CIT Monthly News and Events
November 4, 2008

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Upcoming CIT events and workshops: November 2008

11/11/2008  Teaching in Flexible Learning Spaces
11/12/2008  Faculty toolbox: Organizing and Sharing Web Links with Bookmarking Tools
11/13/2008  Faculty toolbox: Organizing and Sharing Web Links with Bookmarking Tools
11/18/2008  Teaching IDEAS: Fostering Teaching Improvement in a Research University
11/20/2008  Blackboard Advisory Group Meeting

To learn more or to register for any workshop, visit http://cit.duke.edu/events/calendar.do.

Faculty may request a custom workshop for their department on any instructional technology topic by emailing CIT.

CIT Open House Monday 12/8/2008

CIT will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year, starting with a Fall Open House 2 – 4 pm Monday 12/08/2008 in the CIT lab, 024 Bostock Library. Faculty from across campus are invited to attend, meet CIT staff, tour the Link Teaching and Learning Center, and learn about new technologies for teaching at Duke.

Over the years, CIT has worked with hundreds of Duke faculty on projects large and small – some of these faculty will join us to describe how their teaching has changed over the years and what they hope the future will bring.

Technology demos and tours will occur throughout the 2 hours, and refreshments will be available.
Technology demos and tours will occur throughout the 2 hours, and refreshments will be available with cake cutting at 3 pm. Registration is encouraged but not required (click here to register).

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**National Distance Learning Week sponsored by USDLA**

Sponsored by the United States Distance Learning Association, National Distance Learning Week (NDLW) held on November 10–14, 2008, seeks to promote and celebrate the tremendous growth and accomplishments occurring today in distance learning programs offered by schools, businesses, and governmental departments.

During the week of November 10–14, schools, colleges, and other organizations will be showcasing their programs for current and prospective students. Additionally, the USDLA will be conducting a series of free webinars during NDLW, showcasing various types of distance learning providers.

To view USDLA sponsored webinar and event listings and register and attend some online free sessions, visit [http://www.ndlw.org/learners.html#webinars](http://www.ndlw.org/learners.html#webinars)

Government and educational leaders throughout the country will be voicing their support for NDLW, including Massachusetts Senator, Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman of the US Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

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**Online audio recording with Wimba Voice**

If you need a way to do quick and easy audio recording online, with a minimum of equipment and set-up, you need to try Wimba Voice. Wimba Voice provides a collection of tools which can be embedded in a web page or Blackboard page to allow voice recording and/or playback “on-the-fly” within that web page. Visitors to the page will see a toolbar allowing them to play back or record and save audio, without using a special application other than Wimba.

Use Wimba Voice to record and send voice emails, embed recorded messages in web pages, allow audio-based discussion boards, create presentations with audio accompanying visuals of webpages, hold simple audio-based chat sessions, and even create audio podcasts. These tools are available to Duke faculty using Blackboard, but are also available to faculty and staff outside of Blackboard – just contact CIT for an account on our Wimba Voice pilot server.

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**Software training at your fingertips: Lynda.com online tutorials**

OIT’s Training Group is currently piloting an online training program at Duke, to supplement the hands-on training offerings available on campus and to provide just-in-time learning opportunities on technical topics. Through OIT, Duke faculty, staff and students can “check out” a license to access thousands of tutorials available from the online training provider, Lynda.com. Alternatively, visit one of 8 workstations available across campus pre-configured for Lynda.com access.

Lynda.com provides multimedia tutorials on over 150 products from popular software vendors such as Adobe, Microsoft and Apple. The tutorials are provided in table-of-contents format so that users can jump in to the specific training topic needed, or start at the beginning and work their way through. If you want to learn how to work with some of the most popular and useful software applications available today, at your own pace, Lynda.com is for you.

To learn more about the training pilot, visit the link above. To reserve CIT’s Lynda.com workstation, fill out our application form.
Also remember that our Lynda.com workstation is just one of several multimedia-equipped stations in the CIT instructional technology lab, 024 Bostock Library, where faculty and academic support staff can create digital and multimedia materials for use in teaching. Basic projects, such as scanning or digitizing materials, can be accommodated on a drop-in basis during the lab open hours, or you may make an appointment or a reservation.

Reaching students in large classes with a tablet PC

Connel Fullenkamp (Economics) teaches ECON 51D, “Economic Principles,” a very large class held in Griffith Theater in the Bryan Center. He uses a tablet PC so that he can sketch and create notes while he is lecturing. By creating lecture notes dynamically, he is able to quickly respond to student concerns and be interactive. After his lecture, students can download the notes as PDF documents from the Blackboard course site. In addition, both the notes and his lecture are saved using DukeCapture lecture capture system, which produces both streaming and downloadable files with audio and video for his students to review. Students can select the media that best suits their needs. Read our short profile of Connel Fullenkamp’s use of tablets in teaching for more.

Bb Tip: Collaborate on projects with Bb Wiki Tool

http://blackboard.duke.edu/swf/bb_wiki.html

A Wiki is a tool which provides an interactive and collaborative website. An entire class, groups, or individuals can add text, graphics, files, and links to build the content of the site when if these settings are enabled. CIT licenses a wiki tool from Learning Objects, Inc. to work in our Blackboard installation.

Instructors can use a wiki in courses for:

- Online projects
- Shared course resources
- Assessing group participation

View the short Wiki Tool demo movie (3 minutes) at http://blackboard.duke.edu/swf/bb_wiki.html
And see more at http://blackboard.duke.edu/help/wiki_tool.html
To explore and discover additional Blackboard features, see the Blackboard support website. If you need a tutorial for the Blackboard Wiki Tool, request an office visit and we will come to you.

Rethinking Teaching in the Link: Guest blog by Caroline Bruzelius

This semester, Duke opened a new flexible teaching and learning space in Perkins Library, called the Link. The Link supports student and faculty learning, teaching, and collaboration by offering several flexible, multimedia capable classrooms in addition to many informal meeting rooms and break-out spaces that encourage group and student engagement.

As part of what will hopefully become a continuing trend, CIT will begin posting faculty-written reflections of their experiences teaching in the Link. Following is the first of a series of posts from
Reflections of their experiences teaching in the Link: Following is the first of a series of posts from Caroline Bruzelius, Anne M. Cogan Professor of Art and Art History.

One of the courses I teach at Duke is called “Gothic Cathedrals.” Since many of the students are from the Sciences and Engineering, long ago I decided that asking them to write the traditional research paper was not going to work very well, since most of the sources are in various European languages. Instead, I organized the class into teams of three, and each team would design a fictional Gothic Cathedral and write a “history” of the site – a history that would include the Christianization of the town and the saint or relics to whom the cathedral would be dedicated, and provide a ground plan, section, elevation, and façade for this fictional building, as well as its full complement of stained-glass windows and portal sculpture. In order to get the students really engaged, I plug in a competitive element: at the end of term each projects is presented to a jury and we give prizes for the best projects.

A few years ago it occurred to me that we could teach the cathedral “architects” a computer-aided design program, so we began to train them on Autocad. This meant we began to get really professional-looking designs, like that of Charles Sparkman, Trinity ’09 (see image).

But the Autocad training took place in another building, and remained detached from the rest of the class, which meant that the groups were not working closely together. We really needed the projects to be developed by the whole team, each part fitting together like a glove. Getting the different members of the group close together and working like a team has been a long-term dream for this course.

When I heard last year about the Link, a space that was going to have state-of-the-art technology and classrooms where we could cluster the groups in different ways, I leapt at the chance to teach there. The Link means that sometimes we can have presentations from reference librarians right downstairs from all the terrific resources in Perkins. We can run upstairs to the second floor to consult geographical maps (for example, looking for sources of limestone and forests). We could borrow books on medieval trade and markets from the reference section on the first floor. Meanwhile, our “architects” are working on Autocad in a room right next to where the “bishops” and “iconographers” are inventing their fictional histories of the sites. If we need to think about coinage, we can “Google up” sources on medieval money or go back to the Reference sources on the first floor of Perkins.

A lot of this class involves getting students to think about space – after all, we spend our entire lives in, and around, buildings, but how often do we actually think about them? So I train the class to draw ground plans, and we use the Duke Chapel as our laboratory for this.
These hand-drawn plans are then used as the point of departure for the Autocad training in the Link with senior Charles Sparkman teaching the class…

(Note: he doesn’t always wear a tie - but he was going to a meeting with the Trustees that day).

…while the rest of us are across the hallway in Classroom 3, working on the history and decoration of the buildings:

At this point (October 22, 2008), we're just beginning to get the outlines of the fictional histories and the geographical locations underway. From now until the end of the term, the TA’s and I work with each group refining the concept, inventing the history, constructing the cathedrals… We’ll keep you posted as they begin to take shape.