

FD Podcast – 4/24/06

Hello and welcome to the Faculty Development Podcast #18.

I'm Jean Kent, the Faculty Development Coordinator and today I want to announce my workshops for the coming week and also report on the American Association of Colleges & Universities Conference on Learning and Technology that I attended last week. I'll finish with an update on edcasting (that's podcasting in education) and a few other odds and ends.

First, the workshops. This week Geoff Mathay and I will be giving part 2 of the Digital Video for Newbies Workshop at both South and Central campuses. Actually, Geoff gave the workshop by himself at South today but we'll both be at Central in room BE 3110 tomorrow, Tuesday, April 25th from 2 – 4. This workshop will focus on editing videos with Windows MovieMaker and it will be a lot of fun! Please contact me if you plan to attend.

On Friday, April 28th, I'll be giving a Gizmo Project workshop at North campus in the TLC from 2 – 4. Gizmo is free software that turns your computer into a telephone and I used it with my online students last quarter with great success. Gizmo is feature-rich and easy to use. I decided to use Gizmo to call regular landline and cell phone numbers and for only \$10 I purchased 100 minutes of "call out" time. If you're tired of using email for all your online student communication, you'll want to sign up for this workshop. I'm confident you'll want to add Gizmo to your online communication toolkit!

I sent out an electronic copy of the District Professional Development Calendar today and I encourage you to print a copy for handy reference. The online version, found on the Faculty Development web site is the most up-to-date so always double check it before you head out for a workshop.

About 14 faculty and staff from the district attended the Learning and Technology Conference in Seattle last week. One of the things I really like about attending a conference with several colleagues is that we can talk about the sessions we've attended and share new approaches and ideas we've learned. So, both conference days, a group of us had lunch together. The photo included in this posting was taken on Saturday as we headed off to lunch.

A couple sessions and the keynote address by John Bransford from the University of Washington really captured my interest. The conference was focused on how people learn and then how technology can help them learn. For example, students at Bentley College, a small business and liberal arts institution, can select a section of IT 101 that uses eBooks and Pocket PCs instead of a textbook. One assignment requires that they use their Pocket PCs along with Perseus, a web-based survey tool, to conduct a survey. They go out into the field and ask questions then transfer their results to Excel. Then they develop charts and graphs using their data and finally write everything up and post it to

the web. We saw some examples of these projects and they clearly showed how engaged the students were in the assignment.

I learned about a free web-based word processing tool called Writely. Several people can be invited to work on the same document so it's a great collaboration tool – perhaps similar to FirstClass which is used in several classes at North campus. The beauty of Writely is that you can access it from any computer that's connected to the web. Since Writely has just been purchased by Google you need to be invited to get an account. I'd be happy to invite you if you're interested in checking it out.

Mary Jo White from South campus recommended I read an evaluation of podcasting at the University of Washington. It had some interesting results! Students indicated that podcasts helped them get caught up if they missed class and helped them prepare for quizzes and exams. Podcasts helped them fill in gaps in their lecture notes, too.

But, some students felt that podcasts didn't make much sense without the accompanying visual aids (e.g., PowerPoint slides). Students also found it hard to follow student questions and answers. Finding discrete information in a podcast was difficult, too.

Most students listen to podcasts on their computers – NOT their MP3 players. I'll provide a link to the document in case you want to read it in full.

Last but not least, I distributed the Annual Professional and Educational Development Report Form for the 2005 – 2006 academic year today in an email message. This is the form full and part-time faculty use to list the workshops, conferences, classes, publications, presentations, licenses, and committee work they've undertaken in the current academic year. The Agreement lists the types of activities that count towards salary credit and full time faculty should submit their reports no later than July 1st. Each item listed must be documented. For example, include a transcript if you've taken a class, a certificate of attendance if you've attended a workshop, an official program if you've attended a conference. Yilin Sun and I will be giving workshops on completing the form later on this quarter. Watch for an announcement in your email soon.

Well, that's it for this podcast. Thanks for listening and tune in next week for another Faculty Development podcast.