It’s “Back to School” season once again. The EdTech team welcomes you and hopes you fully enjoyed your summer!

Since our last newsletter several things have changed in the teaching and learning technology landscape. Here are a few highlights:

New Faces:

- Greg Smith arrived at S&T last spring as the new CIO (chief information officer). He works closely with Chancellor Schrader, Provost Wray and Dr. Jeff Schramm, special assistant to the Provost for eLearning, to provide strategic leadership and resources that will continue to help faculty enhance teaching and learning through instructional design and technology.

- Josh Woehlke, instructional developer, recently joined the EdTech team for a 2-year stint as part of an Instructional Laboratory Design project funded by UM Online.

- Dr. Jeff Cawlfield, newly appointed vice provost of undergraduate studies, will also provide leadership for CERTI (Center for Educational Research and Teaching Innovation) which is a close, collaborative partner of EdTech. The team is eager to work with Dr. Cawlfield.

- Tracy Primich, S&T’s new library director, will join campus this fall creating many more opportunities to strengthen the partnership between the library and information technology.

Technology Updates:

- Technology Refresh Project – starting this year, EdTech is using instructional designer and faculty input to refresh and refine how the technology in classrooms is designed – where it is located, what features are available, etc. – to maximize usability for both instructor and students. Technology refreshes in ECE and Civil Engineering buildings began over the summer.

- Engineering Management 103 was completely redesigned and remodeled. EdTech assisted Physical Facilities and the Registrar’s office on this project.

- Computer Upgrades – significant improvements were made in classrooms in Emerson Electrical Engineering and Butler Carlton Civil Engineering buildings. New CLC computers were placed in the library, Toomey 251, and McNutt B14 and 114. Updated CLC computers went into IDE 105 and H-SS 202.

- Blackboard – improved integration of the gradebook feature

EdTech is glad to have you on campus this fall and is dedicated to provide the best possible solutions for teaching and learning. If you have suggestions for improvement, please bring them to our attention!

Who is Ed?

- Julie Phelps: Instructional Designer
- Amy Skyles: Instructional Technologist
- Jeff Jennings: Instructional Technologist
- Malcolm Hays: Instructional Developer
- Joshua Woehlke: Instructional Developer

Our Instructional Designers and Technologists:

Consult with faculty to integrate technology and best teaching practices
Assist in course redesign in order to improve traditional courses as well as blended/online courses

Angie Hammons manages the Educational Technology team and several student workers. The team includes:

- Gandalf Sidio: Application Support Specialist
- John Petrikovitch: Learning Space Coordinator
- Chris Hillen: Classroom Technology Support
- Ryan Sims: System Administrator-Specialist
- Barb Wilkins: Instructional Designer

Educational Technology provides services and support to facilitate the implementation and use of technology within a classroom environment. Visit us online:

http://edtech.mst.edu/generalinfo/about/
Using Blogs in your Course

Enhance discussion, collaboration, and reflection in your course

The weblog or “blog” is a popular online medium through which individuals or groups submit text and media “posts” to a web page in reverse chronological order for public viewing and discussion. When used in a course, blogs can extend the conversation past the classroom, offer needed discussion opportunities for quiet students, organize developing knowledge into a digital portfolio, and provide a wider audience than traditional forms of assessment.

Blackboard contains three types of blogs for your course, any of which can be integrated into Grade Center.

- **Individual blog**
  This single-author option gives each student in your class his or her own blog. Students may make posts or comment on other students’ blogs at any time.

- **Class blog**
  This multi-author option creates a single blog for the section. Everyone’s posts will be displayed on one page and students may view and comment on any post.

- **Group blog**
  This multi-author option creates one blog for each group page in your class. Anyone from a group may create new posts in their own group blog, and students may comment on any other group’s posts.

For help integrating blogs into your course, visit [http://edtech.mst.edu/support/blackboard9-1/blogs/](http://edtech.mst.edu/support/blackboard9-1/blogs/)

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Classroom Technology

Clicker Updates
New, unified interface in TurningPoint

TurningPoint 2008 has been upgraded over the summer to TurningPoint 5, bringing a simplified interface to PowerPoint® Polling, Anywhere Polling, and Self-paced Polling.

The new dashboard allows you to easily manage participants, content, sessions, and reports all in one place, making it simpler than ever to capture students' responses and integrate them into Blackboard.

If you plan to import existing TurningPoint presentations into TurningPoint 5, be sure to check their functionality with “simulated polling” before using them in class.

Contact EdTech or visit EdTech U for help with this software.

Resources for Student Success

Blackboard Supplemental Packages

EdTech offers a number of subject- and discipline-neutral packages that connect students to the instruction, tools, and resources they need to be successful. These packages can be downloaded from the EdTech website and loaded directly into your Blackboard courses with minimal effort:

- **Library Help**
  Library links and tutorial videos for common tasks like finding journal articles, accessing databases, and using interlibrary loan

- **Study Aids**
  Disability support services, S&T student links, self-assessments, and study resources

- **Tech Support**
  Office file converters and viewers, Blackboard and Tegrity help, and links to further assistance

- **Writing Resources**
  Instruction in APA style and proper paraphrasing, plus links to sites to improve grammar and formatting

To download these packages, visit: [http://edtech.mst.edu/support/blackboard9-1/packages/](http://edtech.mst.edu/support/blackboard9-1/packages/)
The Center for Educational Research and Teaching Innovation (CERTI) welcomes instructors back for the fall 2013 semester. Upcoming professional development events sponsored by CERTI this fall include the 2013 Curators’ Teaching Summit with discussions on “Emerging Student Issues in the Classroom.” This is the fifth year for the popular lunch-hour series, featuring the campus’ Curators’ Teaching Professors. Sessions will be held at noon on Monday, Sept. 16, Wednesday, Oct. 16, and Monday, Nov. 11, at the Havener Center.

Two Faculty Learning Communities will also be held this fall. On Friday, Sept. 27 at noon the topic will be “Capturing Lectures for Student Learning,” and on Friday, Nov. 1 at noon, “Pros & Cons of Traditional vs. Online Homework.” CERTI will also be offering fall sessions of Faculty Learning Educational Research (FLER) for those interested in educational research projects, either in preparation for next year’s mini-grant proposals or assistance with mini-grant or other classroom projects. Please contact the CERTI office if you are interested in participating.

Best Practice

Uploading Videos
Source vs. “flavor” in Kaltura streaming
No matter what size, type, and quality of video you upload to Blackboard, Kaltura will automatically re-encode your “source” video into various “flavors” so that it streams smoothly on a wide range of devices and connection speeds. You can make uploading simpler, though, by following a few guidelines:

- Check the size of your video
except in special cases, videos over 2GB cannot be uploaded and will need to be broken into pieces or re-encoded into a smaller file with a tool like Windows Movie Maker. While quality does vary by encoding type, 15MB per minute of video can generally be equated to standard TV quality.

- Watch every video you upload
Kaltura will vary the quality of longer videos to match network conditions, resulting in possible blurring. If your video includes small, important details, be sure to preview it on a campus computer.

For help uploading videos to Blackboard, visit: http://edtech.mst.edu/support/kaltura/

Online Discussions
Tips, Tricks, and Tools
- Establish guidelines for online communication
Ground rules provide a foundation for civil and productive online interaction. You can find a sample set of social media guidelines at: http://edtech.mst.edu/support/blackboard/socialmedia/.

- Communicate evaluation criteria
How often should students post? What information should they include or reference? Students must know how they will be assessed in order to make effective contributions.

- Assign discussion roles
Selecting students for roles like “eternal optimist,” “incurable pessimist,” and “devil’s advocate” can give them license to be critical and foster more multifaceted discussions.

- Consider using a Q&A platform like Piazza
For classes looking to take online discussion to the next level, the Piazza Q&A platform will soon be available in Blackboard. For a demo, visit http://www.piazza.com.

For help implementing online discussions in your course, visit: http://edtech.mst.edu/support/blackboard9-1/discussionboard/

EdTech U
EdTech U is an opportunity for instructors to gain some hands-on instruction from Educational Technology staff on topics like uploading content into a Blackboard course, downloading participant lists for classroom polling, creating TurningPoint slides, or writing questions in Respondus. EdTech U is the place to be to learn all of these things and much, much more.

EdTech will also be hosting iPad U this fall for tablet-wielding instructors who would like to learn and share new tips, tricks, and apps to enhance their courses.

What’s New with CERTI?
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Software Notes

Assessing Performance
Grading updates in Blackboard
Blackboard now supports “inline grading” of assignments, eliminating the need to download and manage student submissions. Now when you grade assignments, Blackboard will automatically convert uploaded files from common formats (e.g. Microsoft Office files and PDFs) to a web-friendly format that you can navigate, annotate, and grade within Blackboard’s Grade Center.

If a student has uploaded a file that cannot be converted, Blackboard will automatically prompt you to download the file.

For help with inline grading, visit:
http://edtech.mst.edu/support/blackboard9-1/gradecenter/gradeassignments/

Editing Equations
Choosing the right version of MathType
Several versions of MathType are currently available to install. The correct version for your computer is largely determined by software compatibility and editing preferences.

MathType 6.7 (2010) - Only available on Windows 7 with 32-bit Office 2010 or earlier. Equations are editable in PowerPoint.

MathType 6.8 (2012) - Works with 64-bit Office and Windows 8. Equations exported as images to PowerPoint, drag to resize.

MathType 6.9 (2013) - Required for Office 2013 and Office 365. Equations exported as images to PowerPoint, drag to resize.

Trouble with Technology?
Contact the Help Desk at (573) 341-HELP or submit an online Help Request at:
http://help.mst.edu

Please have following information available:
- Which operating system are you using?
- Which browser (include version) are you using?
- What time did the problem occur?
- What steps were you taking when the problem occurred?
- What error message did you see?

Providing this information will help IT support staff resolve your problem better and faster.

Supporting students, faculty, and staff.

EdTech Social

EdTech Connect
http://edtechconnect.mst.edu

Our EdTech Connect blog includes the latest findings in the area of educational technology. Find tips for Blackboard 9.1, information on Quality Matters, online learning, blended learning, and more.

Follow EdTech on Facebook!
http://tinyurl.com/3txfuox

EdTech has a Facebook fan page maintained by one of our student workers. Here we can link to other news and resources in the Educational Technology world that may be of interest to you.