



2009 Instructional Technology Showcase

Schedule at a Glance

8:50–9:00

Welcome Address

Jim Snell, Instructional Technology Services

9:00–9:25

Centra Webconferencing System

John August & Noberto Espitia, Veterinary Small Animal Clinical Sciences

9:30–9:55

Blogs @ TAMU

Nancy Small, Department of English

10:00–10:55

Respondus, StudyMate, LockDown Browser, Impatica & Turnitin

Melanie Iden, Instructional Technology Services

11:00–11:25

Camtasia and Audacity for Screencasting and Podcasting

Theresa Murphrey, Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communications

11:30–11:55

MediaMatrix Audio/Visual Internet Streaming System

Aaron Brender, Internet Media Services

12:00–12:55

LUNCHTIME PANEL PRESENTATION

Peer-Review Services Available at Texas A&M: Calibrated Peer Review, Writing and Learning Community System & Waypoint

Wendy Keeney-Kennicutt, Department of Chemistry

Stephen Balfour, College of Liberal Arts

Valerie Balester & Candace Schaefer, University Writing Center

1:00–1:25

Second Life 3D Virtual World

Jim Snell, Instructional Technology Services

1:30–1:55

Wikis @ TAMU

Carol Henrichs, Instructional Technology Services

2:00–2:55

eLearning System (Blackboard Vista): Introduction, Communication Tools, and Assessment Tools

Jeff Kurtz, Joshua Kisee & Kathy Williams, Instructional Technology Services

3:00–3:25

eInstruction Student Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Shontarius Aikens, Mays Business School

3:30–3:55

SoftChalk LessonBuilder: Web-Authoring Tool for Easy Content Creation

Carol Henrichs, Instructional Technology Services

Presentation Descriptions

8:50–9:00

Welcome

Jim Snell, Instructional Technology Services

9:00–9:25

Centra Webconferencing System

John August & Noberto Espitia, Veterinary Small Animal Clinical Sciences

Centra is a webconferencing system that allows you to share presentations, websites, and applications; present quizzes and surveys; and use breakout rooms in real-time. Use Centra to present to small or large classes and interact with students with voice over IP, video, and text and also record your presentations for asynchronous viewing. Centra is available throughout the Texas A&M University System as its standardized webconferencing system.

9:30–9:55

Blogs @ TAMU

Nancy Small, Department of English

Blogs @ TAMU is a WordPress-powered system that provides no-cost blogs (short for “weblogs”) to Texas A&M students, faculty, and staff. Blogs are online journals for posting regularly updated reflective writing and various types of multimedia. Blogs also feature commenting options and basic tools for authoring a small website. Learn how to effectively use blogs to encourage online discussions and engage students in multi-channel discourse.

10:00–10:55

Respondus, StudyMate, LockDown Browser, Impatica & Turnitin

Melanie Iden, Instructional Technology Services

Respondus enables you to create and manage exams that you can print on paper or publish directly to eLearning. You can either create exams offline or import existing exams from word processor files. **StudyMate** lets you create ten Flash-based activities and games using three simple templates. Activities can be uploaded to a website or published directly to eLearning. **LockDown Browser** significantly reduces the potential for students to find outside answers on the Internet or via instant messaging while taking a computer-based assessment. The browser is integrated with eLearning via a PowerLink; you can require that students use LockDown Browser when you create assessments in eLearning by simply selecting a checkbox in the Assessments tool. **Impatica** converts PowerPoint files into a compressed format that is optimized for online viewing. You can retain original PowerPoint text, graphics, transitions, and narrations in your exported slideshows, all while protecting your intellectual content. **Turnitin** is an online database system designed to help instructors detect plagiarism in written assignments through word matching. Students can submit papers directly from eLearning via a PowerLink, or you have the option of using Turnitin.com Web-based services.

11:00–11:25

Camtasia and Audacity for Screencasting and Podcasting

Theresa Murphrey, Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communications

Both screencasting and podcasting continue to gain momentum as effective teaching tools in higher education. They are approachable and inexpensive methods of delivering course materials to today’s tech-savvy students.

Camtasia records onscreen actions and enables you to add voiceovers and

various types of visual callouts. You can save the resulting screencast (video) in various formats and sizes for online delivery to students. **Audacity** is a free, cross-platform audio recorder and sound editor. Use Audacity to record lessons, lectures, review sessions, or guest speakers and distribute them as MP3 podcasts.

11:30–11:55

MediaMatrix Audio/Visual Internet Streaming System

Aaron Brender, Internet Media Services

MediaMatrix allows you to upload audio and video files to create customized collections of educational media for students or other viewing audiences. You can limit access to a specific set of people based on NetIDs and even make non-copyright material available to the public. The system supports a variety of media formats and offers robust RSS (Really Simple Syndication) capabilities.

12:00–12:55

LUNCHTIME PANEL PRESENTATION

Peer-Review Services Available at Texas A&M: Calibrated Peer Review, Writing and Learning Community System & Waypoint

Wendy Keeney-Kennicutt, Department of Chemistry

Stephen Balfour, College of Liberal Arts

Valerie Balester & Candace Schaefer, University Writing Center

Discover services available on campus for incorporating peer review into your curriculum. Wendy Keeney-Kennicutt will discuss **Calibrated Peer Review**, which is an online peer review system where students submit writing assignments, learn to review their peers' submissions, and then view their own peer-critiqued assignment results. Stephen Balfour will discuss the **Writing and Learning Community System** project, which is a custom-built service designed to help manage the process of writing, editing, and reviewing papers for courses. And Valerie Balester and Candace Schaefer will discuss **Waypoint**, which is a service for developing, processing, and analyzing assessment data and includes interactive grading rubrics for providing relevant and timely feedback to complex student assignments.

1:00–1:25

Second Life 3D Virtual World

Jim Snell, Instructional Technology Services

Second Life, a three-dimensional (3D) virtual world, is an emerging online teaching environment. It runs on a free application in which users interact with each other using avatars, or on-screen characters. Chat and multimedia features are also available to facilitate participation in individual and group activities. You can explore and build unique, "in-world" virtual properties and points of interest that are only limited to your imagination. Join us for a tour of the Texas A&M Second Life Campus, which is a publicly available virtual extension of the main campus in College Station. Learn more about this unique educational environment where students, instructors, and visitors can discover, connect, and learn.

1:30–1:55

Wikis @ TAMU

Carol Henrichs, Instructional Technology Services

In our increasingly connected Web 2.0 world, collaborative and open methods of sharing information and ideas have become vital aspects of today's teaching and learning. This is where Wikis @ TAMU comes in—the no-cost service is an Atlassian Confluence-powered, multi-user website system in which registered users can contextually add content or edit existing items. Learn how to effectively use your own wiki space to post up-to-date information, develop online file repositories, administer group-based assignments, and ultimately engage students in collaborative online learning.

2:00–2:55

eLearning System (Blackboard Vista): Introduction, Communication Tools, and Assessment Tools

Jeff Kurtz, Joshua Kisse & Kathy Williams, Instructional Technology Services

The eLearning System, powered by Blackboard Vista (formerly WebCT Vista), is the university-wide learning management system (LMS) for uploading syllabi, managing grades, and teaching courses in either a hybrid format or completely online. eLearning is a secure, enterprise-level system and features grade books; assignments; quizzes and surveys; chat rooms; discussion forums, blogs and journals; email; and course content tools. Get an overview of what you can accomplish with this full-featured LMS, especially in the context of emergency preparedness.

3:00–3:25

eInstruction Classroom Performance Systems (“Clickers”)

Shontarius Aikens, Mays Business School

Student response systems, or “clickers,” are instructional devices that can assist you in engaging students in classroom topics and help you determine if they understand the subject matter you are teaching. eInstruction is the standardized vendor for Texas A&M and integrates with Blackboard Vista to record assessment results to a Grade Book.

3:30–3:55

SoftChalk LessonBuilder: Web-Authoring Tool for Easy Content Creation

Carol Henrichs, Instructional Technology Services

SoftChalk LessonBuilder is a lesson editor for creating engaging, interactive Web-based lessons for your course. LessonBuilder enables you to create professionally designed, HTML-based content—all with no programming required. Add interactive learning games, six types of questions, and pop-up text annotations to define terminology in your lessons. Within minutes, LessonBuilder will generate a set of integrated lesson pages, complete with built-in navigation and a well-structured layout. When you are finished developing your SCORM-compliant lessons, package them for delivery through your eLearning course or directly to a website.

Please remember to complete an evaluation form and place it in the designated box.
Thank you for attending the Showcase!

For suggestions about future events, please contact ITS at its@tamu.edu or (979) 862-3977.