



# Teaching with Technology

~News and Information for ECU Faculty and Staff~

April 2009 ~ Powered by Academic Outreach Technology Services

## ~Welcome to Another Issue of Teaching with Technology~



### Using Centra for Meetings and Training

ECU Faculty have been successfully using the Centra web conferencing platform to integrate voice, video, application sharing, and graphics all in a structured online learning environment. Now the ECU community is using Centra to host online meetings, events, and even deliver training. Here are just two examples of what you can do with Centra outside the classroom.

#### → Academic Outreach Live!

"Spring Forward  
to New Experiences"



This spring Academic Outreach hosted live virtual training via Centra. The virtual training series offered introductions to Academic Outreach departments and platforms, as well as presentations on Social Networking, Tips and Techniques in Second Life, and many sessions on effectively using Blackboard and Centra. Participants were able to login to Centra and participate live, view software demonstrations, ask questions, and leave messages for AO Live presenters. Thank you to all of

our presenters and participants.

Here's what participants had to say after attending Academic Outreach Live!

- "Thanks for the session! Helpful. I appreciate the format of being able to listen and participate from my office."
- "I enjoyed the online session today and hope that more training can be done this way in the future."
- "This is such a great and convenient way to attend technology related information sessions!"

We look forward to providing future virtual training opportunities to a desktop near you! Watch for summer and fall training schedules.

#### → DE Student Forum

As part of our ongoing effort to plug DE students into campus opportunities, Academic Outreach hosted its first LIVE DE Student Forum on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from 8:00pm – 10:00pm. Featured topics were financial aid and career services. Our Provost, Marilyn Sheerer attended the forum and engaged in an active dialogue with students on a variety of issues. All registered DE students were informed of the forum via email.

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#### DE Day



3rd Annual DE Day  
Sponsored by Academic Outreach

Academic Outreach will be hosting the third annual DE DAY, honoring pirates from a distance. This special day will be held during one of our ECU Spring baseball games, when we will play the Southern Miss Golden Eagles, Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. This day will consist of discounted tickets, registering for free prizes, and more. **Go Pirates!!**

#### Moodle

Academic Outreach continues to support Moodle, the Open Source Content Management System. Moodle's open interface and options assist educators in creating effective online learning communities. You can create a very interactive learning environment that will stimulate your student's learning and imagination. If you would like to teach a course using Moodle – either online or face-to-face, please contact Sharon Collins [collinss@ecu.edu](mailto:collinss@ecu.edu). We also now have Moodle integrated into Second Life with Sloodle!

All of the discussions were lively and the forum continued until 10:00pm. Students enjoyed the evening and reported that the information as most helpful.

This is what some of our presenters had to say about our Live DE Student Forum.

- “A wonderful opportunity to share information with our students who are unable to visit with us during regular office hours. I hope that we will be able to work with our Distance Education students again through this type of forum.”  
Bettie Westbrook, Financial Aid
- “Thank you for inviting The Career Center to the Live DE Student Forum. This is a great way to engage with the greater DE student population. I was energized by the interactions we had and I am looking forward to continuing to serve our DE student population in regards to career needs!” Jim McAtee, Career Center

At the request of both students and presenters, AO will host forums in the summer and fall. As one of the DE students put it, “Thanks Kim, no one has ever done anything like this for us before.”

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## Heard of Second Life?



Join Academic Outreach in bringing the virtual world to your classroom. Create an avatar and a classroom experience which provide a synchronous environment for your students. The staff at AO will help design your space, customize your classroom, and help you create an interactive space to teach. Please contact Sharon Collins

[collinss@ecu.edu](mailto:collinss@ecu.edu). Also visit <http://hawk.aos.ecu.edu/secondlife/> for additional information.

## Second Life on The Teen Grid~

Since its launch in January, the Virtual Early High School program has had a phenomenal start! The pilot, which consists of two fully virtual classes, was designed to reach high school students from all over Pitt county and it has been a learning experience for everyone -- including us at Academic Outreach!



In these past months, the students have been working collaboratively between their schools on several dynamic projects. Their latest assignment was to build replicas of ancient sites like as Knossos and Pompeii. Using the Second Life as their medium, the month long project culminated into amazing representations that were presented to the public on April 7th, 2009.

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## Upcoming Events and Workshops

### There's Still Time to Sign Up!

### Tweet Tweet!!

What's the buzz about Twitter all about? How does it work and how can I use it in an academic setting? Come find out.

Twitter in plain English. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddO9idmax0o>

### Delicious!

How can you more easily manage bookmarks? What is social bookmarking and why is it so powerful? Learn how Delicious can allow you to follow trends in education, research topics, and collaborate with colleagues. Delicious is all about making your life easier and

## Centra

Saba Centra is an online learning platform that delivers webconferencing for your classroom. Centra provides a highly interactive virtual classroom learning environment that integrates voice, video, application sharing, and graphics. Centra is used in almost every college at ECU to create a more social environment for students, as well as a platform for online forums and meetings.

Please look for additional announcements about upcoming Centra training. You may also contact Sharon Collins [collinss@ecu.edu](mailto:collinss@ecu.edu) and John Southworth [southworthj@ecu.edu](mailto:southworthj@ecu.edu) or go to <http://ecu.centra.com> for more information.

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## Contingency Plan



As with any technology, Blackboard and other Internet based course delivery systems have the potential for technical problems. To prepare for potential problems and/or downtime, we strongly advise all instructors using any Internet based course delivery systems to have a contingency plan when the technology is not available. A contingency plan involves anticipating and planning for an alternate delivery of course material and communication when a service interruption occurs; please visit the following link for information to help create your contingency plan for Fall 2009. <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/learningplatforms/contingency.cfm>

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## Think-In 2009: A Teaching with Technology Showcase

Think-In 2009 will be held in November. This event is open to the ECU community and will showcase how faculty are using technology in the classroom – in both face-to-face and distance education courses. Presentations will be made via “laptop” poster sessions. What will you present at this year’s Think-In? It’s not too early to start thinking about submitting a proposal – watch for the call for proposals in September.

that's a good thing.

Delicious in plain English. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x66IV7GOcNU>

**Training Time:** 4/22 from 12:30pm – 2:00pm  
12:30pm - 1:15pm on Twitter  
1:20pm – 2:00pm on Delicious

Training will be held in Austin, Room 309, on April 22nd, 2009 from 12:30pm - 2:00pm  
There is a 15-seat maximum. Follow the easy steps below to register.

1. Login to Onestop
2. Click on "University Training"
3. Search for Twitter/Delicious Training and sign up!

If you have any questions about Twitter or Delicious, please feel free to contact Matt Long at [longm@ecu.edu](mailto:longm@ecu.edu).

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## **Blogging School is in Session ... Again!**

Academic Outreach offered our first Blog School training session on Tuesday, April 14. We are offering other sessions on Wednesday, April 22nd, from 2:00pm - 4:00pm and Thursday from 8:30am - 10:00am. We invite you to attend!

This session will feature blogging in an educational setting. The training topics that will be covered include:

- General information about blogging
- Blogging to communicate to a target audience
- Best practices for using blogs in education
- Managing the admin panel of your blog
- And more!

At the end of the session, you will be well on your way to using a blog to assist your course work or unit. If you don't already have a blog, we will set one up for you during our time together.

Training will be held in Austin, Room 309, on April 22, 2009 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm.  
There is a 15-seat maximum. Follow the easy steps below to register.

1. Login to Onestop
2. Click on "University Training"
3. Search for Blog School and sign up!

If you have any questions about Blog School, please feel free to contact James Cook at [cookja@ecu.edu](mailto:cookja@ecu.edu).



**Academic Outreach Technology Services ~ East Carolina University**

<http://www.ecu.edu/academicoutreach/>