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The 4th Annual IST Faculty Academy

Creating Agile Learning Environments: Driving Theory to Practice

Concurrent Sessions

Friday, June 20, 2003

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1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

Bits and Bytes: Integrating Digital Video as a Learning Tool

Ms. Paula Laholt
Instructional Technologist
Ursinus College

Video clips from a variety of sources: copyrighted films, television broadcasts, home movies and student videos are selected to enhance the learning goals of courses in various disciplines. Faculty, with minimal instruction, have created the tailored teaching supplements needed in their courses and provided the resultant multimedia products. A variety of examples of completed projects will be demonstrated.

Adding the Third Dimension to Classroom Activities: 3D Projection for Every Discipline

Dr. Joseph J Grabowski
Associate Professor
University of Pittsburgh

Computers and data projectors have dramatically impacted teaching practices across the disciplines and at all levels. Most college and university classrooms have dedicated LCD projectors and a rapidly increasing fraction of schools at all levels have portable data projectors. This technology is often used to display images and animations that would otherwise be described only in words, or be schematized by hand drawn, icon-heavy, representations. The next use of this technology will be to transform flat two dimensional representations of inherent three dimensional entities, into three dimensional, interactive projections. This presentation will discuss how our Chemistry faculty have built and are using such a system, and will demonstrate the technology with a portable system that can readily be cloned by everyone. All aspects of the project will be discussed, from the technology needed, to experiences using in large to small lecture halls, to the assessments so far available, concluding with open discussion about uses in the disciplines and environments of the audience members.

Moodle - an open source (free) alternative to Blackboard and WebCT

Mr. Tim Williams
Director of Information Technologies
Manheim Township School District

Schools and organizations can use Moodle to conduct completely online courses, or it can be used to supplement traditional instruction. Developed by an education doctoral student in

Australia, the software is "open source," which means that it may be used without charge. The software can scale from one course to hundreds of courses, and it can provide an online learning presence for a classroom, a school building, or an entire district. It can be run without modification on Unix, Linux, Windows, Mac OSX, Netware, and any other system that supports PHP. It also requires a database, like MySQL, PostgreSQL, or any number of other packages. Come see what Moodle can do for your organization.

Handheld Computers in the Classroom: Lessons Learned

Dr. Bob Avanzato
Associate Professor
Penn State Abington

Penn State Abington has integrated the student use of handheld computers in a variety of instructional and research settings. Handheld computers were first incorporated into an Information Sciences and Technology (IST) course in 1999 at Abington to promote active and collaborative learning. Since that time, students in additional IST and engineering courses are using handheld computers to access information and perform experiments in the classroom and laboratory. Software and hardware tools for the handheld computer have been evaluated and developed for instructional use. The purpose of this talk is to provide an overview of the advantages and challenges in using handheld computers in education and to discuss strategies for planning effective use of low-cost, handheld computers in K-12 and college environments.

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

A Web-Based Staff Development Approach to Technology Integration

Dr. Larry J Mussoline
Superintendent
Pine Grove Area School District

Ms. Linda Arnold
7th Grade Teacher
Pine Grove Area Middle School

Mr. Donald Brown
Computer Coordinator
Pine Grove Area Middle School

The presentation will focus on the use of PSU's AECT Grant to enable classroom teachers to easily integrate technology into regular classroom practices. Through this unique program our teachers can see the student achievement benefits of utilizing various technology-based practices.

Improving Student Outcomes Using Learning Objects

Mr. John D Shank
Instructional Design Librarian
PSU Berks-Lehigh Valley College

Learning objects (LO) help the instructor improve student learning. Instructors will learn how to Web-enhanced their courses by locating and utilizing learning objects.

Real Writing in Virtual Classrooms: Challenges to Agile Learning Presented by Written Communication

Ms. Bim Angst
Instructor of Writing/Humanities
Penn State Schuylkill


Using student and instructor writing to examine the challenges of online instruction, this presentation emphasizes how to turn challenges to student benefit.

Digital Recording Technology in the Writing Classroom: Sampling as Citing

Dr. Keith Duffy
Assistant Professor of Humanities and Writing
Penn State Capital College Schuylkill Campus

This pedagogically focused presentation discusses the use of digital recording technology in first-year writing courses. By simultaneously engaging in two creative processes--writing academic essays and recording original electronic music--students have discovered an array of theoretical and practical parallels among these creative endeavors.

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