source Software: consider the possibilities



Technology Resources For Faculty of Education Staff

Faculty of Education Technology Support

Division of Technology in Education

(DTE) <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/dte/>

Planning & Purchasing

Ed Rodgers, Director, ed.rodgers@ualberta.ca, 492-5900

Jackie Verkland, Admin. jackie.verkland@ualberta.ca, 492-3667

Desktop Support

Windows: Vladimir Bado, vladimir.bado@ualberta.ca, 492-8216

Windows: Chris Ussher, christianne.usscher@ualberta.ca, 492-6172

Macintosh: Jules Mounteer, jules.mounteer@ualberta.ca, 492-8275

Video Conferencing

Booking- Jackie Verkland, jackie.verkland@ualberta.ca, 492-3667

Technical support- Herb Rupp: herb.rupp@ualberta.ca, 492-5171

Network Services

Bob Bolt, bob.bolt@ualberta.ca, 492-3926

Database Support and Administration

Arthur Schultz, arthur.schultz@ualberta.ca, 492-3994

Justin Abraham, justin.abraham@ualberta.ca, 492-5016

Technology PD & Mobile Labs

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~edtechpd/>

Tracy Boger, Coordinator of Technology PD

Tracy.Boger@ualberta.ca, 492-7121

Amy Meckelborg, Tech PD Facilitator

amy.meckelborg@ualberta.ca, 492-7356

Jeff Warner, Mobile Labs, Tech PD Facilitator

jeff.warner@ualberta.ca, 492-7355

For more details see page 5 of this Newsletter!

Instructional Resource Services (IRS)

<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/dte/irs.cfm>

Adam Reymon, Supervisor,

adam.reymon@ualberta.ca, 492-3995

Instructional Resource Services (IRS) loans out audiovisual, television, and computer equipment to staff and students.

Centrally Supported Services: Academic Information and Communication Technologies

(AICT) <http://www.ualberta.ca/AICT/>

Computing ID/Password: http://www.ualberta.ca/AICT/policy/aict_computing_IDs.html

Nada Walter, nada.walter@ualberta.ca, 492-0400, 301 General Services Building

AICT Help Desk: <http://www.ualberta.ca/HELP/>, 492-9400, (for problems regarding centrally supported services)

AICT Instructional Labs: <http://www.ualberta.ca/AICT/labs/> (information and booking)

eClass: <http://www.ualberta.ca/elearning>

U of A WebMail: <https://webmail.ualberta.ca/>

Site-Licensed Software: <http://www.ualberta.ca/AICT/SITE/>

Smart Classrooms: <http://www.ualberta.ca/AICT/ITE/smartclass/>

IDQ/Test Scoring and Questionnaire Services (TSQS): <http://www.ualberta.ca/AICT/TSQS/>

Plotter/Posters (Large Format Printing): <http://www.ualberta.ca/webplot>