

Activities and Projects Update

Part of the mission of LTA is to provide faculty with updates on programs involving both teaching with technology and assessment issues. We hope this brief overview of our activities serves to inform and also pique interest in new topics on teaching and assessment.

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FOCUS ON TEACHING SPRING 2010

Registration is open for the spring 2010 Focus on Teaching (FOT) event, scheduled for Wednesday, January 13. Chris Dede, Harvard University's Timothy E. Wirth Professor in Learning Technologies, has accepted our invitation to present the keynote address at 9:00 AM. Dede is universally known for his expertise on evolving student learning styles and the impact this evolution has on how faculty approach teaching.

The FOT Planning Committee has put out a call for proposals for the breakout sessions that follow the keynote address. Faculty are encouraged to submit a short proposal for a session dealing with teaching strategies or approaches. Past participants have commented that faculty panels are especially helpful, so consider coordinating with several department colleagues to share the presentation stage. The FOT website provides a link to the proposal outline; deadline for proposals is November 30.

We also want to encourage you to participate in the poster session that has become a regular feature of FOT. Information about poster format, ideas and submission procedures can also be found on the FOT website.

The topic for this event was selected following a faculty focus group conducted in spring 2009 and a series of meetings with faculty from various departments and schools. Faculty repeatedly stressed the need for more information about how students are changing and what teaching strategies need to be addressed in order to meet the learning needs of our current students.

Pre-registration is requested so we can determine where to hold the keynote address; we don't want to be crowded into a venue too small for the audience. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please plan to stay for the wine and cheese gathering at the end of the day during which time the poster winner will be announced and door prizes presented.

For more information, including a link to registration, call for proposals outline and poster session details, check the FOT website at: <http://www.luc.edu/learningtech/FOT1.shtml>

Upcoming Events

Collaboration in Learning:

Best Practices In the Classroom.

Nov. 18 3:30-5:00

LSC,

Information Commons 4th. floor

&

Nov. 19, 2:00-3:30

WTC,

Terry Center.

Best Practices Outside the Classroom.

Feb. 10 3:30-5:00

LSC,

Information Commons 4th. floor

&

Feb. 11, 2:00-3:30

WTC,

Terry Center.

[www.luc.edu/](http://www.luc.edu/collaborationinlearning)

[collaborationinlearning](http://www.luc.edu/collaborationinlearning).

Focus on Teaching Fall 2010

Thursday, August 19, 2010

FACULTY TO FACULTY: COLLABORATION IN LEARNING

Throughout the 2009 spring semester, representatives of the Center for Faculty Professional Development and the Office of Learning Technologies and Assessment met with groups of faculty to determine what key issues faculty pinpoint as crucial to the success of teaching and learning at Loyola. The result of these meetings is Collaboration in Learning (CinL), a year-long initiative designed to address the issues faculty identified as important in their academic lives.

The centerpiece of CinL is a series of faculty panels that cover topics ranging from planning a course to assessing student success. The sessions provide opportunities for interaction among campus colleagues, a need identified by faculty as crucial to the improvement of teaching. Four special events are also part of CinL: fall and spring Focus on Teaching events, Faculty Convocation and Academic Forum in April. Online offerings include Stories of Transformation, short video interviews with faculty, and Teaching Tips, snippets that outline suggestions for enhancing teaching.

In addition, CinL involves conversations about teaching within academic departments. Department chairs were sent a list of topics and activities that they might include in department meetings. These are designed to encourage discussion among department faculty regarding their successes and challenges teaching within the discipline. For a complete listing of CinL activities, check online at: <http://www.luc.edu/collaborationinlearning>

H1N1 Tips for course continuity:

[www.luc.edu/learningtech/
Flu_Pandemic_Course_.sh
tml](http://www.luc.edu/learningtech/Flu_Pandemic_Course_.shtml)

Exploring POSSIBILITIES

"We envision the Loyola University Chicago teaching environment as a forum for implementing excellence in pedagogically-sound methods for teaching students and assessing their learning."

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES OUTREACH

The Office of Learning Technologies and Assessment has begun an outreach effort aimed at assisting faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences with the use of technology in their courses. Each Tuesday afternoon, a member of the LTA team takes up residence in a CAS department for several hours and offers drop-in or by appointment assistance to faculty. Faculty may come with any question related to teaching with technology; frequent topics include how to use a certain feature in Blackboard to enhance a course, using Turnitin to prevent student plagiarism, using blogs or wikis in a class, or how faculty might use the new clicker system in their classroom.

Each month a staff member is available from 12:30 to 3 PM on Tuesdays in the following areas:

First Tuesday:	359 Crown Center (Dept. of Philosophy)
Second Tuesday:	966 Damen Hall (Dept. of Sociology area)
Third Tuesday:	1212 Mundelein (Fine and Performing Arts area)
Fourth Tuesday:	224 Information Commons

All faculty are welcome to drop-in to any session to ask questions or get information from a member of the LTA team. We look forward to seeing you some Tuesday afternoon!



*Fall 2009 FOT
There was an amazing turnout this August.*



*Fall 2009 FOT
Robert Rotenberg provided the keynote*

BACKING UP YOUR BLACKBOARD GRADE CENTER

It's a good practice to keep your data backed up in case anything should happen to your computer. It's also a good idea to keep your Blackboard Grade Center backed up in case there are network issues that prevent you from connecting to Blackboard. Downloading a copy of your Grade Center is easy. From your Blackboard Grade Center click the Manage button in the top center of the screen. Then select Download. Next select Full Grade Center and select Tab as the delimiter type. Once you click submit Blackboard will generate a .csv file that you can download and save to your own computer. Please check online at http://www.luc.edu/blackboard/Grade_Center.shtml for an online video tutorial.

DID YOU KNOW?

Academic Discounts

Academic discounts are available from many vendors. One question that frequently comes up is "where do we go for personal software purchases?" ScholarBuys provides discounted software for academia. From their online store at www.scholarbuys.com Microsoft products, Adobe products, anti-virus and other software can be purchased at discounted prices. In order to receive academic pricing you will need to register and verify that you are a faculty/staff member with a university-provided e-mail address and valid university ID. For more information on other academic discounts visit TechConnect at <https://myits.luc.edu/techconnect/>.

Turnitin

Turnitin is an originality checking and plagiarism prevention tool. It is used by various educational institutions throughout the world. All Loyola faculty now have access to this tool within our Blackboard system; students papers submitted via Blackboard are compared with a database of works in print and on the internet. Originality reports are generated for each assignment; these reports rate the likelihood that matching text was copied from another source. It is up to the instructor to determine the work as plagiarized if not properly cited. For more information on creating a Turnitin assignment check online at http://www.luc.edu/blackboard/Turnitin_in_Blackboard.shtml.



*Fall 2009 FOT
Faculty participation at a FOT workshop.*

Contact Us:

We are always interested in hearing from you regarding what you or your faculty are doing in the virtual and physical classroom. Please let us know how we can assist you in moving your department goals forward.

<http://www.luc.edu/learningtech>

learningtech@luc.edu