## Learning Technologies & Assessment @ LOYOLA

**LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO**
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## 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.

## LUC TEACHING RESOURCE GUIDE

As more faculty begin, and continue, to embrace new and emerging technologies, their instructional needs also evolve. The challenge we face as instructional designers is to determine training methods and strategies that best meet faculty members' changing needs. To address this challenge, the LTA staff organized a cadre of faculty and staff to discuss possible methods for providing information about teaching with technology. The consensus of the group was that an online guide would be the most beneficial way of providing teaching assistance to Loyola faculty.

Research suggests that faculty need as much help with the pedagogy of teaching with online tools as they do with mastering the technology itself (Georgina and Hosford, 2009). However, as our advisory group pointed out, time limitations make attending workshops or training sessions difficult; "just in time training" (online materials that can be accessed at the faculty member's convenience) was recommended as the most flexible delivery option for instruction information. The LTA online teaching guide is being designed to provide this training-on-demand that research and our panel of faculty experts suggest is most useful.

Since Academic Technology Services has already created an informative variety of technology instructions, the LTA guide focuses on the pedagogy of using online resources in teaching. When completed, the guide will provide a process document for the various components of using technology in teaching. Units include: Preparing to Teach with Technology, Where to Begin Course Development, Teaching Strategies, Presenting Materials, Assessment, Course Setup Considerations, and Communication Techniques. Each unit will include best practices, resources, and examples.

Our goal is to create the guide in sections, with the Introduction and first unit available online in January 2010; the next step is a complete outline of the project slated for completion by March. We are aiming at having the completed project online by the beginning of the fall 2010 semester.

We encourage you to check our website for progress on the project. While the initial units will be available in January, the final web format will not be immediately available; we are working with the web development team to create a format that will optimize access to the variety of materials that will be available. We welcome your comments about the guide and encourage you to provide us with feedback during this development process. Send comments to: learningtech@luc.edu.

Georgina, D.A. and Hosford, C.C. (2009) Higher education faculty perceptions on technology integration and training. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 25(5), 690-696.

## THE "A" WORD

People who regularly work with assessment planning are accustomed to questions regarding the need and purpose of course and program assessment. The Office of the Provost at Loyola regards assessment as a reflective process designed to provide information needed for continuity and improvement of academic programs. This form of self-reflection is a foundation of the Jesuit principles that direct our educational initiatives. Impressively, academic departments are finding the process of re-evaluating their assessments plans to be a positive step toward program review.

The Loyola assessment protocol specifies that each program establish measurable student learning outcomes, identify assessment procedures, and report assessment results annually to the Provost's Office of Learning Technologies and Assessment. Our goal is to listen to department representatives, learn their current assessment practices, and work to capture that information in a cohesive plan. LTA staff are available to assist any academic unit with their assessment plans, instruments and reporting efforts, as well as classroom assessment, exit survey refinement and rubric creation.

The LUC assessment protocol, along with assessment resources, can be found online at: http://www.luc.edu/learningtech/Assessment.shtml. To schedule an appointment for assistance with assessment planning, send an email to: assessment@luc.edu.

### Upcoming Events

**Collaboration in Learning:**

**Best Practices Outside the Classroom.**
*February 10, 3:30-5:00
LSC,
Information Commons 4th. floor
&
February 11, 2:00-3:30
WTC,
Terry Center, Room 300*

**Confirming & Communicating Student Success.**
*March 24, 3:30-5:00
LSC,
Information Commons 4th. floor
&
March 25, 2:00-3:30
WTC,
Terry Center, Room 300*

www.luc.edu/collaborationinlearning.

**Focus on Teaching Fall 2010**
*Thursday, August 19, 2010*



*Fall 2009 FOT*
*Domenic Castignetti , Department of Biology, speaks on his experience with involving students with his research.*

*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. "*

## ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE

For the past two years, representatives from each college and school, as well as several support units, have been meeting to discuss the technical needs of faculty and academic departments. The Academic Technologies Committee (ATC), a subcommittee of the Information Technology Executive Steering Committee (ITESC), deals with issues of academic technology policy, tools, and procedures and makes recommendations for consideration by the ITESC. To date, the ATC has conducted an extensive study of classroom response systems (clickers) and recommended a campus standard, written a policy recommendation on expiration of Blackboard courses, begun an investigation of copyright standards at LUC, and numerous other technology-related teaching topics.

The goal of the committee is to solicit feedback from faculty and students regarding issues that impact teaching and learning with technology. When an issue is presented to the ATC, members are charged with going back to their representative areas and talking with constituents about the issues. The resulting comments are then shared with the committee and inform any recommendations made to the ITESC. The strength of the committee is in its diversity; in addition to the faculty and staff members, there are currently three student representatives (one a graduate student).

Faculty and students are encouraged to contact their ATC representative to provide comments or suggestions on teaching-with-technology related issues. Minutes from ATC meetings, along with a listing of membership, can be found online at: http://www.luc.edu/its/governance/gov_atc.shtml. For more information on IT governance, check the website: http://www.luc.edu/its/gov_home.shtml.



*Fall 2009 FOT*
*Paul Risk, School of Business Administration, works with faculty in a collaboration exercise.*

## BLOGS AND WIKIS HOSTED BY LUC

Blogs and wikis are quickly becoming a popular way for students to share information with one another and with their instructors; additionally, they provide a medium that facilitates reflection on students' thoughts and experiences related to course topics.   As interactive media, blogs and wikis allow students to comment on the contributions of others, giving contributors a source of nearly-immediate feedback and a channel through which they can open discussion about a particular topic or entry.

Blogs are easy-to-publish websites where personal commentary, links, images, and video can be posted as entries. They are organized in chronological order with the most recent postings listed first.  A wiki is a website that allows multiple users to view and edit the same content, making it a great tool to assist with collaborative projects.  Wikis, too, are simple to create, publish, and maintain.

If you've been considering using a blog or a wiki to supplement your academic course and you're overwhelmed at having to choose among the massive number of free tools available, you might want to consider using the campus blogging or wiki system hosted through ITS. Accessed through the igNation website (http://ignation.luc.edu), users can sign up to have a blog or a wiki created for them by filling out a simple form.  Ignation blogs and wikis are available to anyone affiliated with Loyola.  If you need help distinguishing how the technologies differ and which would be best for your course, staff from LTA would be happy to consult with you to help you determine whether a blog or a wiki would meet your needs.  Email your questions to learningtech@luc.edu.



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



*igNation Website*
*http://ignation.luc.edu/*

**H1N1 Tips for course continuity:**
www.luc.edu/learningtech/Flu_Pandemic_Course_.shtml

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Voice Tools
You can record voice messages in Blackboard.  Connect a microphone to your computer and let Voice Tools do the rest.  Voice Tools is a suite of applications in Blackboard that include voice e-mail, voice board, voice presentation, Wimba podcaster, and voice announcements. Voice E-mail lets instructors and students send a recorded voice message via e-mail.  Voice Board creates a voice discussion board where instructors and students can post voice messages along with typed responses.  Voice presentation allows instructors to create a slideshow using websites and voice.  With Wimba podcaster, instructors and students can record podcasts directly in Blackboard.  Voice Announcements are recorded comments that link from the Blackboard announcements page.  Voice Tools allow you to verbally explain materials and comment on student assignments.  For more information on Voice Tools contact Blackboard@luc.edu.

*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