CELT Conference Continues Growth, Includes Student Voices

CELT’s annual Fall Teaching Conference continued this August to draw ever larger crowds of educators as some 85 IPFW faculty and staff heard keynote speaker Anne Wysocki urge participants to harness the “power of multimedia to energize teaching and learning.”

Wysocki, an associate professor of visual and digital communication at Michigan Technological University, told the group that students deserve a rich learning environment, and she urged the educators not to think of writing and learning as just a linear task of replication and imitation that is confined to paper and four walls but one which can create an original, multi-dimensional, student-centered text using the vast array of visual, audio, and digital resources available to today’s technology savvy students.

Because students are already using these resources both in their personal lives and at school, teachers have a special obligation, she warned, to help students engage them ethically and “with taste.” With practically everyone now able, thanks to technology, to become “producers of information instead of just consumers,” new responsibilities face educators to help students understand that the

(Continued on page 2)
“democratization” of information dispersal can be a two-edged sword with as much potential for harm as for benefit, she added.

Wysocki also presented two hands-on workshops throughout the day titled, “m i rite? Assigning and assessing multimodal compositions.” Other well-attended workshops at the conference included: “What is Multimedia Literacy and Why You Should Care,” with IPFW faculty Benita Brewer, Stuart Blythe, Katrina Fullman and Steve Carr, plus students...

Participants also had a chance to tour Studio M, the new student Multimedia lab in Walb 221A, and to view a Multimedia Gallery of student work from the classes of Stuart Blythe and Benita Brewer. The student gallery included multimedia projects by: Nate Utesch, Lyndsay Buesching, Matt Colwell, David Hart, Aaron Deardoff, Amber Shively, Shannon Goldner, Josh Silverus, and Jesse Shovek (Web design); Matt Colwell, Josh Silverus, Sunwoo...

"Blogs and Wikis: Letting the Cat out of the Hat," with IPFW faculty Stevens Amidon, Sandy Schaufelberger and Worth Weller, along with students Steve Pepple and Shannon Eichenaur; "Using Screenwriting Theory to Write and Produce Engaging Online Tutorials," with Purdue biology professor Laurie Iten; and “Using Multimedia to Teach in a Virtual Lab,” with DJ Marshall, Robert Murray and Darlene Miller.

"Using the technology on student performance was one speaker’s method of tracking student performance within the limitations of small class size and no alternate sections to use as a control group. Vince adds, “I learned that I should do more using Bloom's taxonomy in developing questions.” Vince lists several overall conclusions that could be made based on the talks.

- We seem to be using clickers as effectively as anyone else. No one reported using the clickers in a significant way that we had not. (See CELT News February 2006.)
- The experience of using clickers at other universities seems to be similar to ours, leading to similar conclusions.
- Student surveys show students perceive improvement in their learning. However...
- Those professors/instructors that attempted to measure student performance with and without clickers found either no improvement in quiz/exam/course grades overall or only slight improvements.
- One of the most interesting results points to what the most important impact on student performance may be and how clickers should be used over time. In one case, 2 questions were given to the students after a topic involving standard textbook illustrations and hands-on models. They did terrible answering the questions (<35% correct). Then the instructor changed the illustration and hands-on model. The student answers when asked again increased to >90% correct. Vince believes this shows that feedback is very important and even more important is acting on that feedback. Of course the latter is the hard part.
FACET Launches Faculty Learning Community

This fall the IPFW FACET committee, led by Campus Liaison Yvonne Zubovic, launched its first Faculty Learning Community, “Energizing our Teaching with Reciprocal Peer Review”. The purpose of the project is to enhance and reenergize teaching and to improve the teaching climate at IPFW. Over the course of the fall and spring semesters participants will have the opportunity to engage with another faculty member in a reciprocal peer review. The peer reviews may include classroom observations, reviews of course materials, reviews of student work, analyses of student evaluations or student focus groups, or similar activities designed to enable partners to explore and discuss their teaching. As an outgrowth of their experiences, the community will develop an initiative to use reciprocal peer review to enhance the teaching culture of IPFW. The community, along with facilitators, will meet three times each semester to plan strategies for the peer review pairs, participate in mini-workshops and discussions on teaching methods and ideas, and work on the community project. Each of the community meetings are planned to be 2-3 hours in the evening with a meal.

Forty interested faculty attended the informational session on August 28. From this group, 12 faculty have been selected to participate in the year-long project. The participants will be: Irene Anders, English & Linguistics; Michael Bendele, Psychology; Eliot Blumenthal, Biology; Karol Dehr, English & Linguistics; Linda Lolkus, Consumer and Family Sciences; Irwin Mallin, Communication; Sue Mau, Mathematical Sciences; Alice Merz, Education; Melissa Reinhardt, Music; Terri Swim, Education; Shari Troy, Theater; and David Turnipseed, Management & Marketing. CELT wishes all of them success in achieving their goals.

Faculty Spotlight

Robert Sedlmeyer, associate professor of computer science, and Linda Meyer, director of undergraduate nursing at Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW), were recognized during the annual “All Partners Conference” sponsored by the Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System (IHETS) at the University of Indianapolis in April. The award was established by the Indiana Partnership for Statewide Education (IPSE), a service of IHETS.

Sedlmeyer and Meyer collaborated and developed a Web-based application for tracking the clinical experiences of nursing students. Their “Essential Clinical Behaviors,” or ECB model, has improved nursing education at IPFW by increasing opportunities for student experience in using technology; enhancing self-directed student learning through awareness of the breadth and depth of clinical training; improving diversity and variety of clinical experience; and providing more accessible and timely completion of weekly clinical evaluations.

For computer science students, the ECB project has afforded opportunities to engage in realistic software development projects and gain experience in Web-based technology, graphical user interface design and evaluation, and mobile computing.

To see them explain their work go to Linda’s web site, http://users.ipfw.edu/meyer/, and click on the link to Faculty Tutorial Presentation.

From the Director...

Welcome back everyone! By now you are probably so busy that managing even three minutes to peruse CELT News seems a huge logistical feat. Remember that you can read a copy of this issue online anytime at http://www.ipfw.edu/celt/News.htm.

Chand Chauhan, Associate Professor, Mathematical Sciences, and Linda Lolkus, Assistant Professor, Consumer and Family Sciences join the CELT Advisory Board this year and will each serve a three year term. You may recognize Linda as the facilitator of the popular Classroom Assessment Techniques (CATs) monthly brown bag. Chand and Linda fill the positions of outgoing board members Barbara Resch, Associate Professor, Music, and Lesa Vartanian, Associate Professor, Psychology. Barbara and Lesa will continue to work closely with CELT, though, as CELT Teaching Fellows. Many thanks to these faculty members as they begin and continue their service to their colleagues and to IPFW.

Chris Spurr recently joined CELT full time as Web Project Coordinator. He and Web Content Editor, Steve Pepple, are working on upgrading Academic Affairs web sites at the school and departmental level. The project team has completed SPEA (http://www.ipfw.edu/spea/), OLS (http://www.ipfw.edu/ols/), the Richard T. Doermer School of Business (http://www.ipfw.edu/bms/) web sites, and is hard at work on CELT’s new site and that of Health Sciences.

As we print this issue, CELT is in the process of completing its search for a coordinator for Studio M, a student multimedia lab that will open later this semester in Walb 221B. At the same time CELT is seeking an additional Instructional Consultant/Designer to focus on distance pedagogies. We hope to have this person on board by the end of the semester.

Karol Dehr, the CELT Advisory Board member who usually edits the CELT News was so busy organizing the first Appleseed Writing Conference, that we asked fellow Board member and former newspaper editor Worth Weller to step in. Many thanks to you, Worth.

-Gail
Conference...cont. from pg. 2

Imkyung, Dustin Garlinger, Ashley Byerly, and Grace Acierio (2-D animation);
Sarah Firestine, Ryan Pape, Dullio Atarama, Andrew McMillian, Adam Makinson, John Ladd, and Krystal Powell (video);
Yuejiao Zhang and Laura Howard (multiple literacies).

“Not only do we feel very good that this conference continues to grow both in attendance and relevance every year, but we are also very pleased that we successfully included a student voice in this year’s effort,” reported CELT director Gail Rathbun. Conference session evaluations were very positive, she added, and “provided many good ideas for next year.”

DVD recordings of the keynote speech as well as of the breakout sessions are available from CELT by calling Stephanie Haneline at x16354.

For more information or to register for these events, log on to www.ipfw.edu/celt