FACULTY CENTER FOR IGNATIAN PEDAGOGY

Promoting Excellence in Teaching and Learning

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The start of an academic year is always a time for new ideas and new energy; fall 2011 will be no exception. To address the evolving needs of Loyola faculty and tie teaching and learning more closely to the Jesuit mission of our university, the President and Provost have designed the Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy.

The new Center will combine the mission and staff of the Office of Learning Technologies and Assessment (LTA) with a range of services promoting faculty development opportunities. Among the new services will be: assistance with conceptualizing and developing online courses; guidance with investigating best practices in ePortfolio assessment; organizing instructional improvement initiatives; and encouraging and promoting engaged teaching and learning.

Nancy Tuchman

Carol Scheidenhelm

Vice Provost Nancy Tuchman and current LTA director Carol Scheidenhelm have been selected to co-direct the new Center. They will be assisted by a staff of instructional and assessment designers along with several faculty members who will have part-time appointments to the Center. Tuchman stated that she is excited that the Center is taking this new direction and looking forward to helping shape the scope and mission. Scheidenhelm, too, is pleased to be named to help head the Center and feels that the high-energy staff is well poised to fulfill the new mission.

Within the next few weeks, the Faculty Center will provide more details regarding the array of services and activities that will be sponsored by the unit. One goal of the Center will be to involve faculty in the sharing of teaching and learning strategies throughout the academic year.

If you have teaching skills that would be beneficial to share or ideas that would be useful as we begin this new Center, please contact facultycenter@luc.edu .

TASKSTREAM
By Shannon Milligan

After two years of careful research, Loyola has selected Taskstream as its new ePortfolio vendor. Taskstream replaces Symplicity, our current ePortfolio system, which will be phased out by the end of the 2011-12 academic year. Taskstream provides a system that is robust and flexible enough to meet the varied needs of both Loyola students and faculty/staff, as well as academic programs and co-curricular offices. Students can also design their own ePortfolios, independent of any institutional requirements.

Patrick Green, Director of the Center for Experiential Learning, promotes the use of ePortfolios for students because they "provide students with the opportunity to collect their university work, to critically reflect on their experiences, to manage and document their learning in the curricular and co-curricular arenas, and to synthesize this throughout their tenure at the university."

Academic programs can use ePortfolios for several purposes, including as a form of authentic assessment. ePortfolios allow students to actively demonstrate their achievement of course and program learning outcomes through submission of their work

UPCOMING
BLACKBOARD 9 WORKSHOPS

Water Tower Campus Workshops (410 Lewis Towers):
Monday, August 22, 9AM - 11AM: Blackboard 9 Quickstart
Tuesday, August 23, 9AM - 11AM: Blackboard 9 Quickstart

Lake Shore Campus Workshops (120 Information Commons):
Wednesday, August 24, 10AM - 12PM: Blackboard 9 Quickstart
Thursday, August 25, 10AM - 12PM: Blackboard 9 Quickstart

Register Today:
luc.edu/learningtech/Blackboard9.shtml

LUC ONLINE

By Sarah Dysart

Many of Loyola's graduate programs have been offering online or blended courses for several years. However, this summer semester was the first to offer students at the undergraduate level a variety of courses that they could take completely online.

Fifteen instructors from various disciplines throughout the University went through extensive training during the Fall and Spring semesters. During this time they learned to rethink the way they had been presenting materials, communicating with students, and offering assessments in the traditional face-to-face classroom to determine the best way to meet their objectives in a completely online environment.

The online classes were highly in demand for students, with many filling to capacity early in the registration process. With the last of the courses just reaching completion, the Faculty Center for Ignation Pedagogy hopes to work with the faculty members to determine which aspects of training were most effective and helpful for them and where we can make improvements.

The new Welcome to Online Learning website outlines the support and services Loyola provides for online students:
http://www.luc.edu/online/

5 WAYS TO USE SYNCHRONOUS TOOLS IN YOUR COURSE

By Terry Moy

Text chat, video chat, web conferencing, and other synchronous communication tools have been used in online courses for a while now, but did you know that they are also being used in classroom courses? This technology can help enhance your course, even if it's not online. Here's how:

1. Guest speaker – Ask a guest speaker to join the class via a web conference. Speakers can join the class remotely from afar.

2. Remote participants – Allow students who cannot physically attend class due to illness, inclimate weather, or lack of mobility to participate remotely.

3. Record class lecture – Record the class session for students to review later.

4. Introductions & Instructions – Create video introductions or instructions that can be linked to Blackboard.

5. Office Hours – Provide online office hours from anywhere with an internet connection.

These activities can be implemented for any course and can be found in the Communication area of your Blackboard course. Below are some of the tools that can help:

Blackboard Chat: a simple text only chat that allows both faculty and students to communicate via text messages

Blackboard Virtual Classroom: text chat as well as a whiteboard for drawing diagrams

Wimba Classroom: text chat, audio chat, drawing on a whiteboard, displaying PowerPoint slides and web pages, and also displaying a user's desktop

Adobe Connect: the newest tool available at Loyola, containing the same capabilities as Wimba Classroom with an easier interface, but requires training before use

To find out which tool is right for you contact facultycenter@luc.edu .

TASKSTREAM *cont'd from p. 1*

they think best represents their mastery of these outcomes. Instructors are then able to assess student work within Taskstream, with options including rubrics and simple pass/fail grading. Additionally, instructors have the option of making feedback available to students in the portfolio system, allowing for a centralized place for students to both submit work and to receive comments.

Taskstream is being piloted in 5 academic programs and all sections of UNIV 101 in Fall 2011. The Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy is providing primary support for faculty and staff who use the system, while the Center for Experiential Learning will provide primary support for students.

The Faculty Center is also interested in identifying programs, both academic and co-curricular, that are interested in implementing Taskstream in Spring 2012. If you are interested, please contact assessment@luc.edu .

MORE NEWS

SLATE (Midwest Blackboard Users) Conference
University of Chicago, Gleacher Center
October 13-14

For more information or to register, visit:
http://slategroup.uchicago.edu/slateconference.html