



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE DEAN	1
E-PORTFOLIO PILOT	2
USING DELICIOUS AS RESOURCE	
IRS NEWS	
IF I CAN DO IT, ANYONE CAN..	3
WORDPRESS WEBSITE	
TECHPD TIDBITS	
ECLASS LIVE UPDATE	4
EDUCATIONAL POTENTIAL FOR	
HANDHELD DEVICES	
DTE NEWS	5-6
VIDEO GAMING FOR TEACHING	6
AND LEARNING	
AICT DEPOT	7
PRINTER TIPS FOR MAC OS	
10.6	
TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AND	8
IMPORTANT CONTACTS	

EDUCATION QUOTES

If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow
~John Dewey

The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.
~Alvin Toffler

Do not confine your children to your own learning, for they were born in another time.
~Hebrew Proverb

A Message from the Vice Dean, Joe da Costa



Welcome back to you all! The 2010/11 academic year is shaping up to be a very exciting one for us all. For me, the learning curve in my new role has been, and continues to be, steep but very enjoyable.

Our various technology support units have been very busy imagining and implementing changes that maintain the high level of service we've all come to expect and receive while ensuring that we maximize the talents and time of the people who provide us our services. Our Technology Advisory Board has already met twice this month, once to engage in a Retreat to imagine its Vision, Mission, Values, and Principles and once for its first regularly scheduled meeting. The discussions have been very thought-provoking as are the possibilities for us as we seek innovative ways to integrate technology into our teaching, research, and service. Continuing with the excellent work that has been done in the past, I think we will see many initiatives which will enrich our work in different ways.

This year, for the very first time, we will be offering the Faculty of Education Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Use of Technology for Teaching and Learning. This new award was approved just last spring to be presented to an individual or team "demonstrating innovative use of learning technologies to support teaching and learning at the

graduate or undergraduate levels in sustainable ways that challenge instructors and students alike." Applications will be accepted from the 1st of November until the 15th of January. Please think about submitting a package or encouraging an individual or group to apply who you think ought to be appropriately recognized.

In this month's edition of the Technology Webletter we have quite a variety of interesting articles exploring technology tools already available for us to use in the faculty. These include DTE software support in the Faculty, tips for Mac 10.6 users when printing to our Xerox printers, and a new version of eClass Live. You will also find details regarding Tech Pd offerings and news, as well as latest information about the new AICT equipment depot that opened at the beginning of September. This month's Webletter highlights a variety of innovative ways our colleagues are making use of various technologies to enhance students' learning experiences. These include the new e-Portfolio initiative in Secondary Education (Dr. Norma Nocente), an iPhone application (Dr. Olenka Bilash), using WordPress as a website (Dr. Carla Peck), using "Delicious" (Dr. Linda Laidlaw), and interactive multimedia video-gaming for teaching and learning (Dr. Patricia Boechler).

I look forward to the months ahead and wish you all the very best for a successful term.

E-portfolio Pilot Project

BY NORMA NOCENTE

This year several education classes are participating in an e-portfolio project hosted by the Centre for Teaching and Learning. E-portfolios can serve many purposes but in the case of Secondary Education Introductory Professional Term (IPT) courses, students will use e-portfolios to document professional growth through the teacher education program. Students will use the e-portfolio as a digital repository for assignments (e.g. video of peer teaching and lesson plans), reflections and other artifacts they create during their field experience. The artifacts placed in the e-portfolio during the IPT will be re-visited in the Advanced Professional Term. In this sense, the e-portfolio is more than a collection of

evidence of learning, it has the potential, through reflection, to lead to deeper learning.

This pilot project uses WordPress to create the e-portfolios. WordPress is an online platform that is accessed over the internet and will work on any computer. The exploratory pilot is being conducted to help us better understand the technical implications and to determine what resources need to be in place to support both instructors and students.

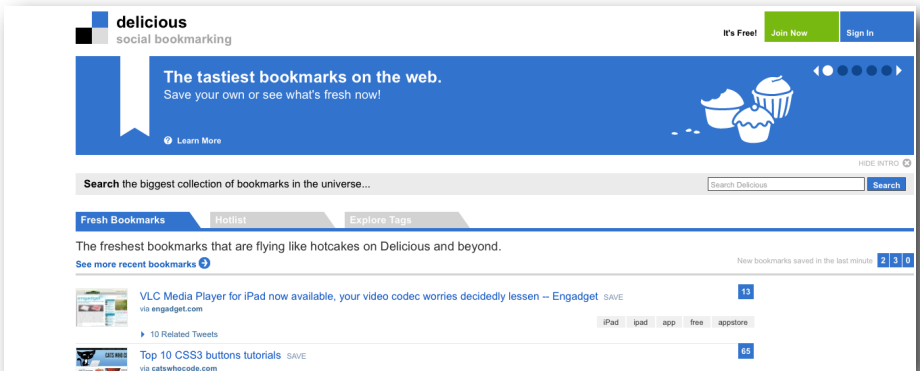
For further information please contact Norma Nocente (norma.nocente@ualberta.ca)

Using Delicious as a Classroom and Research Resource

BY LINDA LAIDLAW

Delicious <http://www.delicious.com/>

Two years ago, in a Tech PD session, I was introduced to Delicious - a bookmarking website that allows users to develop an online collection of bookmarks that can be tagged, sorted and are searchable. There are a number of benefits of using Delicious: the bookmark collection can be accessed from any computer so users can find their favourite URLs on any computer; and because the bookmark collection is stored on a specific URL, the list can be shared with others—students in a course, other instructors etc. Additionally, the user can choose to make some links public and keep others private. For example, I use one of my Delicious accounts for dual purposes, sharing general Language and Literacy links with students in my courses, and it also contains some links that I do not share, specific to some of my research projects: (<http://www.delicious.com/LandLBookmarks>).



More recently, my research assistant Suzanna Wong and I have started using Delicious as a method of sharing resources with a group of participants who have been involved in a diversity related research project. Delicious settings allow for different levels of privacy and group use: a Delicious account can be more public, or more private, only allowing for a select group of users to access it, and so can be adapted to a variety of different course or research purposes.

IRS News

BY BRIAN MACKINNON

IRS no longer books out audio-visual equipment. Please contact AICT-Classroom Technologies (see page 7). IRS responds to requests for mobile labs, some video cameras (lab format), the 4th floor lounge P.A. system and audio cassette-transcribers contained in the Faculty of Education's professional collection. Service is provided to all members of the teaching staff and to Education

students for use in courses offered by the Faculty of Education.

IRS will provide limited technical support to students working on their E-Portfolios.

We have new hours of operation:
MON-FRI, 7:30am - 3:45pm

What's that old saying? If I can do it, anyone can....

BY CARLA PECK

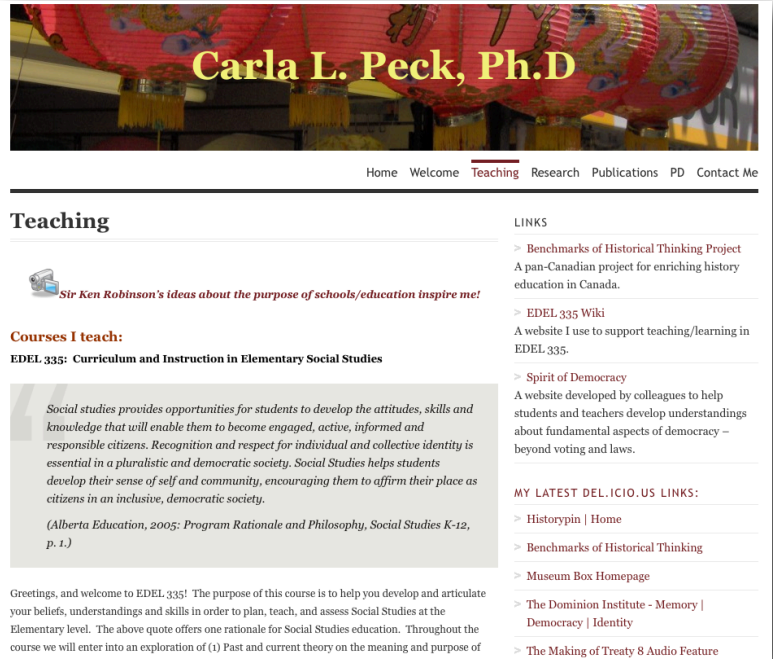


Last December I attended a two hour Tech Pd workshop on creating personal websites using WordPress (<http://wordpress.com>). I had been thinking about creating a website for sharing information about my university-related work for some time but had no idea

where to start. Lucky for me, there are hundreds (if not more) tools available on the internet for people like me – someone who wants to build a website but doesn't have the technical know-how to do so. Enter WordPress. The workshop, led by Tech PD Trainer Jeff Warner, took attendees through what I perceived to be some fairly simple steps for creating a webpage. WordPress provides a wide variety of ready-made design themes that are easy to use and customize. By the end of the two hours, I had one started and by the end of the afternoon I had it done. I was able to upload pictures, create web links, add "widgets" (content from other web pages such as Delicious.com or Twitter) and was able to do so without frustration. Actually, I quite enjoyed the process! Although WordPress is designed to be a blogging platform, I am not using it that way. It works perfectly well as a website, and is easy to edit

and update.

You can make it as simple or as complicated as you wish. Either way, WordPress is easy to use. If I can do it, anyone can. Check out my webpage: <http://carlapeck.wordpress.com/>



Tech PD Tidbits



Tech Tuesdays, our weekly drop-in sessions, are held in 3-104 Education North every Tuesday from 2:30-4:00 pm. This is a time to drop by with your questions or problems

using technology. You can also still make an appointment with one of Tech PDs staff to get one-on-one help as well.

Tech PD has been working with CTL and Secondary Ed to support the ePortfolio Pilot. See Page 2 for more details.

Since the move of the Mobile Labs to IRS, Jeff Warner has taken on the responsibility for providing training workshops on a regular basis. See our Events page: <http://www.ualberta.ca/~edtechpd/events/index.html> for details. If your group is interested in having

personalized training, contact Jeff at jwarner@ualberta.ca

Check out the Tech PD blog: <http://edtechpd.blogspot.com/> for weekly posts on current topics such as Sponsored Ning Networks and improving e-Productivity.

Amy Meckelborg (shown here on the right) is the new Coordinator of Tech PD. Tracy Boger is happily mothering her twins Emma and Ella, and will not be returning to her position.



eClass Live! Update

BY JOANNE GETZ

With the new term upon us, we are pleased to mention another new arrival on Campus. The Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) has currently implemented an upgrade to eClass Live. The new version utilized campus wide is 9.7.

Below are some of the exciting new features found in this upgrade!

- Polling buttons now located in the Participant window
- Improved audio reliability and significantly reduced audio lag for high bandwidth users
- Near lip sync with video yet significantly reduced bandwidth requirements
- A colored border now provided to identify the shared area for the host of a shared application
- A new option to “Emphasize Cursor” available for the host of the shared application where the host’s cursor will appear surrounded with a colored circle making it easier to follow
- A new copy screen panel allows moderators to easily select content from all or selected breakout rooms and copy the content into another room



- The distribution of users has two enhancements:
 - ⇒ Using new drag and drop functionality, attendees can be selected from the Participant window and moved to a new breakout room in one set
 - ⇒ Users can be given permission to move from room to room
- A new Connection Speed preference for wireless connections added to the Session Connection preferences dialog
- Multimedia window now supports the playback of WMV files

We hope these software improvements and added features assist you with greater ease of teaching. Any questions, contact Centre for Teaching and Learning for support or alternatively, please don’t hesitate to drop in on Tech Tuesdays from 2:30 – 4 PM, hosted by TechPD in Education North.

Educational Potential for Handheld Devices

BY OLENKA BILASH

Drs. Irene Cheng, Olenka Bilash, Walter Bischof, and Anup Basu secured a SSHRC grant to further understand supports needed to extend the educational potential of hand held devices. The benefits of using interactive 3D multimedia in education, especially in a role-play and game-like setting are discussed in several publications. The current trend is to transport 3D

edutainment to a more mobile setting so that it is easily accessible at anytime and anywhere. In order to provide effective support for such development, it is important to understand the user requirements and preferences. The focus of this project is not on how to make mobile 3D edutainment technology possible but on how to best assess its impact on

learners. As a result, we can discover effective ways to train users at different developmental stages to effectively use 3D multimedia in mobile edutainment.

The project engaged four students: Jessica Cardinal and Victor Wong from the Department of Secondary Education and Jonathan Clark and Alexei Abdalov from the Department of Computing Sciences. The education team designed a set of ESL activities in game format while the CS team managed the technical side. The game was tested with English teachers from Japan this summer. Results will be presented at conferences in the coming year and the knowledge gained will be used in other subject areas and for new audiences.



DTE News - Software: Installations and Procurements

BY ED RODGERS, DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

Software Program offered within Faculty:

Faculty and staff should familiarize themselves with the terms and conditions of purchasing software packages from both the UofA Microstore (<http://www.campuscomputerstore.ca/ualberta/>) and the AICT Product Sales (<http://productsales.ualberta.ca/>).

The majority of their software has to be purchased by a U of A Corporate Credit Card or with an Indent. The funds must come from a faculty or department of the University of Alberta. They try very hard to accommodate everyone, however software licensing is very specific and therefore some purchase methods are just not viable for some products. Maintaining relationships of trust with software vendors who provide us with discounts under the umbrella of strict academic usage is of utmost importance to these units.

DTE will provide assistance with Faculty-supported applications. This includes installation, basic configuration, operability troubleshooting, and basic functionality. This assistance includes the following services:

- Computer Operating Systems: Mac OSX; Windows XP, Windows 7.
- Productivity Software: Microsoft Office; FileMaker Pro
- Email Clients: Outlook; Apple Mail; ThunderBird; Entourage
- Web Browsers: Internet Explorer; Firefox; Safari

There are some limitations to DTE 's application support:

- DTE will provide assistance with unsupported applications on a "best effort" basis. This support will typically include installation, but in-depth troubleshooting will require the attention of the supplier and may incur additional costs.
- DTE will provide no support for discouraged or prohibited applications. These might include such programs that circumvent security.
- Support for University of Alberta and other centralized administrative applications is limited to support for the client software rather than the applications themselves.
- Support for advanced features or complex configurations are limited. Outside providers may have to be consulted and/or contracted by the client.

- DTE will help clients perform their job functions using computer technology but will not perform those functions. For example, DTE will not create documents or design databases or web pages for clients.

Client Responsibilities:

- Staff and faculty need to contact appropriate DTE desktop staff when they encounter difficulties with software applications.
- Staff and faculty should utilize manuals, online help systems, and other training resources for the applications they use frequently.
- Staff and faculty are responsible for purchasing software licenses and having media available (if required).
- The staff or faculty member should arrange to be present during the process.
- Clients should bring to the attention of the desktop support staff any problems that he or she may be experiencing prior to maintenance and also note if any specialized hardware or software is used with or installed in the machine.
- Faculty requiring software updates need to provide ample time for the desktop support staff member to do so. It is at the Faculty member's request that these installs or updates are performed. DTE does not push out upgrades en masse due to the consideration of individual preferences of users. In some cases, it may be necessary for clients to purchase licenses for certain software upgrades.

Faculty and staff are urged to take advantage of DTE's assistance with planning as well as keeping DTE informed about their computing issues. Staff should consult DTE before making hardware or software purchases. Some hardware or software may be unsupported, and planning assistance through DTE can reduce the likelihood of compatibility problems with existing hardware or software or having to deal with unreliable vendors. Applicants for research projects should consult with DTE to review what needs they may require to fulfill their project.

Contacting Jackie Verkland (jackie.verkland@ualberta.ca, 2-3667) in the DTE main office (3-105B) will get you directed to the correct support person.

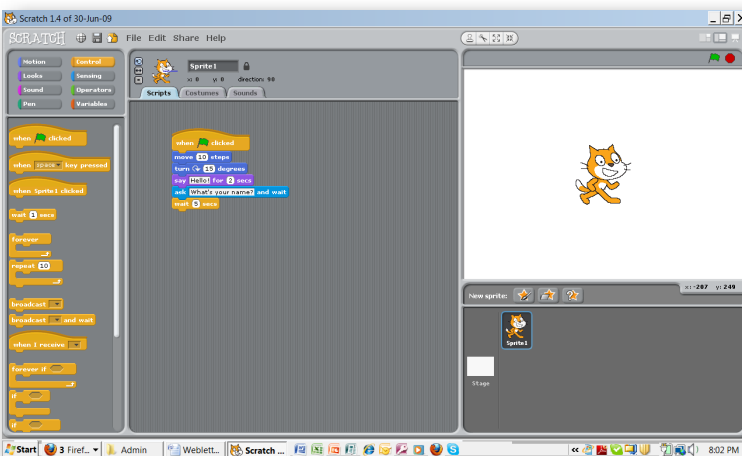
Next: Network Support and File Server Access

EDIT 486: Interactive Multimedia: Video Gaming for Teaching and Learning

BY PATRICIA BOECHLER

EDIT 486 focuses on teaching education students to teach through having their students build video games rather than playing video games. The process of building games (constructionism) engages students in learning technology, understanding programming logic, practicing complex problem-solving, careful analysis of content and being creative. The course includes readings which connect educational theory with the process of using videogames (and other multimedia) in the classroom. The course was developed and taught by myself and Mike Carbonaro for the first time in Winter 2010. Erik deJong, a masters student in the Technology in Education specialization, has been our teaching assistant right from the first class and an integral part of our success with this course.

The course developed in a rather serendipitous way as two initiatives in two separate departments (and faculties!) happened to coincide. In 2009, researchers in the Departments of Computing Science and Educational Psychology recognized the need for the camp instructors in the Computing Science Summer Camps to have knowledge of video gaming as well teaching practices with children. A collaboration was created in which students enrolled in EDIT 486 were given instruction on how to use and teach with the gaming software used in the camps (Scratch, Opensim and Kodu).



Coding using Scratch involves dragging and dropping blocks that represent motion, sound, and control elements. Before the students tackled their own Scratch projects, we had them complete twelve tutorials from the book "Scratch Programming for Teens". There are quite a number of published resources for the Scratch program including manuals and examples of games.

<http://scratch.mit.edu/>

Kodu is also an image-based programming language designed for game creation. The graphics in the Kodu program are more polished looking than in the Scratch program but the opportunities for customizing the look of the environment or characters is very limited.



The first time we offered this course in winter 2010, we used Scratch and Opensim. OpenSim did require some coding, so we had the students complete their project in pairs. The Scratch and Kudo languages were simpler and students completed their projects for these on their own. As each project was completed, we had the students present them in class. We were thrilled with how engaged the students were in the process and the finished projects were well beyond our expectations. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the presentations and the students' descriptions of how they developed and executed their ideas. Students' feedback to date shows the course is very well-received, both for its content and activities. Two education students from the Winter term class served as instructors in the summer camps this past July and August.



As the course has evolved, it has really turned into a great collaboration between the two departments. We are very appreciative of the support given to the course by the Computing Science Department, by their faculty members (Mike MacGregor- Dept. Chair, Eleni Stroulia and Janelle Harms - Summer Camp Coordinator), their technical support staff (Rod Johnson and Jonathan Martin) and their graduate student, Lucio Gutiérrez.

New AICT - Classroom Technologies Depot in Education

BY JASON ROSS

AICT – Classroom Technologies is responsible for providing audio visual equipment, Smart classroom training, videoconferencing support and technical assistance to the University of Alberta community. We now have eight locations on campus. The newest depot, in the basement of Education North, opened this September and replaces the equipment loan services previously provided to the Faculty of Education by Instructional Resources Services (IRS).

Our trained staff can help you select and operate a variety of equipment for centrally scheduled classes, seminars, meetings and staff training. Priority is given to the support of classroom activities and service is provided free of charge for 'General Faculties Approved' courses and Departmental business on campus. Student groups, conferences and off campus usage may be subject to a rental fee.

We offer a wide range of audio visual equipment including:

- data and video projectors
- 35mm slide projectors
- 16mm film projectors
- VHS players
- DVD players
- PA systems
- microphones

- flip charts
- camcorders
- document cameras
- SMART Boards

If you require a piece of equipment that is not in that list, please contact us and our staff will be glad to assist you.

Please note that we do not provide computers, laptops, Smart classroom connector cables (both VGA and audio), or Macintosh laptop VGA connector cables (aka dongles). These are the responsibility of the user to provide. 25 foot VGA and audio cables are provided with mobile projectors for use in regular classrooms.

Bookings are accepted by phone, email and in person.

Education North B-105

Phone: 780-248-1617

Email: audviseq@ualberta.ca

Web: www.aict.ualberta.ca/units/classroom-technologies/

After hours support offered until 8:00 PM
Monday to Friday 780-492-3923

If you have any questions about our services or equipment please contact us for more information.

Xerox Printer TIPS for Mac OS 10.6 Users

BY JULES MOUNTEER, MACINTOSH DESKTOP SUPPORT

If you are using a Mac running Mac OS 10.6, you may experience problems when printing to the new Xerox Printers.

Two rules to follow when printing to the Xerox Workcentres from Mac OS 10.6 are:

1. When printing web pages use Firefox.
2. When printing a PDF file use Preview.

Mac OS X 10.6 is a 64 bit operating system. The Xerox print drivers are written in 32 bit code and this creates a conflict between the printer and some of the Apple

applications. DTE asked Xerox for a new driver more than six months ago but the software developer is a busy fellow and we are still waiting. The specific component of the printer driver that does not work in 64 bit mode is the accounting part.

In general, PDF files printed from Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader are problematic with most postscript printers, not just the Xerox printers.

Microsoft Office and Apple Mail are not affected. No applications in OS 10.5 or earlier are affected.



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 Usher, christianne.usher@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

Phone 492-4337

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

Amy Meckelborg, Coordinator of Technology PD

amy.meckelborg@ualberta.ca
492-7356

Jeff Warner, Tech PD Facilitator

jeff.warner@ualberta.ca
492-7355

Instructional Resource Services (IRS)

Phone 492-3993

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

Brian MacKinnon, Supervisor

brian.mackinnon@ualberta.ca

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

Mobile Labs

<http://tinyurl.com/Educmobilelabs>

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>