



Technology in Teaching & Research Webletter

FACULTY OF EDUCATION



Volume 2, Issue 1

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A Message From the Vice Dean



Dr. Joyce Bainbridge is the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Education.

Welcome to the Fall 2009 term! I hope the summer was both restful and productive and that the new term finds you with renewed energy and enthusiasm. We certainly have a lot to look forward to in terms of technology integration and you will find information about some of it in this edition of the Technology in Teaching and Research Webletter.

You can read about a group of staff members from the faculty who, back in June, visited Hardisty School to tour their facilities

and observe how technology was being used to address the learning outcomes in their school. We have been invited to return later in the fall with a second group and I would encourage anyone who is able to participate to do so. It was a truly interesting and enjoyable morning.

Our faculty is also getting a little 'smarter.' A new Smart Board was installed in the Secondary Education CTS lab this summer and two more are currently being installed in the Elementary Education Social Studies classroom and in room B-117. As you will read on page 3, an exciting development for Technology PD is that instructors are forming small groups around the use

of the Smart Board to support their own professional development in the use of this technology.

You should also be aware that, to bring the Faculty's committees and councils in alignment with Faculty of Education policy, the Council for Technology in Education was dissolved in June and has been replaced by the Technology Advisory Board. This Board will continue to monitor and provide direction to the Faculty as we continue to grow and develop our capacity to integrate technology into our teaching and research.

Best wishes for a fruitful term.

Joyce Bainbridge

Taste of Technology

Presented by University Teaching Services (UTS) and the Online Program Support Group (OPSG), The Taste of Technology, held in the Telus Center on August 13, 2009, was a *delicious* success. If you were able to attend, you know that it provided a tantalizing smorgasbord of the many ways instructors on campus are engaging their students through the integration of technology.

The event was kicked off by a well-received keynote address by Dr. Tom Reeves from the University of Georgia. Dr Reeves' presentation, *The Challenges and Opportunities of Online and Blended*

Learning Environments for 'Generation Me' Students, challenged popular claims of the "Net Gen," asked thought-provoking questions and provided suggestions



regarding the direction education needs to go to address 21 Century learning.

Following the keynote, attendees nibbled on a luncheon buffet and explored the exposition of 23 displays

and multi-media presentations from a number of faculties across campus. The faculty of Education was represented by two displays. Patricia Boechler and her colleagues presented the work they have been doing with Second Life in "Using Virtual Worlds for Communication Skills Instruction in Health Science Education" and Tech Pd was on hand with a display on the "WordPress ePortfolio Pilot in Secondary Education."

Hopefully this will be an annual event so keep your eyes and ears peeled for news of next year's Taste of Technology.

Amy Meckelborg

Hardisty School Welcomes Faculty of Education

In early June, eight members of the faculty spent the morning as guests at Hardisty Junior High School. We were invited to view the results of a process, started a few years ago, that has led to an increase in technology integration into the teaching and learning processes. All who attended were impressed by the passion of the teachers and Principal and by the powerful journey they shared with us.

It started, as good teaching does, not with technology, but with the desired learning outcomes. The first year was spent with the staff working together to hammer out the Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs). Once these were clear, they began looking at where and how technology might help them to accomplish those outcomes. The more tech savvy teachers became the leaders and the support-providers for the less technically inclined teachers. The integration of technology was not required but, because of the collaborative culture, more teachers became interested. Professional Development for the teachers was 'job embed-

ded' that is, they were and continue to be given time to participate in the collaborations and training/support. Because it is such a collaborative effort, they find there is an "internal accountability" as teachers do not want to let their peers down. In fact, everyone we spoke to suggested that the collaborative nature of the process has been critical to its success.

In terms of the technology provided, it began with building an extensive infrastructure. Wireless access to the Internet is available to all students and staff in the school. Students are free to use their own personal devices including a laptop, iPhone or iTouch. School owned computers are available in multiple labs and on a mobile lab equipped with 30 laptops. There was also one grade 7 class that was participating in a one-to-one laptop program funded by a grant from Alberta Education's Emerge program. At the beginning of the year, these students were issued a laptop computer which was theirs to use both at school and at home for the entire year. The school also has

Smart technologies such as Smart Boards, Smart Response (clickers) and Smart document cameras integrated throughout the subject areas, grades and programs.

Teachers talked about seeing a shift in their teaching. The changes seemed to be not so much a result of the *technology*, but of the process they underwent and the fact that the *technology* allows them to teach differently. Because they have a deeper understanding of the ELOs, they said they are more confident in the curriculum. This frees them from being limited by a package of content that they reuse every year and allows them to be more responsive to students' needs and interests. They are using more and more varied resources and they notice more buy-in from students because they can clearly explain why they are doing what they are doing. They can also give students the freedom to select the methods they want to use to demonstrate their knowledge.

Effects of the program have been reflected in student achievement. The Principal reported that A students have

not been affected by the integration of technology; they are still A students. However, weaker students have improved significantly. They are more likely to choose alternative project types and to be more successful with them. A resulting increase in self-confidence and /or self image also has a positive effect. Overall, the school has seen improved scores on the grade 9 Provincial Assessment Tests since this project began.

The principal, staff, and students of Hardisty School were very welcoming and enthusiastic about sharing their experiences. In fact, the principal, Al Lowrie issued an open invitation to anyone in the faculty who is interested in doing research with the school. There are plans in the works for another tour later in the fall. If you are interested in participating, let Joyce Bainbridge know and be sure you don't miss out. We all agreed it was one of the most interesting and worthwhile mornings we'd had in a while.

Amy Meckelborg

University Wireless Service in Education South Building

Our Education South building is scheduled to have University Wireless Service (UWS) completed in late September. It appears to be on track and the sound of drilling within the building can be heard on various

floors. The schedule can be tracked at <https://www.aict.ualberta.ca/units/uws/182>. The UWS wireless project is supported financially by the office of the Vice-Provost Information Technology. The implemen-

tation strategy for Wireless coverage across the University has been on a two to four year timeframe. The Education North wing was completed in November 2007, so we will have wireless throughout the Educa-

tion Complex shortly.

For technical support connecting to the UWS wireless visit http://helpdesk.ualberta.ca/UWS/uws_connect/.

Ed Rodgers

Interactive Whiteboards

The use of interactive whiteboards (of which SMART Board is the most popular in Alberta) has increased in the past year within the Faculty of Education. One contributing factor to this increase was the purchase of a rear-projection SMART Board by the Language Arts group within the Department of Elementary Education. This summer the CTS group in Secondary Education and the Social Studies group in Elementary Education also purchased SMART Boards. Additionally any faculty instructor can book a portable SMART Board from IRS to be delivered to their classroom.

This past January the EDEL Language Arts group asked Tech PD for training for their new SMART Board. However after assessing the needs of the instructors, a

slightly different direction was taken for professional development. The instructors met with Tech PD Facilitator Jeff Warner for a regular, recurring professional learning meeting. The structure of the meetings was such that the instructors would share any difficulties or questions they had encountered when teaching with the SMART Board, Jeff would then explore potential solutions or research these topics for the next meeting. The second half of the meeting involved several instructors presenting examples of what they were doing in the classes with the SMART Board.

The feedback of the EDEL Language Arts instructors in regards to this format of PD was very positive. It gave both the instructors and Tech PD time to explore issues and share ideas over the

course of a semester and it encouraged trying new things based on examples and feedback. The same group plans to continue this professional learning format in the Fall 2009 semester. The EDEL Social Studies and Art Instruction groups will also be forming similar professional learning teams.

These groups are open to having other instructors who are interested in exploring SMART Board use in the classroom join their meetings. If you would like to join one of the existing groups, contact Jeff Warner in Tech PD to be put in touch with the appropriate people. If you wish to receive professional development training or support in regards to interactive whiteboards, you are welcome to contact Tech PD.

Jeff Warner

Tech PD New Staff Member

As you get settled into the new academic year, TechPD would like to introduce our newest staff member:



Margaret Rhodes.

While Tracy Boger is away on maternity leave, Margaret joins Amy Meckelborg (Acting Coordinator)

and Jeff Warner to provide the Faculty of Education with technology professional development. Margaret has extensive experience as an Instructional Designer in Post-Secondary environments and is excited to be back in the Faculty of Education and at the University of Alberta. If you are considering adding web components such as eClass and/or eClass Live to your course or creating a fully online course, Margaret would be pleased to assist you. To set up an appointment email Margaret at mrhodes@ualberta.ca or call (780) 492-7121.

Education Centre Smart Classrooms

There are three Education South classrooms (107, 128, 254) being "smartened" by AICT. Construction by Chandos has been going on throughout the summer to re-vamp these rooms as smart classrooms. Like other smart classrooms across campus, technology to aide instruction will be in place. Wayne Lamoreaux of the AICT classroom Technologies Unit, states that they are a bit behind but will be installing audio visual equipment shortly. So be aware that these rooms will be coming online.

Ed Rodgers

TECHPD BLOG SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, July 10, 2009

VoiceThread to Develop Community Online

I was recently digging around some of my delicious bookmarks and came across a few resources on a popular educational tool called VoiceThread. If you find the discussion tool in eClass limiting, you might want to explore VoiceThread as an alternative.

Tuesday, August 04, 2009

Tracy's Farewell

Well fellow bloggers the time has come for me to bid you farewell!

As many of you know I am pregnant and expecting twins this fall. Although this is certainly wonderful news, it will unfortunately result in me taking a temporary hiatus from the Tech PD blog as I

expect to be on leave for approximately 15 months. You can rest assured however that you will be in very good hands while I am gone!

Friday, August 28, 2009

Preparing for H1N1

Welcome to the beginning of the Fall term. This year, along with the anticipation of a new term comes some concern about the risk of an outbreak of the H1N1 influenza virus on campus. The University of Alberta's 'Risk Management Services' is maintaining a website with information for staff and students about the virus and links to sources of more detail.

To read the complete blog posts go to <http://edtechpd.blogspot.com>

Audio Recording

DTE and Tech PD have noticed an increase in the number of instructors who are recording audio files for their courses. Many of these instructors have commented that it is difficult to produce a decent quality audio recording due to ambient noises or poor equipment.

To address this a room in the basement of Education North has been made available that has special material on the walls and ceiling to provide good quality audio recordings.

Installed in this room are: a Windows computer, a microphone attached to this computer via a sound mixer, as well as a webcam and speakers. Installed on the computer are two software

programs: Audacity and Camtasia Studio. Audacity is a sound recording program; Camtasia is a screen video recording and editing program. Instructors can also bring their own laptops to the room.

The audio recording room is booked through Instructional Resource Services (IRS), which



is located in room B-111.

Andy Paley in IRS is the main contact responsible

for the audio recording room. If you would like professional development support on using recording software or consultation regarding the use of audio/video in your teaching or research contact the Tech PD unit.

Jeff Warner

The Fishbowl

Located in room 3-106 in Education North, the Fishbowl is a fully equipped Digital Video Editing Suite. The original equipment was purchased by Dr. Craig Montgomerie with funding from the Netera project in the late 1990's. DTE has maintained and upgraded it since. It is available to academics and graduate students and can be booked through Jackie Verkland, jackie.verkland@ualberta.ca (492-3667).

The core uses of the room are the creation of original video content, conversion of existing analogue recordings to digital, extraction of content from DVD's, and the creation of streaming video. In addition there is audio editing hardware and software. DTE also offers a Streaming Video Server service for those who would like to make streaming content available in their courses.

It should be noted that the users are responsible for the backup of any content they create. This is usually done onto an external harddrive.

The equipment includes:

- Mac Pro with a 2TB RAID array & dual 20" displays
- Panasonic AGDV-2000 Digital Video cassette desk
- Panasonic Video monitor
- Samsung Universal PAL NTSC VCR
- Pioneer Laserdisc player
- Sony VO-9800 Video Recorder (3/4" tape)

The software includes

- Apple Final Cut Studio
- Apple iLife '09
- Toast Titanium 10
- Cinematiz pro
- MacTheRipper
- Dvd2OneX2
- Mpeg Streamclip
- Ffmpegx

Jules Munteer

One-to-One Laptop Initiative

In early 2007, Dr. Mike Carbonaro, Dr. Noella Steinhauer and Yvonne Norton were approved for a TLEF grant to implement a one-to-one laptop initiative within the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP). The goals of this project were twofold: (1) to improve access to courses and educational materials for students (2) to promote and enhance technology integration in their pre-service teacher education program. This funding provided the students in the cohort with an HP laptop and Telus EVDO satellite Internet card at the beginning of their program. The funding also provided

Blue Quills First Nations College with a SmartBoard, printer and scanner for the students and their instructors to use in their classroom at the college.

Throughout the two year project, students were able to use their laptop and Internet connection on a day-to-day basis, both in-class and as part of their student teaching. They had a mixture of face-to-face, blended and fully online courses throughout the program. The online courses were delivered via Elluminate or eClass and the blended courses were supplemented with eClass and in one instance, Ning. Most of the students were overwhelm-

ingly positive in their responses to the online courses. Many commented on the amount of time, stress and even money that they were saving by not having to drive to the college every day. Others commented on the fact that they appreciated being able to stay home with their children and save on daycare costs.

Students were also exposed to a wide range of technology tools and resources through instructors modelling them in their courses and additional technology professional development sessions that they participated in throughout the project. These PD sessions allowed the stu-

dents to be exposed to tools in a wide variety of content areas including online resources, SmartBoard applications, web 2.0 tools, assistive technologies, communication tools and key educational software such as Inspiration™, Read and Write Gold™ and Boardmaker Plus!™. As a result of this project, students have shown good progress in terms of their skill, confidence and attitudes towards technology. It has been a positive first step in exploring the role of both blended-delivery technologies and technology professional development activities within our collaborative programs.

Kim Peacock

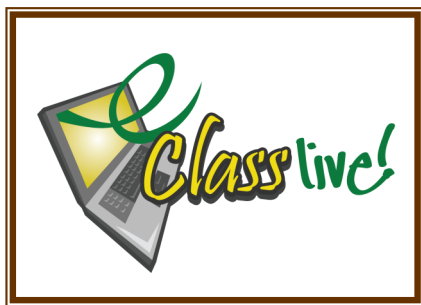
Desktop Conferencing Upgrades

This summer we saw three substantial changes to the university's online conferencing service.

Illuminate Live!, the program eLearning currently supports for online conferencing, was upgraded to version 9 bringing with it a number of new and improved features, such as:

- Up to 6 simultaneous speakers and video streams
- Text wrapping and scrolling in text boxes on the whiteboard
- Live links in the text chat
- A note taking facility
- User Profiles

The name of the University of Alberta's desktop conferencing service was changed to eClass Live! in keeping with the names of eClass (Learning Manage-



ment Service) and eCast (Podcasting service). Illuminate continues to be our service provider; however, should the University choose to change providers, the name will no longer have to change as well.

eClass Live! is accessed from within eClass, enabling instructors to have more freedom and control over the use of eClass Live! for their classes. Course instructors are able to set up and manage meetings directly within each eClass section and they automatically have moderator status in all sessions they create. Students enrolled in the course automatically have participant access to those sessions from within their eClass course.

For anyone with a U of A ccid who is not an instructor within eClass, eLearning will create an eClass Live only eClass section which will give access to eClass Live. To request this, use the online 'Request a Course' form found under the eClass tab on the eLearning

home page <http://elearning.ualberta.ca/>.

These changes have made it easier and more seamless to take advantage of the online conferencing services we are fortunate to have at the University of Alberta. You can bring guest speakers easily into a face-to-face class, provide spaces for students to collaborate online in real time, hold class sessions at a distance if you need to be away or if you are delivering your course online or in a blended fashion.

If you have any questions or if you'd like to find out more about using eClass Live! please contact Tech PD.

Amy Meckelborg

Face-to-Face Course Template

As you settle into the fall term, as an instructor, you may be starting to think about getting your course materials together for the Winter term. Have you thought about having an eClass (Blackboard VISTA) course site for your students? Have your students been requesting that they have access to course materials through the web 24/7? Where do you start? Tech PD has created course templates for classroom instructors and again will be offering workshops to help get you started.

Why Use a Faculty of Education Template?

Save Time

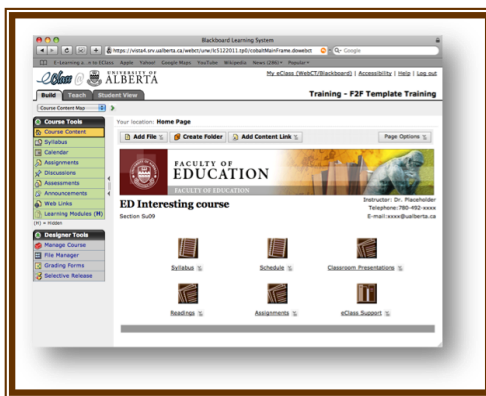
With a template the basics

for your course site have been pre-loaded. Through a series of consultations with faculty, Tech PD has identified those components most used by students and instructors and has made them available in the template. It is expected that by using a template approach your eClass development time can be reduced by up to 30%.

Focus on Content

As an instructional designer, I have spent countless hours

creating structures for housing content in a Learning Management System like eClass. The most frequently



asked questions by instructors are: What information should I put in a course site? How do I organize

the site so students can find what they are looking for? With a predetermined structure, the instructor can focus on the materials and the student needs and let the template help them organize their material.

Adaptability

Once the instructor has used the template and feels comfortable with its organization they can then begin building upon the existing structure. Tools can be turned 'on' or 'off'; folders and files can be moved, nested or removed; and images, multimedia and discussion components can be added according to the needs and wishes of the instructor.

The eClass Face-to-Face template is intended as a starting point to create a valuable resource for student learning. While it is intended to save time initially, it is not meant to curtail instructor creativity nor overshadow student needs. It is a good starting place.

Margaret Rhodes

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.ussner@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/>

Amy Meckelborg, Acting Coordinator of Technology PD

amy.meckelborg@ualberta.ca, 492-7356

Jeff Warner, Mobile Labs, Tech PD Facilitator

jeff.warner@ualberta.ca, 492-7355

Margaret Rhodes, Tech PD Facilitator

mrhodes@ualberta.ca, 492-7121

Instructional Resource Services (IRS)

<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/dte/irs.cfm>,
492-3993

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://elearning.ualberta.ca>

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://helpdesk.ualberta.ca/printing>