



Teaching To Learn & Learning to Teach

September 9, 2008

Volume 4 Issue 1

Inside This Issue:

- 1-2 New Services in TLC
- 3 Featured Teacher
- 4 Upcoming Events

New Services Provided at the T&LC

by Jim Robinson

There are so many developments within education that I find it difficult to keep up at times. Yet there are many salient curricular resources that are still of benefit for our students that have been left behind by the fast pace of technological change. Thus, the Teaching & Learning Center will pilot a few new services designed to bridge that gap while keeping up with the latest trends as well.

VCR Video Tape to Digital Video Conversion

Although there are probably thousands of hours of the best bits of content all across campus, the center will pilot converting a fraction of those resources into digital video on a first come first serve basis. It is a task we have done before and it is an attempt to resurrect valuable teaching resources. This form of video is ideal for those teaching in Smartboard classrooms or classrooms with projectors. One can

also check out a laptop/projector cart from Media Services for classroom viewing – no more rewinding the VCR tape. Digital video can be especially useful in Desire2Learn (D2L) as it makes the content available 24/7 to your students to preview, watch or review.

There is an issue of file size when creating video, especially if it is intended to be put online, so the length of the clip can be an issue. We have access to a streaming video server in Madison to help overcome this issue for online applications of video. In any case, storage of large files is the key issue so short clips are best. In some cases it may be necessary to break a long video up into several shorter segments to address the file size issue.

As with all forms of the content we use in the classroom, copyright and Fair Use guidelines apply to digital video.

Word/PowerPoint/Excel to .pdf File Conversion

There are times when you want content online that is in a web-ready format. You may want content in a format that cannot be edited once opened. The **portable document format (pdf)** provides these features and can often be made to have a smaller file size than the original. These files use a web browser for viewing so they will display on both pc and mac platforms. Best of all, the original document formatting is maintained during viewing *and* printing.

For word processing it means you do not have to be concerned if your students' version of Works or ClarisWorks is going to be able to open your Word 2007 document. In PowerPoint you can have

either a full slide or a handout (3 per page) pdf file created.

Creating a pdf file requires a conversion program such as Adobe Acrobat Professional (which is different from Adobe Reader). The conversion is not limited to MS Office products. Web pages and image files can also become pdfs.

Please send the file you want converted to tlc@uwp.edu and we will return the pdf version to you in the reply.

Online Data Collection, Assessment, or Surveys

This service is not so new but it has great potential. What you are provided with is a means to have a survey form online which can be submitted and the data would be returned to you in a database/spreadsheet format. Typically the output is provided in Excel, SPSS or html format depending on your needs for managing the data. You need only provide a copy of the form to the T&LC – preferably in digital format and we will convert it to html and upload it. You will be provided with the web address of the online form that you can then provide to your students.

Classroom applications of online forms have varied from formative and summative assessment to surveying. Consider if the students contribute to an online database that they later analyze in class then they have ownership of the content that is being used as part of the curriculum.

Digital Sound and Digital Video File Conversion

Recording sound in the classroom, a task that required a tape recorder, is now possible with a plug-in USB microphone and a computer. Sound Recorder is the program which does this and it is standard on UW-Parkside employee computers. It has the limitation of only saving these audio files as one particular file type – a

.wav file that can get rather large. The T&LC will convert these files to a common mp3 format - one that is significantly smaller in file size. This makes placing the content online in D2L a viable option. Alternatively, for long sound files it is possible to convert it so that it can be played using the streaming video server in Madison.

Technology Assistance

I am very pleased to report that contrary to popular opinion I, Jim Robinson, am still providing technology support to faculty and teaching academic staff. Recent requests have centered around web page development. Any past knowledge I have accumulated will not be sequestered in fulfilling my mission to improve teaching and learning at UW-P. As time passes I become less aware of the new and updated options and software that we use to support our work but please do not hesitate to sound me out about possible solutions regarding technology and teaching.

New Technology in the Classroom

Faculty will find new interface boxes in media enabled classrooms. They are making turning on the ceiling mounted projectors an easy button press – no more remote control units. Also new this year are computers called “flex machines” which replaced many of the “thin clients”. Although these machines still have no hard-drive they do allow for USB memory stick usage and run considerably faster. They will be operational in all of the SmartBoard enabled classrooms in the near future.

Best regards for the 08-09 academic year,

Jim Robinson

Featured Teacher: Jamie Wang

By Jamie Wang, Professor, School of Business & Technology

I enjoy teaching. I always felt like the luckiest person on campus not only because I very much enjoy what I'm doing, but also because I have always been blessed with the brightest and hardest working students in all my classes over the last ten years at UWP, which made my work so much easier and so much more enjoyable.

My teaching philosophy is to challenge, support, and inspire my students by delivering quality instructions, using real world cases/examples, and promoting critical and global thinking.

Challenge Students to Behave Ethically.

To succeed in today's business world, a business student must behave ethically. In order to inspire students to become an ethical leader, I use real world business ethics cases in all my classes.

Furthermore, I challenge my students to develop their own ethics cases. Many of the student cases are of such high quality that they have been used in my undergraduate and graduate classes. One ethics case was even presented at the American Accounting Association Annual Meeting.

Inspire Students to Think Globally.

Business is becoming globalized. To compete globally, one must first think globally. In order to enhance my students' global perspective, I tried to both incorporate my own international business experience and expertise as well as invite international scholars to my classes to open the eyes of my students to the global business world. One student wrote "I really enjoyed the presentation on 'Taxation in China' and look forward to the next topic on doing business in EU." Another student wrote "The presentation from two speakers regarding doing business in EU was very informative. I learned many different things

from the presentation that I was unaware of." Hearing these comments made the hours I spent grant writing to raise funds to bring these scholars to campus completely worth it.

Deliver Quality Instructions in the Classroom.

The classes I teach are some of the most difficult classes for accounting students. My goal in every lecture is to make complex concepts easy for students to understand. In today's rapidly changing business world, the instructor needs to continuously update and broaden his/her knowledge. In order to continually broaden my knowledge and perspectives, I have taken every opportunity to attend teaching-related seminars at regional, national, and international conferences, and then brought back the skills and knowledge acquired to my classroom.

Meet Students' Educational Needs.

Supporting my students in any way I can has always been a top priority. Due to the program size and the budget constraint, the department cannot possibly offer every class students desire to take. In those situations, I have tried to offer them as independent study courses, sometimes even in the summer when it was most convenient for my students.

I enjoy teaching. I enjoy the entire process of preparing for classes, developing activities and assignments that would encourage students to think critically, and interacting with my students in and out of the classroom. And when my students pass difficult professional CPA exams with flying colors and proceed to advance quickly and successfully in their careers, no one is prouder of them than I am. Their success makes the effort all worthwhile. Helping them succeed is the biggest part of why I became an educator.

Upcoming Events

September 2008

Topic	Type	Day/Date	Time	Room
Course Design and the Teaching Toolbox that Supports it. (pdf) View Handout (pdf)	New Faculty/ All Faculty & Academic Staff	R, Sept. 11	3:30 - 4:30 pm	Learning Tech Center, Wyllie D150D
Smartboards as Teaching Tools	T&L Strategies	F, Sept. 12	12:00 - 12:50 pm	CART 125
Tutoring at UW-Parkside: What's in it for Faculty and Staff? Christine Tutlewski, Sarah Everett, Kyle Czarnecki	Brown Bag	M, Sept 15	12:00 - 1:00 pm	F/S Lounge Wyllie 247
Smartboards as Teaching Tools	T&L Strategies	T, Sept 16	3:30 - 4:30 pm	MOLN 116
Smartboards as Teaching Tools	T&L Strategies	W, Sept.17	9:00 - 9:50 am	MOLN 114
Smartboards as Teaching Tools	T&L Strategies	F, Sept 26	1:00 - 1:50 pm	CART 125
What Is the Value of Graphic Displays in Learning?	Brown Bag	M, Sept. 29	12:00-12:50 pm	F/S Lounge Wyllie 247

October 2008

Topic	Type	Day/Date	Time	Room
Methods for Incorporating Graphical Elements into the Curriculum using Microsoft Word 2007	Workshop	T, Oct. 7	3:30 - 4:30 pm	Learning Tech Center, Wyllie D150D
Methods for Incorporating Graphical Elements into the Curriculum using Microsoft Word 2007	Workshop	W, Oct. 8	9:00 - 10:00 am	Learning Tech Center, Wyllie D150D

UW-PARKSIDE

Teaching and Learning Center
245 Wyllie Hall
900 Wood Road, P.O. Box 2000
Kenosha, WI 53143

TLC HOURS
Mon. through Fri.,
8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 262.595.2068
E-Mail: tlc@uwp.edu