

Centre for Teaching and Learning Newsletter

TRU

August / September 2007

Volume 2 Issue 3

Beginning the New Year: Engage the Learner

As classes begin again for September 2007 faculty face the challenge of engaging the learner in their subject, in a deep and significant way. As I think about engaging the learner I think about the perfect class and how I could co-create that experience in my classroom with my students.

Firstly, I image a group of students ready and motivated to learn. To create motivation I would ask my students why they choose the course and what their goals were for their learning. I want to know why students are present in my class and what they hope to accomplish.

Secondly, I image a community

of learners working together and therefore I take time for students to meet each other and introduce themselves. I ask them to share a personal reason for taking the course.

Thirdly, I think about a group of students driven by significant questions related to the subject so I ask my students to write three questions about the course that they would like to answer before the end of term. I explore ways that these questions could be addressed and what resources I have to offer and what resources they bring to the course.

Finally, I think about a group of students who love intellectual challenge and recognize



When I think about engaging the learner I think about the perfect class .

that learning is work however does have its rewards. I explore what they think will challenge them in the course, ask them what they have heard about the course from previous students and how they can improve in their role as learners. We talk about the essentials skills of learners.

With these ideas in mind on the first day of class I co-create with my students a perfect classroom filled with intellectually engaged students.

Faculty can join at a reduced rate due to the institutional membership TRU holds. Visit the website at

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/stlhe/>

Or call the Centre for Teaching and Learning at 828-5438 for more information.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| CASTL | 2 |
| Illustrated Journals | 2 |
| Ed –Tech Column | 2 |
| E-Learning | 3 |
| Centre Mandate | 3 |
| PD-Courses | 3 |
| Global Campus | 4 |

Special points of interest:

- Engaging the learner from the first day of class
- CASTL Affiliation Proposal submitted in June 2007
- Educational Technology: new blog server and updated Moodle
- Book Kyra Garson for intercultural training for students and faculty .

Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

Did you know that Thompson Rivers University is a founding member of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. (STLHE). This is a national association of academics interested in the improvement of teaching and

learning in higher education. The society sponsors an annual conference, an electronic bulletin board, a national teaching and learning awards program, and publishes a tri-annual newsletter, a membership directory, and the Green Guides.

Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Affiliates Program Proposal: CASTL

The Centre for Teaching and Learning submitted in June a proposal to become an affiliate of the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. More information on this program can be found at

<http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/programs/index.asp?key=21>

If accepted TRU Centre for Teaching and Learning will have an opportunity to relate to other educational societies and higher education organizations who are commit-

ted to the scholarship of teaching and learning. CASTL affiliates are focused on exploring the scholarship of teaching and learning in their institutional settings, and undertake activities that provide support and recognition for ongoing inquiry into evidence-based improvement of student learning.

The Centre expresses a special thanks to the proposal committee: Penny Heaslip, Coordinator for the Centre for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Lyn Baldwin, Biological

Sciences, Dr. Sharon Brewer, Chemistry, Dr. Gary Hunt, Natural Resource Sciences,

Joanne Jones, School of Nursing, Elizabeth Templeman, ESL, Coordinator for Supplemental Learning, Kathy Mitchell, Dean, Division of Student Development, Dr. Mark Evered, Provost and Vice-President, Academic.



Watch for the outcome of the CASTL proposal.

Documenting the Moment: Illustrated Journals

Dr. Lyn Baldwin offered an exciting workshop on the use of the illustrated journal as a teaching strategy and learning tool for students in the sciences during the May "Daze" professional development days. The faculty who participated in the one day workshop with Dr. Baldwin could see the potential for using illustrated journals in other disciplines as well as the sciences.

Dr. Baldwin lead us through a variety of exercises to sharpen our observation skills

and to help us note salient environmental clues. Artistry was not a factor in the quality of illustrated journal but rather documenting the moment, releasing our minds to explore another approach to learning. We were able to take note of significant details and create meaning from our observations of the moment.

Dr. Baldwin shared with us her own personal journals as examples as well the incredible work that her students had accom-

"The use of the Illustrated journal is a teaching strategy to make learning more relevant for students"

plished in the sciences courses she taught.

More information on the illustrated journal can be obtained from Dr. Lyn Baldwin
LBalwin@tru.ca

Welcome to the ET (Educational Technology) Column!

I would like to update you on some of the Educational Technology activities going on around campus.

Firstly, I would to thank Natasha Scott for all the great service and support she has provided during the past three years at TRU. Natasha will be missed, and we all wish her well in her new endeavours! My



Ed Technology by Doug Baleshta

understanding is that her position is not being replaced at this time, so, you will have to be patient as I try to support all the ET faculty training activities!

If you are using WebCT, your course requests, students photos, class lists, etc. should be directed to the IT Services department. You can do this by

sending an email to:

ITServiceDesk@tru.ca with the details of your request.

If you are using Moodle, there is a course request feature located in the Courses Area and you fill this out yourself. I will check this on a regular basis and approve them as they come in. Much easier then sending messages back and forth! (continued page 3)

As we speak, Mike Kelly from ITS is working on the upgrade to Moodle 1.8. Lots of great features and improvements. Moodle is also planning on releasing version 1.9 in August with the new enhanced Grade Book feature. The grade book will make it similar to WebCT's and provide a much needed enhancement.

WebCT 6.0. The new version of WebCT is now available on a per request basis. If you are interested in trying the new features, please send Heath Hamoline a note - hhamoline@tru.ca to get more information. I will be running a series of PD courses on this new version depending on demand. It is substantially different then WebCT 4.0.

Mike Kelly from ITS has been working on a new BLOG server for the Campus. You can view the site at: <http://blog.mytru.ca/> Please contact him directly if you require any further information on how it works mkelly@tru.ca

Horizon Wimba's Voice Services for WebCT. This software add-on for WebCT includes: Voice Board, Voice Chat, and Voice eMail. This allows you to record your voice and post messages to a Bulletin Board, have a 2 way audio conversation or send a Voice email message. It's great software and the Animal Health Technology Program have been using it with great success. You simply add it in from your Add Page or Tools section, and it's listed under the Communication Tools. You will also need a microphone/headset combination and you can purchase these for under \$30 at the Bookies, London Drugs, Future Shop, Kamloops Computer Centre, etc.

New versions of Microsoft Office. If you are getting a new computer, chances are that the system has the new version of Microsoft Office. The new version

looks very different from the version you are used to. If you are interested in the new features, please check out:

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/getstarted/FX101055081033.aspx> for more information.

I should also mention that this type of training and hundreds of others are available through our Learn-It-Online Service. You can obtain more information at:

<http://www.tru.ca/tag/training/lio.html> You can use your PD funds to pay for these courses (typically \$50) and they are available on-line for a 12 week period once you start.

Please feel free to give me a call if you require any specific information or would like something setup for your students or department.

Cheers

Doug dbaleshta@tru.ca 828-5446

E-Learning and the Science of Instruction

Do visuals improve learning? Are animations more effective than static images? What are learning agents and do they improve learning? Join Ruth Clark as she summarizes research, guidelines, and examples to answer these questions and more.

Friday, August 24, 2007

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. PDT

Register now:

<http://direct.adobe.com/r?xJJWcvTEJcWIEJJIHITcv>

PD-Courses

Register online at sos.tru.ca/pd

You must be at the your TRU computer to sign on to this closed site. Retain your PD registration material and please cancel your registration if you are unable to attend. Announcements of new courses is via Faculty-L and Staff-L.

Call the TRU Centre for Teaching and Learning for information about other services offered by the Centre.

Contact:

Penny Heaslip
Coordinator at
828-5438 or
pheaslip@tru.ca



Contact the Centre for Teaching and Learning if you have questions.

The Centre for Teaching and Learning

The Centre for Teaching and Learning at TRU is composed of Penny Heaslip as coordinator, Dr. Norm Frisen, Research Chair in E-Learning, Doug Baleshta as our faculty resource person for integrating technologies into teaching and Ted Keating of Open Learning who works with the tutor



Sign up for a PD Event

group. We have on contract Kyra Garson who is working on several initiatives related to intercultural learning and teaching. As well there are a number of faculty who are active in the Centre's initiatives such as the Teaching Practices Colloquium committee, the faculty for the advancement for re-

search in teaching, and the group heading up the application to the Carnegie Affiliates program. The role of the Centre is to support faculty development by responding to faculty learning needs as it applies to the scholarship of teaching and learning. If you wish further information call the Centre at 828-5438 or email any of us at our individual emails addresses.

TRU

Thompson Rivers University
Box 3010
900 McGill Road
Kamloops, BC Canada V2C 5N3
Phone: 828-5438
Fax: 828-5450
E-mail: pheaslip@tru.ca

sos.tru.ca/pd

● **While we teach, we learn. Seneca**

*“ Tentative efforts lead to tentative outcomes. Therefore give yourself fully to your endeavors. Decide to construct your character through excellent actions and determine to pay the price of a worth goal. The trials you encounter will introduce you to your strengths . Remain steadfast..and one day you will build something that endures, something worthy of your potential.”
Epictetus (55-135)*

TRU: Becoming a Globally Minded Campus

For the last year and a half, TRU has been enhancing intercultural competencies amongst staff, faculty members, and students in order to create an inclusive, globally minded campus atmosphere that will prepare our graduates to effectively thrive in an ever expanding global community. As TRU's population continues to diversify, the Centre for Teaching and Learning, in collaboration with TRU World, endeavours to support faculty members with the inherent challenges of increased cross-cultural classrooms.

In February, a resource for academic departments *TRU: A Globally Minded Campus—A Resource for Academic Departments* was released. This comprehensive

document was created in order to create a forum for discussion, as well as to provide individuals with information, statistics, contacts, and practical classroom strategies. Copies of the resource can be requested by contacting the Centre for Teaching and Learning pheaslip@tru.ca or TRU World cbyrnes@tru.ca

As a complement to the resource, intercultural workshops have been offered to more than 500 individuals across campus. Intercultural consultant Kyra Garson is available to run workshops for departments upon request. Scheduled workshops for interested faculty and staff are available each semester. Several instructors have also invited Kyra to their classes to help students to more effectively communicate and work together in

class, and to understand the cross-cultural implications to their chosen field of work. The student response to these seminars has been very positive as students recognize the need to enhance their intercultural skills. To request a tailored workshop for your department or to arrange a class seminar, contact kgarson@tru.ca



Book Kyra Garson for an Intercultural Workshop for your department and classes.