

November 2007

Vol. 1 No. 11

November Calendar of Events

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Nov. 1

Teaching Excellence Series
Series 1, Session 3
Gen. Ed.: What Does it Matter to
Me and My Discipline?

—

Nov. 2

Blackboard Pilot Lunch & Learn

—

Nov. 7

Introduction to Blackboard

—

Nov. 13

Teaching Excellence Series:
Series 1, Session 4
Gen. Ed.: Is It Working? How Will
We Know?

—

Nov. 14

Teaching Excellence Series:
Series 2, Session 4
Type and the Scholarship of
Teaching and Learning

November 2007 Issue

CTLT can help ease your transition from WebCT to Blackboard Learning Systems. Register for a workshop today... (p. 2-3)

Prospective faculty can gain a glimpse of ISU's campus culture through a CTLT tour... (p. 4)

Author-Scholar Ken Bain will speak at the 2008 Teaching & Learning Symposium... (p. 5)

CTLT announces Liaison for Sociology & Anthropology...(p. 5)

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Meet the CTLT! Designer Amber Thomas talks about working at CTLT...(p. 7)

View CTLT's November calendar... (p. 8)

DID YOU KNOW?

Teaching-Learning Communities bring faculty together to read, write, and think about topics related to teaching and professional growth. For more information or to join a community, visit www.teachtech.ilstu.edu.

“The aim of education should be to teach us rather how to think, than what to think — rather to improve our minds so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with the thoughts of other men.”

Bill Beattie

For Information/Registration:
www.teachtech.ilstu.edu



WebCT Transitions to Blackboard Learning System

In the upcoming semesters, ISU will be upgrading its course management system to Blackboard Learning System CE6 (formerly known as WebCT CE6). Faculty who are now using WebCT will have to transition to Blackboard by the end of Summer 2008. Because transitions such as these create challenges for faculty, CTLT is undertaking a plan to smooth out the process and reduce the stress as much as possible, allowing instructors to remain productive and effective.

Course management systems (CMS) provide instructors with online tools they can use for their conventional (face-to-face), blended (face-to-face and online) and completely online courses. In general, CMS offer instructors a password-protected site for posting syllabi, announcements, course readings and assignments (reducing copyright problems), secure communication tools (e.g., discussion board, email, chats), and quiz tools with automatic scoring and instant feedback.

Blackboard is similar to WebCT in its array of instructional tools and some of its functions. However, the interfaces and procedures are not identical. In addition, Blackboard offers some new capabilities and tools not available in WebCT. For most faculty, transitioning from WebCT to Blackboard will require time and effort to learn the new interface as well as to move materials from their WebCT courses to Blackboard courses.

Blackboard Support Opportunities

CTLT is providing support (workshops and on-request coaching) this fall for faculty who want to begin using Blackboard in Spring 2008 and will expand the support opportunities in Spring 2008 for faculty who want to use Blackboard in Summer or Fall 2008. We will offer brief overviews (45 min), a self-paced online course (3-5 hrs), short courses (3 hrs), and full-day workshops (6 hrs). Some courses are designed for those transitioning from WebCT to Blackboard; others are designed for those new to using a course management system.

The chart on the next page lists the workshops, dates, and topics. Please note that all classes and workshops listed can be scheduled and presented at times and locations around campus most convenient for a department, school, or unit. To request a course, visit the CTLT website at www.teachtech.ilstu.edu and fill out the appropriate online form. You may also contact Mayuko Nakamura at mnakamu@ilstu.edu or 438-2628.

WebCT Blackboard Support Opportunities

DID YOU KNOW?

CTLTL offers instructors a chance to watch outstanding ISU teachers in action. The Making Teaching Visible (MTV) program allows faculty to visit each others' classes and engage in conversations about great teaching. Visit the CTLTL online for more information.

"A man should first direct himself in the way he should go. Only then should he instruct others."

Buddha

For Information/Registration:
www.teachtech.ilstu.edu



Type	Title and description	Scheduling
Overview Demonstration (45 min)	Introduction to Blackboard CE6 This presentation provides an orientation tour of Blackboard CE6 and introduces the various instructional tools.	By request – contact CTLTL to schedule the date and location most convenient for your department/school/unit.
Self –Paced Online Course (3-5 hrs)	Blackboard CE6 Online Course In this self-paced online course, you'll learn to use basic tools in Blackboard. Each module consists of step-by-step instruction, a hands-on assignment, and Q & A discussion area (n/a for the last module).	Starts any time – Contact Mayuko Nakamura (mnakamu@ilstu.edu, 438-2628)
Short Courses (3 hrs)	Upgrading to Blackboard CE6 from WebCT 4.1 Become acquainted with new features and new ways to accomplish your WebCT tasks in Blackboard CE6. We will discuss how existing courses will be migrated to the new system and how the upgrading processes might affect your teaching. <i>Most suitable for current WebCT 4.1 users.</i>	Nov. 14 (Wed), 9am – 12pm
	Blackboard CE6 for Beginners You will have the opportunity to experience Blackboard CE6 as both a student and an instructor/designer, getting an overview of Blackboard's many features in the process.	Nov. 7 (Wed), 9am – 12pm
Full Day Workshops (6 hrs)	Getting Started in Blackboard CE6 This workshop provides an overview of Blackboard CE6, a chance to start setting up your course, and hands-on practice with the instructional tools. Lunch included.	Dec. 17 (Mon), 9am – 3pm Dec. 18 (Tue), 9am – 3pm Dec. 19 (Wed), 9am – 3pm

DID YOU KNOW?

ISU will hold its annual Veteran's Day Ceremony, Friday, November 9, 12:00 pm, at the Bowling and Billiards Center. Following the ceremony, the campus community will assemble at the flagpole on the quad for the laying of flowers and playing of Taps.

"Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving us wordy evidence of the fact."

George Eliot

For Information/Registration:
www.teachtech.ilstu.edu



Candidate Tours Give Prospective Faculty Members a Glimpse of ISU Culture

If your department is interviewing prospective faculty members this fall, winter or spring, consider adding a tour of the Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology to your candidates' on-campus interview itineraries.

CTLT offers 20 minute "candidate tours" that provide prospective faculty members with an overview of the Center's facilities, programs, and services. Even more important, as first-year assistant professor Lydia Kyei-Blankson, EAF, recalls, "The tour of CTLT gave me a very good impression of ISU. Having the tour on my itinerary helped me understand the extent to which teaching is valued at ISU, and I got a sense of the amount of guidance and support available to faculty to enhance teaching, learning, and scholarship at ISU."

CTLT tours are facilitated by members of the program staff, including assistant director Claire Lamonica and coordinators Cyndy Ruskowski and Mayuko Nakamura. "I really enjoy giving these tours," says Lamonica. "I'm always impressed by the caliber of the candidates, and talking to them about their backgrounds in teaching and instructional technology contributes to my growing sense of where the Center needs to go in terms of programming and services."

Nor does the benefit of a CTLT candidate tour end with the conclusion of the interview process. Candidates who tour CTLT during their campus visits can begin their first year of teaching at ISU with a clear sense of where to turn as they continue the process of becoming excellent teachers. "As a beginning teacher who strives to 'be all that I can be' as a teacher and also as a researcher interested in the role of technology in teaching and learning, I found that the tour of CTLT helped me clearly identify my primary resource for furthering my teaching and research endeavors," says Kyei-Blankson. "So far I have enrolled in two short courses at CTLT and I am ardently involved in CTLT's New Faculty Professional Development Circle."

Departments interested in arranging candidate tours can do so by calling or emailing Beth Welch at 438-3694 or ewelch@ilstu.edu.



DID YOU KNOW?

The second annual Educators' Job Fair will be held Nov. 6 in the Brown Ballroom from 12:30-4:30 pm. Faculty are encouraged to announce this event to students who will graduate in December. For more information visit the University Calendar.

"When inspiration does not come to me, I go half way to meet it."

Sigmund Freud

For Information/Registration:
www.teachtech.ilstu.edu



Ken Bain to Provide Keynote Address, Invitational Workshop for 2008 Teaching & Learning Symposium



Dr. Ken Bain, author of the award-winning work, *What the Best College Teachers Do*, will be the keynote speaker for Illinois State University's eighth annual Teaching & Learning Symposium, to be held on January 9, 2007 at the DoubleTree Conference Center in Bloomington, IL. Dr. Bain's Keynote Address, also entitled "What the Best College Teachers Do," will draw heavily on his fifteen-year study of the practices of some of the best teachers in higher education today. The address will be followed by a "Conversation with Ken Bain" during the break-out session immediately following the luncheon.

In addition to providing the keynote address and facilitating the following conversation, Dr. Bain will lead an "invitation only" workshop from 8:00-9:30 a.m., also at the DoubleTree Conference Center on January 9.

Those interested in securing invitations for "The Promising Syllabus Workshop" should submit their names and campus addresses to CTLT Graduate Assistant, Marcea Seible, mkseibl@ilstu.edu, as soon as possible. Invitations will be sent to those who express an interest and to those who have participated in a CTLT-facilitated study of Dr. Bain's book through a New Faculty Professional Development Circle, a CTLT reading group, a Future Professors workshop, and so on.

Those planning to attend the Symposium should register online at www.teachtech.ilstu.edu. Conference registration will be open until Friday, January 4, 2007.

CTLT Liaison Update

In the October issue of *The LINK*, we mistakenly omitted the name of one of our CTLT Liaisons. Virginia Gill will be serving as the CTLT Liaison for Sociology & Anthropology. Thank you to our readers for catching our oversight. We're happy to see that you are reading *The LINK* closely!

DID YOU KNOW?

ISU offers a Women's Mentoring Network comprised of female faculty who help ease the transition to college for female students beginning or returning to their education after an absence. For more information visit the Women's Mentoring Network online at www.mentoringnetwork.ilstu.edu/.

"You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him find it within himself."

Galileo Galilei

For Information/Registration:
www.teachtech.ilstu.edu



College of Fine Arts Announces Teaching Awards

The College of Fine Arts has announced their college teaching awards for 2007. The College Council reviewed the portfolios of applicants and selected faculty outstanding in the areas of teaching and service. The College Research Committee selected the research award winners.

Among the winning faculty was Bill O'Donnell, winner of the Outstanding Teaching Award for the College. Creativity is a key element of his teaching as articulated in his teaching philosophy. "I believe that the creative use of metaphor is the essence of effective teaching. We come to understand the new and unknown through analogies to that which we know," O'Donnell states.

Christopher Hollingsworth, winner of a College Teaching Initiative Award, attributes his teaching success to his collaborations with students. He feels his work with them allows him to grow as a scholar and a teacher. "I am greatly honored to have received the Teaching Initiative Award. I feel that this award not only honors me, but my students as well. The work that I do with each of them is truly collaborative and therefore I share this with them. I view my teaching as a means to share the knowledge that I have received, my passion for the art of singing, and my devotion to shaping our future teachers and performers," says Hollingsworth.

College teaching award winners may choose to apply for a university-level teaching award. Recipients for these awards are announced in January at the Teaching & Learning Symposium and recognized at the Founder's Day Convocation in February. For more information about university teaching awards, visit the Grants & Awards page on the CTLT website at www.teachtech.ilstu.edu.

2007 College of Fine Arts Award Recipients

- Bill O'Donnell (Art), College Outstanding Teacher Award
- Daniella Barroquero (Art), College Teaching Initiative Award
- Christopher Hollingsworth (Music), College Teaching Initiative Award
- Amy Gilreath (Music), College Outstanding Researcher Award
- Melissa Oresky (Art), College Outstanding Researcher Award
- Tyler Lotz (Art), College Research Initiative Award
- Sara Semonis (Theatre), College Research Initiative Award
- Sara Smelser (Art), College Outstanding Service Award
- Karyl Carlson (Music), College Service Initiative Award

Meet the CTLT Staff: *Amber Thomas*

DID YOU KNOW?
 The University Center for Learning Assistance is available to assist students with Accounting, English, Math, Chemistry, Spanish, Biology, Physics, and Italian. Faculty can encourage students to visit the UCLA for individual or group tutoring sessions. For more information, visit www.ucollege.ilstu.edu/ucla.

"Where there is an open mind, there is always a frontier."

Charles F. Kettering

For Information/Registration:
www.teachtech.ilstu.edu



Name: Amber Thomas
 Title: Graphic Designer
 Education: B.A. in Art with an emphasis in Graphic Design, Eastern Illinois University
 Family: Husband Matt is a state trooper. The couple has a Dog named Binke.

Amber Thomas has been working in the CTLT graphics department for over a year now. "I like knowing what I do is helping with things that matter, like education. I used to work in a more retail-oriented job, but at the CTLT, I get to be a part of helping people grow through education," Thomas says, commenting on the most rewarding part of her job. She also enjoys working with the people around her. "I really enjoy work because I'm around positive people who are encouraging, relaxed, and let you branch out to do your own thing."

Thomas says she especially likes working with the graduate assistants and student interns at the CTLT, assisting them with CTLT projects and event materials.

While Thomas's work encompasses all forms of graphic design, her favorite part of her job is designing posters for display on campus.

Most recently, she's been busy designing and printing the posters which will soon appear across campus advertising the 2008 Teaching & Learning Symposium. Other projects include designing CD covers for the Music Department and printing conference posters and materials for faculty, staff, and graduate students.

Happily, CTLT's positive work environment has ensured that Thomas's biggest challenge is troubleshooting the large machines she works with on a daily basis, including the printers for large scale posters and laminating machines.

And the most important thing she's learned while working at the Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology? "Just how important communication is when you're working with so many people."

CTLT November Events

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DID YOU KNOW?

Global Review is a student organization that provides a weekly forum for discussing international-related topics. For more information, visit www.internationalstudies.ilstu.edu/ihouse/globalreview.shtml.

“Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in.”

Abraham Lincoln

For Information/Registration:
www.teachtech.ilstu.edu



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>For more information about these and other CTLT Events, call 438-2542 or visit us online at www.teachtech.ilstu.edu.</p>			<p>1 2:00pm Creating Movies with I-Movie</p> <p>2:00-3:00pm New Faculty Dev. Circles</p> <p>3:00-3:30pm Teaching Excellence Series</p>	<p>2 12:00-3:00pm Blackboard Pilot Lunch and Learn</p> <p>2:00-3:00pm New Faculty Dev. Circles</p>
<p>5 1:00-4:00pm Maintaining Your Website Using Dreamweaver</p>	<p>6 1:00-3:00pm Outlook Email Temporary Foreman Training</p>	<p>7 9:00am-12:00pm Intro to Blackboard</p> <p>1:00-4:00pm Photoshop Part 1</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>12 1:00-4:00pm Intensive Workshop: Master Skills with Dreamweaver</p>	<p>13 1:30-2:30pm Professional Writing Group</p> <p>2:00-3:30pm TurningPoint with Clicker</p>	<p>14 8:30-9:30am Teaching Excellence Series: Type and the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm Upgrading to Blackboard</p>	<p>15 2:00-3:00pm New Faculty Development Circles</p> <p>3:00-4:00pm Teaching Excellence Series: Gen Ed. Is It Working?</p>	<p>16 2:00-3:00pm New Faculty Development Circles</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 CTLT wishes you a very Happy Thanksgiving!</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27 1:30-2:30pm Professional Writing Circle</p>	<p>28 1:00-3:00pm Outlook Calendar</p>	<p>29 2:00-3:00pm New Faculty Development Circle</p>	<p>30 2:00-3:00pm New Faculty Development Circle</p>