

TLT: Technology For Learning and Teaching

Spring, 2005 Issue

TLT, a publication of Information Technology Services-Educational Technology, is distributed each semester to faculty at The University of Northern Iowa. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information on how technology can be used to enhance the educational experience at UNI.



Spotlight on: Trudy Eden

**Trudy is an assistant professor
in the History Department.**



Spotlight is a regular feature of TLT designed to showcase a particular faculty application of technology at UNI.

Trudy regularly teaches courses in American civilization, colonial and revolutionary America, and various graduate courses. This semester, Trudy expanded one of her courses at UNI to include students located in St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia.

This initiative began in the fall of 2004 when Trudy's department head approached her to see if she would be interested in teaching an American Civilization class to Russian students. "I said 'Yes' right away because I thought it would be fun," said Trudy, "but I also thought it would be a challenge, even though I had no idea exactly what those challenges would be."

The American Civilization class consists of 64 students: 22 in Moscow; 24 in St. Petersburg; and the remaining 18 in Cedar Falls. Trudy meets live with the class twice a week for an hour and a half using specialized video conferencing units located in her classroom and at each of the sites in Russia. The video conferencing units deliver full screen full motion live video and audio via the Internet. "Video conferencing has made it possible to teach face-to face to students in Russia. It is however not seamless, and there is a bit of a delay," said Trudy.

In addition to live video and audio, Trudy utilizes WebCT to communicate with her students asynchronously and to offer on demand access to print based content as well as to provide a means for evaluation using the online quizzing and testing tools. "WebCT is a huge help because I make my readings, study guides, email, PowerPoint slide handouts, grades, vocabulary, and tests available to my students all the time," said Trudy.

Trudy believes that the course is going well but states that it is much more difficult than she thought it would be. There are several challenges in teaching a class internationally, such as language, time difference, and cultural and social differences. "But the benefits to students are multiple," said Trudy. "Both Russians and Americans are learning a lot about each other and therefore a lot about themselves. Everyone is learning about the history of American civilization, and we are learning about American civilization today, and, yes, we are learning about Russian civilization, but not as much as I would like.... That starts right after Spring break."

The video conferencing links to Russia are based on a collaborative project between ITS-ET and International Programs. See **Multimedia Conferencing** on the reverse side of this page for more information.

Faculty Institutes

Sponsored jointly by the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust and the University of Northern Iowa, the UNI Faculty Institutes initiative involves six summer institutes for selected faculty that provide the foundation for ongoing collaborative faculty learning communities. The two institutes for 2005 are scheduled for May; a very few openings remain for the second session. Please visit www.uni.edu/its/et/carver/carver.htm for details. Watch UNIONline next spring for announcements about the final two institutes scheduled for May of 2006.

Where Are We?

ITS-ET is located at the corner of 23rd and College streets, just across from the main campus.

Our telephone is 273-2309
and our website is
www.uni.edu/its/et



A-V Production

Audio/Video Production Services documents UNI events of a historical nature.

Activities such as the UNI Convocation, the Dedication of the Native Roadside Vegetation Center, the Dedication of the McCollum Science Addition, and numerous other events have been chronicled recently. Any campus activity may be recorded for a small cost by contacting us at 3-6299 at least one week in advance of a proposed recording date. Visit www.uni.edu/its/et/audio-video-production for more information.

The Production House/Digital Design

Among the many cost-effective services provided to the UNI community by ITS-ET is website design and production. We will provide consultation, design, and creation services for University related web sites. Additionally, we provide website maintenance services, including routine updates, posting of new content, and adding pages or links from material you provide. For further information call Sandy Hendrickson at 3-6276 or Chuck Sengstock at 3-6192 or visit www.uni.edu/its/et/productionhouse.

Multimedia Conferencing

This issue of TLT spotlighted one example of a growing use of video conferencing to deliver instruction worldwide. If you would like more information about the possibilities of conferencing applications, please call Rick Seeley at 3-7218 or visit www.uni.edu/its/et/multimediaconferencing

WebCT

If you are interested in teaching online courses you will want to become acquainted with WebCT, UNI's online course management system. WebCT offers a secure environment for distributing class materials electronically, conducting class discussions, giving quizzes and tests, and many other activities. One UNI faculty member commented: "WebCT is ***hugely*** helpful in my Foreign Language Teaching Methodology class. It gives the students an opportunity to answer questions related to our reading away from class and pursue their curiosity about the issues raised as much as they'd like. And it is promoting exactly the kind of reflective discussion of these issues that I was shooting for."

For more information about WebCT visit webct.uni.edu, send an email to idders@uni.edu or call 3-5854.

Online Learning and Teaching

Have you ever wondered what students experience when taking a course entirely online, with no face-to-face meetings? ITS-Educational Technology offers a two-week faculty workshop entirely on the web using WebCT. From April 6-19, 2005, participants will experience the student point of view of online learning while learning about and discussing online teaching with colleagues. Activities involve about 2-3 hours per week and include:

- Reading and discussing online articles and viewing online videos related to online learning and teaching.
- Participating in real-time chats on the Internet.
- Taking an online test.
- Discussing issues and concerns pertaining to the online learning environment.

For more information and to register visit www.uni.edu/its/et/tlt/olt

StudioIT

We are now taking reservation requests to use StudioIT for summer and fall sessions. Located in Lang 245, the Studio for Innovative Teaching is a flexible, interactive technology classroom. Technology available in the room includes an interactive whiteboard called a SMART Board with an integrated instructor computer, twenty wireless laptop computers for your students to use, and a Polycom video conferencing unit. StudioIT is available at no charge to UNI faculty to use for classroom instruction.

For more information or to submit a reservation inquiry please visit www.uni.edu/its/et/studioit