

# Teaching & Technology

Instructional Technology Information for  
Faculty and Staff at Texas A&M University

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## News & Events UPDATE



**Instructional Technology Services (ITS)**  
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### Get a Refresher for the Fall Semester!

Looking to get a jump on developing your curriculum before things get hectic this fall? All Texas A&M faculty, instructional staff, and teaching assistants are invited to join us August 10-14 for reBOOT CAMP, your opportunity to learn—or relearn—a full range of software, devices, and topics related to teaching and learning.

Let us help you get up to speed in a relaxed setting before classes start this fall. Get hands-on experience and “learn by doing” in our state-of-the-art classroom in Room 004 (basement level) of Heldenfels Hall. Come and go as your schedule permits for this no-cost training event. Register today at [itsinfo.tamu.edu/training](http://itsinfo.tamu.edu/training).

More ITS News on Back

## Schedule at a Glance

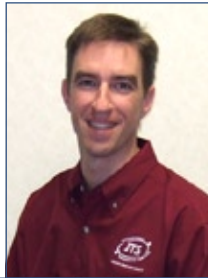
August 10	August 11	August 12	August 13	August 14
<p><b>9:00-9:40</b> Introduction to ITS</p> <p><b>9:45-11:00</b> Introduction to eLearning for New Users</p> <p><b>10:00-11:00</b> Respondus &amp; StudyMate (via Centra webconference)</p> <p><b>11:15-12:00</b> eLearning Assessments and Assignments</p> <p><b>12:00-1:00</b> Lunch on your own</p> <p><b>1:00-4:00</b> Hands-on Open Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring your course materials and work on your curriculum</li> <li>Design assessments and assignments</li> <li>Use Respondus &amp; StudyMate to create fun, efficient interactivity</li> </ul>	<p><b>9:00-10:00</b> Wikis</p> <p><b>10:15-11:00</b> eLearning Email, Announcements &amp; Groups</p> <p><b>10:15-11:00</b> Blogs (via Centra webconference)</p> <p><b>11:15-12:00</b> eLearning Discussions</p> <p><b>12:00-1:00</b> Lunch on your own</p> <p><b>1:00-4:00</b> Hands-on Open Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring your course materials and work on your curriculum</li> <li>Set up your wiki and blog</li> <li>Practice grading discussions and ways to successfully implement discussions</li> </ul>	<p><b>9:00-9:45</b> Audio Podcasting Using Audacity</p> <p><b>10:00-12:00</b> Multimedia Podcasting Using Camtasia, MediaMatrix &amp; iTunes U</p> <p><b>12:00-1:00</b> Lunch on your own</p> <p><b>1:00-4:00</b> Hands-on Open Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring your course materials and work on your curriculum</li> <li>Create introductory MP3 podcast for your course</li> <li>Work with content provided by ITS, or bring your own content, to create a multimedia podcast for your course using Camtasia</li> </ul>	<p><b>9:00-10:45</b> Student Response Systems (“Clickers”)</p> <p><b>11:00-12:00</b> Centra Webconferencing</p> <p><b>12:00-1:00</b> Lunch on your own</p> <p><b>1:00-4:00</b> Hands-on Open Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up your course via eInstruction CPS Online or eLearning for students to register clickers</li> <li>Create a database, import students, and prepare for your first class to use clickers</li> <li>Add clickers to your syllabus</li> <li>Lead a live Centra event in a controlled environment that will also train you how to successfully implement clickers</li> </ul>	<p><b>9:00-9:30</b> Introduction to 3D Virtual Worlds</p> <p><b>9:45-11:45</b> Second Life</p> <p><b>12:00-1:00</b> Lunch on your own</p> <p><b>1:00-4:00</b> Hands-on Open Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to try developing and terraforming in Second Life</li> <li>Create materials and locate educational resources in Second Life to use in your course</li> <li>Develop learning objectives that can be realized in 3D spaces</li> </ul>

## Announcing New Employees, the ITS Support Team & ITS Help



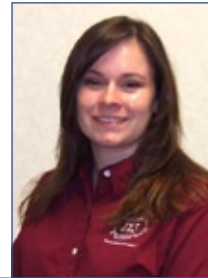
Josh Kissee

Josh has eight years of experience in IT, with the last three years spent as a technical support consultant responsible for the helpdesk at a \$180M plastics manufacturer in Arkansas. He has a BS in Management Information Systems and a MEd in Human Resource Development. Josh joined ITS in May to oversee all support calls and emails.



Jeff Kurtz

Jeff has been with ITS for three years and was previously employed with Southwestern Bell Corp. as a channel manager. He conducts the majority of training sessions at ITS and frequently delivers customized training for departments on campus. He has a BA in Speech Communications and is a Blackboard Certified Trainer.



Melanie Iden

Melanie has been with ITS for five years. She meets with instructors for one-on-one consultations, handles email and phone support, develops how-to guides, and delivers training sessions at ITS. She has a BS in Human Resource Development and will soon complete a MAg with an eLearning Development Certificate.

To continually stay on the forefront of emerging trends in higher education and relevant online learning initiatives that matter to you, we are growing to meet your needs.

"With the substantial growth we are seeing in technology-enhanced instruction both on campus and beyond, we must proactively plan and accommodate for innovative educational objectives at Texas A&M," says Carol Henrichs, an assistant director at ITS.

We are accomplishing these objectives by hiring more personnel for instructor technical support (in addition to the friendly faces above), developing internal and external policies and procedures, expanding help resources, and researching enterprise-level customer support systems.

We are also excited to announce ITS Help, your one-stop resource for instructor technical support, help files, and training materials. Through our comprehensive and frequently updated wiki system, you will soon be able to find searchable FAQs, one-page quick-start guides, comprehensive how-to guides, segmented training videos, and screencast tutorials. We anticipate launching ITS Help by Fall 2009.



Ranil Gunasekara

We also welcome Ranil as a part of the Applications Development & Systems Administration team. He joined ITS in May as a Microcomputer/LAN Administrator and was previously employed at the The Bush School of Government and Public Service. He has a BS in Mechanical Engineering.

### eLearning Tools to Interface with the Compass Student Information System

We continue to develop and refine a set of in-house eLearning Tools with which instructors of record can create, combine, and manage eLearning sections to correspond to SIMS sections. eLearning sections can include individual, cross-listed, or stacked SIMS sections. You can also add TAs, co-instructors, auditors, and designers as well as request to retain sections at the end of the semester.

eLearning Tools will soon transparently connect with the new Compass student information system when it launches in Fall 2009, just as it currently functions with SIMS.

"We will maintain the same functionality that instructors currently have with eLearning Tools and SIMS once the university migrates to the new SunGard Banner-based system," explains Jim Snell, director of ITS. "In fact, many of the processes will be quicker since we will receive student-information data in real-time."

Access eLearning Tools with your NetID and password at [elearningtools.tamu.edu](http://elearningtools.tamu.edu) (Health Science Center users, use [elearningtools.tamu.edu/hsc](http://elearningtools.tamu.edu/hsc)).

### Turnitin News

All Turnitin services will be unavailable due to scheduled maintenance on Saturday, July 11, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CDT and Saturday, August 8, from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. CDT.

As of May 26, Turnitin now prevents instructors from setting new assignment due dates during any future planned downtime periods and will notify instructors if due dates will cause a conflict.

In addition, as of August 1, Turnitin will no longer support versions of Internet Explorer earlier than 7.0. A list of supported browsers is available at [www.turnitin.com/static/system\\_requirements.html](http://www.turnitin.com/static/system_requirements.html).

### Respondus LockDown Browser Setup Guide Available

We have developed a guide for instructors to follow to reduce potential technical issues associated with the latest release of Respondus LockDown Browser v1.0.3. The guide lists technical exclusions and preparations as well as approved assessment environments. The guide is available as a PDF at [itsinfo.tamu.edu/rldb](http://itsinfo.tamu.edu/rldb).