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.

2011 Horizon Report

For the past six years, The New Media Consortium and Educause Learning Initiative (ELI) have compiled a report that identifies technologies with the potential for positive global impact. The report is released at the annual ELI conference as an overview of how these identified technologies may impact teaching and learning in higher education. To assemble the report and track the trends, the Horizon Report Advisory Board reviews current articles in education and technology and tracks research that impacts teaching and learning.

The 2011 report lists and ranks four trends that impact higher education: (1) the amount of information and additional opportunities made available by the internet are challenging the traditional roles of educators; (2) students and users of technology expect to have access to necessary materials at all times and in all locations; (3) the current emphasis on collaborative technologies leads to questions about the structure of student learning; (4) the proliferation of cloud-based technologies is beginning to decentralize IT support.

Along with these trends are the challenges technology presents. While the emphasis on digital media grows, the actual skills involved in student success are ill-defined and technologies change so rapidly it is difficult to stay current. The rapidly growing and changing availability of software and hardware add to the challenge. But perhaps the biggest obstacle is the need to continuously review and revise teaching and learning strategies to match the ever-changing technology climate. The Report sees this pressure to refresh methodology evident in research and publishing as well as in teaching and learning. To view a discussion of each of the trends, challenges and technologies to watch, check online at http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/HR2011.pdf

2011 AAC&U General Education and Assessment Conference

On March 3rd-5th, a member of the LTA staff made the long trip to the Westin Hotel in downtown Chicago for the 2011 Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) General Education and Assessment conference. Though the conference does place an emphasis on general education, the conference themes reflect the diversity of topics AAC&U sought to include: "General Education Models that Make a Difference," "Faculty Engagement in General Education," "Assessment to Document Achievement and Deepen Learning at Multiple Levels," and "Institutional Leadership and Capacity for Learning-Centered Reform."

This conference was excellent because the concurrent sessions and keynote and plenary addresses covered such diverse topics in higher education that the material was accessible to a wide range of university personnel, not just assessment professionals. For example, one session focused on engaging faculty in the general education reform process, while another session focused on how General Education learning outcomes, and their assessment, can be linked to both academics and Student Affairs. In terms of current LTA projects, perhaps no concurrent session was more relevant than one focusing on the use of e-portfolios in assessing both General Education and Civic Engagement outcomes. In terms of relevance to LUC as a whole, what particularly stood out was the opening keynote, which focused on the importance of exposing students to diverse content areas rather than standardizing curricula to focus solely on career preparation, and the lunch plenary, which explored the importance of expanding technologies such as Twitter, Blackboard, and e-portfolios into all classrooms, particularly General Education courses.

More information on the 2011 AAC&U General Education and Assessment conference is located at http://www.aacu.org/meetings/generaleducation/index.cfm. The podcasts for this year's conference will be excellent resources. Also, some presenters have posted their presentation materials on the website; these materials are available for public consumption.

Upcoming Events

Provost Pelissero at Spring FOT

An engaged panel at Spring FOT

Keynote audience

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. "

Utilizing Blogs for Student Reflection

You may know that a blog or "web log," is an easy-to-publish website consisting of entries that are organized and displayed in chronological order. What you may not realize is that blogs are an excellent tool to promote reflection among your students. Many service learning courses at Loyola use blogs to document student experiences as they happen; as students progress through the course they have a tool they can use to look back at their experiences and analyze how their opinions, ideas, and understanding have grown and evolved throughout the semester.

Loyola University Chicago currently supports two blogging solutions. To create a blog that is available for the general public, igNation blogs (http://blogs.luc.edu/) are a great solution. For those of you wishing to create private blogs that are only available to students enrolled in your class, the new Blackboard 9.1 system incorporates blogs directly into your Blackboard course and will only allow those who are part of the class to read what is written.

If you're interested in learning more about how blogging might work for your course or if you need help creating a blog, contact one of the LTA staff members. We would be happy to show you how the systems work and discuss how you might implement a blog into your curriculum.

2011 ELI Annual Meeting

The Educause Learning Initiative (ELI) is a 3-day annual meeting where teaching and learning professionals attend to collaborate and showcase emerging technologies. It's a great networking opportunity with hundreds of participants from institutions all over the world. The Horizon Report, an annual report on emerging technologies with significant impact to higher education within 5 years, is always unveiled and distributed at the event. This year Loyola had 4 representatives attend the conference.

Highlights from the meeting included a session on evaluating the effectiveness of learning technology projects, several sessions on how other institutions are preparing their faculty for teaching online, using iPads for education, designing more collaborative workspaces in libraries and computer labs, and using alternative learning management systems.

To access the proceedings from the 2011 meeting you can go to http://net.educause.edu/Proceedings/1025988. If you would like more information on next ELI annual held in Austin, Texas February 13-15, 2012 visit http://www.educause.edu/eli/events.

Blackboard 9.1 Workshop Schedule

Water Tower Campus Workshops (410 Lewis Towers):

Tuesday, June 7, 9AM - 11AM: **Blackboard 9 Quickstart**
Wednesday, June 15, 9AM - 11AM: **Using Blogs, Wikis, Journals and Discussion Boards in Blackboard**
Thursday, June 23, 9AM - 11AM: **Blackboard 9 Quickstart**
Friday, July 1, 9AM - 11AM: **Blackboard 9 Quickstart**
Friday, July 8, 9AM - 11AM: **Managing Groups in Blackboard**
Tuesday, July 12, 9AM - 11AM: **Customizing Your Blackboard Course**
Wednesday, July 20, 9AM - 11AM: **Blackboard 9 Quickstart**
Thursday, July 28, 9AM - 11AM: **Blackboard 9 Quickstart**

Lake Shore Campus Workshops (120 Information Commons):

Wednesday, June 8, 10AM - 12PM: **Using the Grade Center in Blackboard 9**
Thursday, June 16, 1PM - 3PM: **Blackboard 9 Quickstart**
Monday, June 20, 10AM - 12PM: **Managing Tests, Surveys, and Adaptive Release in Blackboard**
Tuesday, June 28, 10AM - 12PM: **Using the Assignments Tool in Blackboard**
Thursday, July 7, 10AM - 12PM: **Blackboard 9 Quickstart**
Wednesday, July 13, 10AM - 12PM: **Blackboard 9 Quickstart**
Friday, July 22, 10AM - 12PM: **Synchronous Communication Tools in Blackboard**
Monday, July 25, 10AM - 12PM: **Using Assignments and the Grade Center in Blackboard**

As these workshops will be hands-on, seating is limited by the number of workstations in each room. Please register by visiting https://epay.luc.edu/C20996_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=5&CATID=204.

Contact Us:

*Carol Scheidenhelm, Ph.D.
Director, Learning Technologies and Assessment
cschei1@luc.edu*

*Sarah Dysart
Coordinator of Learning Technologies
sbrittain@luc.edu*

*Shannon Milligan
Coordinator of Assessment
smilligan@luc.edu*

*Terry Moy
Coordinator of Online Course Development
tmoy1@luc.edu*

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