IPFW Project #mobileEDU up-close

By Suin Roberts, Assistant Professor, International Language and Culture Studies

Samantha Birk, Associate Director for Instructional Technology for CELT, (above) is known as the “iPad Lady” on campus, because she was essential for making iPads available to many IPFW faculty members starting this fall. What had started as a mere conversation with Dr. William McKinney about a year ago, turned into a full-blown iPad cohort of 60 faculty members.

But let’s start from the beginning… In her pre-iPad cohort past, Birk has done faculty consultations on using best practices and instructional technologies in the classroom. She also worked closely with IT Services on projects for the institution, such as Blackboard.

According to Birk, one of the biggest influences on the development of the IPFW Project #mobileEDU were the conversations and dialogue generated at Dr. (Continued on page 3)
discussed how she has developed her career as an Assistant Professor and what she might change if she had a “do over.” Robert Sedlmeyer provided insight into his tenure as an Associate Professor. Mary Cooper offered her perspective on how her career has progressed to Professor. And, Art Friedel delivered a master teacher’s insight into how faculty can plan for retirement, while keeping current and vital as faculty members.

Peggy Jones, from the Behavioral Health and Family Studies Institute, discussed ways to reduce stress while maintaining or increasing productivity as a faculty member. In addition to methods for work-life balance, she suggested additional resources for faculty who continue to have difficulties with stress on the job.

A faculty panel also offered insight into fashioning an appropriate sabbatical plan. Sabbatical releases offer faculty a way to dedicate more time to pedagogical or research pursuits. However, family and friends may not understand the rigors of sabbaticals, and even the best laid plans can go awry. The panel, (above) including Yvonne Zubovic, Linda Lolkus, and Steve Carr, recommended ways to overcome barriers and meet sabbatical goals.

The final faculty panel from the conference involved balancing work-life priorities in a variety of faculty roles. Successful and not so successful methods of managing the tripartite mission of faculty while maintaining bonds with friends and fellow faculty were recommended by panelists: Cynthia Ellis, Suin Roberts, Lee Roberts, and Joseph Khamalah.

Additional breakout sessions provided information about various forms of digital scholarship and how it can be evaluated for promotion and tenure. Catherine Braun, Hardin Aasand, and Troy Bassett (above) proposed ways in which they have used digital scholarship in their faculty roles. Service was discussed in another breakout session that provided information about Indiana Campus Compact. Talia Bugel (below) and Jospeter Mbuba shared their plans for service learning in the 2011-2012 academic year. Involvement in the service learning projects resulted in changes in their perspectives of teaching and scholarship.

Research involving recent findings in neuroscience was presented in a breakout session from Ludy Goodson, Martha Coussement, Jeong-Il Cho, and Jane Leatherman. The helpful, annotated bibliography provided in the session outlined research from a variety of specialties in addition to neuroscience, such as teaching assistive technology, action research, and formative evaluation.

The bountiful breakfast provided before the conference was hailed as superb by those evaluating the conference. Attendees had Stephanie Stephenson to thank for the delicious breakfast and lunch, as well as the individualized agendas.
Samantha Birk...Cont. from pg. 1

McKinney’s Re-imagining IPFW’s Academic Future forums. Very helpful was also the fact that IT Services had loaned her an iPad1 to explore instructional technologies. One led to the other, and in January McKinney put together a committee, a group of deans, faculty, and program directors to jump-start planning of the iPad project. After many meetings and an executive meeting with Apple in Chicago, the committee was able to outline the soon-to-start iPad cohort. The committee decided that it would be best to keep the cohort broad and open to any full-time faculty member at IPFW, instead of giving iPads to merely one class or one school. Birk stressed that the committee had also intended to allow for cross-discipline collaboration.

Around the end of April, the committee invited proposals and soon received over 70 applications. While the original idea was to have a 30- to 35-member faculty cohort, it was difficult to drastically cut the number of applicants. In the end, there the committee selected 60 members for the cohort. Some already owned iPads and simply wanted to join the cohort to be part of a larger community. In total, 45 new iPads were granted through McKinney’s office. The dean of Visual and Performing Arts, Chuck O’Connor, gave another five. According to Birk, it was a very tough decision for the committee to select all cohort members. Successful proposals included a very clear idea of what applicants wanted to do with the iPad in the classroom or in research. Some applicants wanted to look at iOS development of apps, while others (from the same department) applied as small teams with specific ideas relating to teaching.

The final group of faculty members represents all schools and a number of different disciplines. The cohort is divided into smaller groups (based on similar interests and goals) that are supposed to serve as think tanks. Cohort members also meet once a month for additional training and brainstorming.

When asked whether there could be a “second round” of iPads, Birk laughed and added enthusiastically that there could be a second round indeed. In her own words: “Whether or not students have or don’t have mobile devices when they are coming to campus, it is undeniable that these mobile devices are becoming a part of our lives. They are becoming a part of our cultural fabric. And for us to think about how we educate 21st-century students in a 21st-century world, we would be remiss if we didn’t start looking at these devices seriously. This is one of the underlying goals of the cohort.”

FACET Corner

By Kathy Pollock, Associate Professor of Accounting and Finance

FACET members plan on working on several projects this year:

Year two and three tenure-track lunch meetings
FACET plans to continue to host several lunch meetings for tenure-track faculty. These meetings are very informal in nature and are meant to provide tenure-track faculty an opportunity to freely discuss issues, problems, and successes they are having with their teaching. FACET members attend these meeting to offer suggestions and support to our young developing faculty. The first is scheduled for Friday, September 23rd.

Summative Reviews
Formative reviews focus on improving teaching through meetings and class visits meant to center on particular concerns faculty have with his/her teaching. In keeping with its mission, CELT will only conduct formative reviews. On the other hand, in a summative review a faculty’s teaching is assessed for evaluative purposes, essentially answering the question: “How good is my teaching?” Department chairs often require summative reviews for annual productivity reports and promotion and tenure dossiers.

To help fill the gap between the CELT mission formative reviews and departmental demand summative reviews, FACET will continue to formalize the process for conducting summative reviews. Faculty in need of a summative review should contact any FACET member. Members are listed at http://www.facet.iupui.edu/

Faculty Advocacy
FACET plans on discussing the need for better faculty support when dealing with difficult or disruptive students. The objective will be to gather information on the issues, then discuss and propose potential solutions.

Web Page
A locally hosted FACET web page will be created this year. The web site will include information on FACET activities, sponsored events, membership, and application.

FACET Faculty in the News:
Marcia Dixon will be a featured speaker at the annual Associate Faculty and Lecturers Conference in Indianapolis. Kathy Pollock won the Friends of the University Award. Bob Gillespie received the Students’ Choice Award for Teaching Excellence. Jeff Nowak received a Chancellor's Community Engagement Award. Carol Sternberger was appointed Associate Vice Chancellor in Academic Affairs for Faculty Development. Stella Batagiannis received promotion and tenure.

Application for Membership
The Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching is an association of teachers from IU campuses. Membership is based on providing documentation of excellence through the submission of a teaching portfolio which is reviewed at the local campus and statewide level. FACET will offer an information session on putting together a FACET dossier on Thursday, September 29th at noon in RC 235. Anyone interested in attending or with questions about FACET membership should contact Yvonne Zubovic at zubovic@ipfw.edu.
Upcoming Events

October

Re-visioning Course Design I:
Re-visioning the Course Syllabus
Monday, 10/3, 12-1:15 pm in KT 243

Introducing IPFW’s Media Vault
Tuesday, 10/4, 9-10am, in KT 205B (ITS training room)

Online Teaching Interest Group (OTIG)
Tuesday, 10/4, 12-1:15 pm in KT G20

iPhone/iPad App Development Basics: An information session
Wednesday, 10/5, 2-3:30 pm in LA 328

Re-visioning Assessments I: Plagiarism-Proofing Online Course Assignments
Thursday, 10/6, 12-1:15 pm in KT G20

Using the Web to Build Course Content
Friday, 10/7, 12-1:15 pm in LB 440A

Re-visioning Course Design II: How the ARCS Model Can Help to Increase Student Motivation
Wednesday, 10/12, 12-1:15 pm in KT G20

Re-visioning Assessments II: Rubrics for Learning and Grading
Thursday, 10/13, 12-1:15 pm in KT G20

Teaching “here” vs. “there”: Cultural differences in student and professor expectations about teaching
Tuesday, 10/18, 12-1:15 pm in KT G20

Re-visioning Course Design III: Content, Presentation and Learning
10/26, 12-1:15 pm in KT G20

Re-visioning Assessments III: Making Evaluation Easier with Rubrics in Blackboard Learn
Thursday, 10/27 12-1:15 pm in KT G20

12 O’clock Scholars Brown Bag series: Promotion and Tenure - Scholarship in the Classroom
Monday, 10/31, 12-1:15 pm in the Learning Commons on the 2nd floor of Helmke Library

November

Using the Web to Build Course Content
Tuesday, 11/1, 12-1:15 pm in LB 440A.

STEM Reading Circle: The Power of Interactive Engagement Methods in Teaching Physics
Wednesday, 11/2, 12-1:15 pm in KT 119.

12 O’clock Scholars Brown Bag series: Promotion and Tenure - Scholarship in the Classroom
Thursday, 11/3, 12-1:15 pm.

Online Teaching Interest Group (OTIG)
Friday, 11/4, 12-1:15 pm in KT 243

Using Social Media in Teaching and Learning
Monday, 11/7, 1-2:30 pm in LB 440 A.


Co-sponsored by OAA and CELT. Produced by Academic Impressions.

Introducing IPFW’s Media Vault
11/9, 10-11 am in KT 205B

December

12 O’clock Scholars Brown Bag series: Promotion and Tenure - Putting Your Case Together
12/1, 12-1:15 pm in the Learning Commons on the 2nd floor of Helmke Library

Registration is required for all events. Please visit our website at ipfw.edu/celt to register or to view the most up-to-date list of events and much more.