Jeff's Jargon
Jeff Newell, ILCCO Director

Last fall, the U.S. Department of Education announced that beginning July 1, 2011 institutions offering distance education courses to students in other states must meet those state's requirements for offering education if there is no physical presence in the state. As many colleges have opened their "online doors" to any student, regardless of location, this requirement is critical for colleges to address to be in compliance with federal law...

Full Article

William Rainey Harper College: Providing Learning Opportunities through New Initiatives
Sarah Stark, Director, Center for Innovative Instruction

While there are many changes currently in process at Harper College, all are focused toward student success. Initiatives such as Achieving the Dream, P-20 Curricular Alliances and Community Strategic Alliances are already in place, and others are beginning to unfold as a new strategic planning process and campus master plan have begun. The Center for Innovative Instruction (CII), as an integral part of this process, is also busy planning and implementing…

Full Article

New ICE Courses Available

21 new courses from Black Hawk, DuPage & Harper.

Full Article

Coming Events

National and statewide events listed between October and January:

- ILCCO Webinars (February - April)
- Enhancing Learning through Technology Conference (Elgin/March)
- ILCCO/NILRC Distance Learning Workshop (April)
- TechConnect 2011 (Sandburg/May)
- ION's Faculty Summer Institute
- ITC audioconferences
- SLOAN-C online seminars
- National Conferences

Full Article

Research to Read
Michael Skwara, Highland

Application of Online Discussion…

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Website Watch
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On the Horizon
…two discussions of coming trends in education technology and distance learning provide food for thought as we prepare ourselves for what's next…

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Presentation Option: xtranormal Movies

In the quest to offer something other than PowerPoint… making a stir lately is xtranormal, an online animated movie maker. Making the movies is simple, and there are options for choosing…

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Copy/Paste Email Address Function

One of my favorite functions in ICE is the copy/paste email address function. I use this function to…

Full Article

To learn more about ILCCO, contact Jeff Newell at jeff.newell@illinois.gov

Jeff's Jargon (full article)

Distance Education Regulation Changes

Last fall, the U.S. Department of Education announced that beginning July 1, 2011 institutions offering distance education courses to students in other states must meet those state's requirements for offering education if there is no physical presence in the state. As many colleges have opened their "online doors" to any student, regardless of location, this requirement is critical for colleges to address to be in compliance with federal law. WCET, the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies, has compiled a number of resources to help institutions address this issue. Their 2010 Federal Regulations on State Approval of Out-of-State Providers website provides background information and a recorded webinar. It is updated with new information as it becomes available. WCET has also developed the document "State Approval Regulations for Distance Education: A 'Starter' List" as a starting place for understanding various state requirements and contacting state education departments. Please take the time to review the information at these links.

Growing Online Learning 2011 Registration Open

The theme of the 2011 Growing Online Learning conference is "Open Education Resources" Presentations on open resources and available Web 2.0 tools have been arranged. The online conference will take place April 19 – 21, 2011. Conference sessions include:

April 19 9:00 AM	**Creative Commons: "Slipping into the Future**	Shari Smith University of Illinois Springfield
April 19 3:00 PM	**KEYNOTE: Developing a Culture of Sharing and Receiving: Open Educational Resources**	Cable Green Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
April 20 9:00 AM	**Teaching without a Textbook**	Anne Humphrey McHenry County College
April 20 3:00 PM	**Online Polling**	Chad Dennis Western Illinois University
April 21 9:00 AM	**Revving up Course Content with Free Web 2.0 Tools"**	Kona Jones Richland Community College
April 21 3:00 PM	**Managing the Online Teaching Workload**	Molly Baker Black Hawk College

The conference is free to Illinois community colleges. Registration and more information on the conference and sessions are available at http://ilcco.net/ILCCO/conferences.cfm.

Spring ILCCO Professional Development Webinar Series

See Coming Events for information about ILCCO's spring webinars:

Archive	**Basic Facilitation Techniques for Elluminate Live**	Matt Ensenberger Harper College
Archive	**PowerPoint Less**	Ray Schroeder & Carrie Levin University of Illinois Springfield
March 24 11:00 AM	**Maintaining Consistency and Quality with Individuality – a Model for Multiple Sections of an Online Course**	Ada Wainwright College of DuPage
March 28 3:00 PM	**Call-in Talk (Internet) Radio and Faculty Learning**	Molly Baker Black Hawk College
April 5 11:00 AM	**Tune into Learning Anytime, Anywhere with iTunes**	Toni Burkhalter Parkland College

ILCCO-NILRC Distance Learning Workshop
The ILCCO-NILRC Distance Learning Workshop will take place on April 7 & 8 at Lincoln Land's Capital Training Center in Springfield IL. This year the focus will be on streaming media. The agenda is nearly complete with presentations from colleges as well as vendors. Registration and more information will be disseminated in the near future.

Growing Online Learning Archives
Archived recordings of the 2010 Growing Online Learning conference are available and free to view. 2010 sessions included the keynote by Barry Dahl "Users & Uses of Emerging Technologies in Higher Ed" as well as topics such as use of smart pens, Google Tools, and wikis.

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ILCCO Featured College (full article)

William Rainey Harper College: Providing Learning Opportunities through New Initiatives
Sarah Stark, Harper College

While there are many changes currently in process at Harper College, all are focused toward student success. Initiatives such as Achieving the Dream, P-20 Curricular Alliances and Community Strategic Alliances are already in place, and others are beginning to unfold as a new strategic planning process and campus master plan have begun. The Center for Innovative Instruction (CII), as an integral part of this process, is also busy planning and implementing faculty-driven learning opportunities that will result in enhanced student retention and success at the course level.

Some of CII's most successful efforts include:

- Two graduate credit courses offered through Aurora University for Harper faculty
- The Successful Teaching Online Mentoring Program (STOMP)
- The Technology Users' Group (TUG) and Bits&Bytes monthly sessions
- The Article Club
- Retention and Research for Distance Faculty (R&R)
- The Blackboard Users' Group (BUG)
- Tech Fest, in collaboration with the Instructional Technology Committee

Designed and taught by CII's Instructional Design Specialist, the graduate credit courses focus on teaching online for the first time (3 credit hours) and reviewing and editing existing online and blended courses to meet a quality standards rubric (2 credit hours). These courses are delivered in a blended format and are offered three times a year.

STOMP is an eight-week development course workshop offered entirely online. Faculty who will be designing and teaching at a distance participate in this extended workshop to better understand the unique issues associated with transitioning traditional classroom materials and pedagogy for online delivery, and also to experience the distance format in the student role. This workshop is offered during the fall, spring and summer semesters and facilitated by the Instructional Technologist.

TUG and Bits&Bytes are monthly sessions that are tied together with a different selected focus each semester. The Technology Users' Group typically features a discussion topic that is pertinent to teaching, and the corresponding Bits&Bytes sessions share tools via a "show and tell" format that enable faculty to more easily accomplish the TUG teaching strategies. Although these sessions are

planned and facilitated by the Instructional Technologist, faculty are often featured as they lead the discussions and/or showcase the tools they are using successfully.

The Article Club meets six times per year in a face-to-face format. CII's Instructional Technologist selects a white paper, article, Webcast or purchased program based on faculty interest, shares the chosen resource prior to the scheduled meeting time, and then leads the discussion based on that resource. Faculty provide insight on what has worked best for them, and all leave each session with new ideas that can be put to use - often immediately.

R&R for Distance Faculty is a new group that is made up of Harper full time faculty, adjunct faculty, and invited guest experts from other two-year colleges. A wiki is used to share best practices for increasing student retention and success, a discussion board is utilized for questions and answers, and a synchronous Elluminate session facilitated by CII's Director is held to review shared information and to set up action items for consideration at Harper College. This year-long initiative is examining pre-course enrollment tools, orientation delivery methods, student success tools, online faculty professional development opportunities, and distance course review options.

BUG sessions are facilitated each month by the Instructional Technology Assistant. Blackboard (Harper's LMS choice) tools are selected and then showcased to better familiarize faculty with built-in capabilities such as SafeAssign, adaptive release, and creating weighted grades in the Grade Center. With our upcoming move to Blackboard Version 9.1, BUG sessions for the spring semester will be focused on changes and new tool availability in this new version.

Presented as an idea by CII, and brought to life as a collaborative partnership between CII and the Harper College Instructional Technology Committee, the Harper College Tech Fest is now an annual event! Held each spring during Faculty Orientation Week, faculty members showcase via an e-poster format how they use technology to enhance student learning. A short video highlighting the inaugural event can be found at http://harperitc.blogspot.com/2010/02/spring-techfest.html.

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New ICE Courses (full article)

Black Hawk College is now offering 2 new courses online:

- BE 110 Data Entry and Dragon Voice Recognition
  Designed to teach data entry skills, to help the student develop dexterity and accuracy in keyboarding alphabetic and alphanumeric characters, and to help the student become familiar with common data entry procedures, including voice input. 2 credit hours
- BE 160 Machine Transcription
  Development of machine transcription and proofreading skills using computer word processing software. 3 credit hrs. (Prerequisite: Keyboarding I)

Contact Molly Baker, bakerm@bhc.edu, for more information.

College of DuPage is now offering 1 new course online:

- Office Technology Information 1300 – Virtual Office Assistant

Contact Min Pan, Panmin@cod.edu, for more information.

Harper College is now offering 18 new courses online:

- ACC201: Intermediate Accounting I (3 credit hours)

- ACC202: Intermediate Accounting II (3 credit hours)
- ACC203: Introductory Cost Accounting (3 credit hours)
- ACC250: Income Tax Accounting (3 credit hours)
- ACC254: Auditing (3 credit hours)
- CAS160: Microsoft Office 2010 (3 credit hours)
- DIT101: Fundamentals of Nutrition (3 credit hours; IAI L1 904)
- EIT250: E-Learning Web Development (3 credit hours)
- ENG100: Composition (3 credit hours)
- HUM120: Classical Mythology (3 credit hours; IAI H9 901)
- LIT115: Introduction to Fiction (3 credit hours; IAI H3 901)
- MKT252: Internet Marketing (3 credit hours)
- MTH101: Quantitative Literacy (4 credit hours; IAI M1 901)
- MTH103: College Algebra (3 credit hours)
- MTH165: Elementary Statistics (4 credit hours; M1 902)
- PED207: Human Sexuality (3 credit hours)
- PHI215: Religion in America (3 credit hours, IAI H5 905)
- WEB235: Interactive Scripting (3 credit hours)

Contact Sarah Stark, sstark@harper.edu, for more information.

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Coming Events (full article)

ILCCO Spring 2011 Webinar Series:
Contact Jeff Newell, jeff.newell@illinois.gov, for information on these sessions.

Basic Facilitation Techniques for Elluminate Live
Archived Recording
Matt Ensenberger
Instructional Design Specialist
Harper College

The Elluminate Live synchronous software has gained critical mass on many college campuses. Faculty and staff understand what a vital role this software plays in meetings and classes where participants are located across the street and across the globe. Many that have experienced Elluminate Live meetings have only experienced this synchronous environment from the participant perspective. This 1-hour workshop will cover the facilitator interface and many of the tools and their controls that can be used by the facilitator to aid in running an effective, efficient, and appealing meeting or class session. The instructor will also offer some strategies for ways to successfully integrate this tool into your virtual meeting space. Every attempt will be made to leave ample time for a question and answer period at the end of the presentation.

PowerPoint Less
Archived Recording

Ray Schroeder
Director, Center for Online Learning, Research & Service
University of Illinois Springfield

Carrie Levin
Assistant Director, Center for Online Learning, Research & Service
University of Illinois Springfield

PowerPoint has become the presentation standard, but it lacks many of the qualities that we value in online learning teaching and learning. It is paper-centric; static; singular; serial, not scrollable; and non-interactive. It is from a prior century and carries the values of that paper-based culture. We seek instead to use Web 2.0 tools that are Web-native; promote active discussions; provide simple updating; scrollable by the user; and syndicated around the world via RSS. In this session we will explore alternatives this century offers to the PowerPoint of the last century.

Maintaining Consistency and Quality with Individuality – a Model for Multiple Sections of an Online Course
Thursday, March 24, 11 AM
Ada Wainwright
Assistant Professor, Psychology
College of DuPage

Ada Wainwright is a fulltime psychology professor and an advocate for distance learning. She has taught online for many years and served as the faculty DE coordinator for psychology and other disciplines. Though COD no longer has faculty DE coordinators, she continues to assist new or adjunct instructors and coordinate activities to ensure consistency and quality of online psychology courses while allowing instructors to personalize their classes. She will share her insights and experiences, suggest best practices, as well as discuss issues related to this topic in this webinar.

Call-in Talk (Internet) Radio and Faculty Learning
Monday, March 28, 3:00 PM
Molly Baker
Director, Teaching Learning Center and Online Learning
Black Hawk College

Live, online faculty development options are often appealing to our faculty audiences, and the ability to record sessions for later listening/viewing widens their reach even more. This session will share how BHC got involved with call-in talk radio over the Internet, the equipment and software we use, how the TLC has used it for faculty development and podcasting, and lessons learned. Audio clips will be shared.

Tune into Learning Anytime, Anywhere with iTunes
Tuesday, April 5, 11 AM
Toni Burkhalter
Associate Professor of Biology and Kinesiology
Parkland College

This iTunes webinar will give an in-depth look at what iTunes can do for both the faculty and students. Topics touched on will include the ins and outs of full-length audio lectures, short audio clips, and video uploads. Instructor hints and student feedback on each method will be presented.

March Events
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Academic Integrity in Online Education
  - Dates: March 2 - 11, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Dynamic Collaboration, Discussion, and Facilitation Practices
  - Dates: March 2 - 11, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Avoiding Faculty Burnout
  - Dates: March 2 - 11, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops

- **Conference: Enhancing Learning through Technology Conference: March 4, 2011**
    - Date: March 4, 2011
    - Location: Elgin Community College
    - More Information: bbarnett@elgin.edu
- Webinar (ITC): Online Strategic Planning – How to Create Quality Academic and Student Support Programs
    - Date: March 8, 2011
    - Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
    - More Information: http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=563
- Conference: Cyberlearning Tools for STEM Educators
    - Dates: March 8 - 9, 2011
    - More Information: http://cyberlearningstem.org/
- Conference: Missouri S&T's Teaching and Learning Technology Conference
    - Dates: March 10 - 11, 2011
    - More Information: http://edtech.mst.edu/events/tltconference2011/index.html
- Conference: Educause Midwest Regional Conference
    - Dates: March 14 - 16, 2011
    - More Information: http://net.educause.edu/content.asp?SECTION_ID=548&bhcp=1
- Webinar (ITC): Exploring Community College Student Perceptions of Online Learning
    - Date: March 15, 2011
    - Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
    - More Information: http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=563
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): MERLOT 101 – an Introduction to MERLOT
    - Dates: March 9 - 18, 2011
    - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Great Web 2.0 Tools to Improve Learning
    - Dates: March 9 - 18, 2011
    - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Advanced Second Life
    - Dates: March 23 – April 1
    - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- **Maintaining Consistency and Quality with Individuality – a Model for Multiple Sections of an Online Course (ILCCO Webinar)**
    - Date: March 24, 2011
    - Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00PM
    - More Information: email Jeff Newell at jeff.newell@illinois.gov
- **Call-in Talk (Internet) Radio and Faculty Learning (ILCCO Webinar)**
    - Date: March 28, 2011
    - Time: 3:00 - 4:00PM
    - More Information: email Jeff Newell at jeff.newell@illinois.gov
- Conference: SLOAN-C Promise and Practice of Blended Learning Conference
    - Dates: March 28 - 29, 2011
    - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/blended

To learn more about ILCCO, contact Jeff Newell at jeff.newell@illinois.gov

- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Blended Learning Series (Part 2) – Delivering Content, Fostering Student Interactivity, and Assessing Learning in Blended Courses
    - Dates: March 28 – April 7, 2011
    - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): eBooks, OER, and Other Digital Content Options
    - Dates: March 30 – April 17, 2011
    - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops

April Events
- **Tune into Learning Anytime, Anywhere with iTunes (ILCCO Webinar)**
    - Date: April 5, 2011
    - More Information: email Jeff Newell at jeff.newell@illinois.gov
- Webinar (ITC): How to Use the SOLO Taxonomy to Evaluate the Quality of Online Learning
    - Date: April 5, 2011
    - Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
    - More Information: http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=563
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Retention Strategies in Online Education
    - Dates: April 6 – 15, 2011
    - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Workload Management Strategies in Online Education
    - Dates: April 6 – 15, 2011
    - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- **ILCCO/NILRC Distance Learning/Program Development Workshop**
    - Dates: April 7 – 8, 2011
    - Location: Springfield IL
    - More Information: email Jeff Newell at jeff.newell@illinois.gov
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Getting Started – First Step Toward Online Teaching
    - Dates: April 6 – 22, 2011
    - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Webinar (ITC): iPads – the Latest and Greatest in Educational Tools?
    - Date: April 12, 2011
    - Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
    - More Information: http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=563
- Conference: Technology, Colleges, Community (TCC) Online Conference
    - Dates: April 12 -14, 2011
    - More Information: http://tcc.kcc.hawaii.edu/2011/tcc/welcome.html
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Advanced Podcasting and Other Web 2.0 Multimedia
    - Dates: April 13 - 22, 2011
    - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Encouraging Your Faculty to Use MERLOT to Enhance Their Classes
    - Dates: April 13 - 22, 2011
    - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops

- **Conference: ILCCO Growing Online Learning Online Conference**
  - Dates: April 19 - 21, 2011
  - Times: 9:00AM and 3:00PM each day
  - More Information: email Jeff Newell at jeff.newell@illinois.gov
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Accommodating Students with Disabilities – Leveraging the Online Learning Environment
  - Dates: April 20 - 29, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Video and Audio Tools for Teaching and Learning
  - Dates: April 20 - 29, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Blended Learning Strategies (Part 3) – Staying Organized, Evaluating Course Design, and Moving Forward with Your Blended Course
  - Dates: April 25 – May 15, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Certificate in Online Education Foundation Course
  - Dates: April 27 – July 1, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops

May Events
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Basics of Asynchronous/Synchronous Blended Learning
  - Dates: May 2 - 22, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Dynamic Collaboration, Discussion, and Facilitation Practices
  - Dates: May 4 - 13, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Copyright Compliance for Online Educators
  - Dates: May 4 - 13, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Using the Quality Matters Rubric to Improve Your Online Course
  - Dates: May 4 - 20, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Facebook Intensive – Features and Possibilities
  - Dates: May 11 - 20, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Getting Started – the First Step Toward Online Teaching
  - Dates: May 11 - 27, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- **Conference: Faculty Summer Institute 2011**
  - Dates: May 16 - 19, 2011
  - Location: University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign
  - More Information: email Scott Johnson at sbjhnsn@uillinois.edu

- **Conference: TechConnect 2011**
  - Dates: May 17 - 19, 2011
  - Location: Carl Sandburg College
  - More Information: http://www.sandburg.edu/techconnect
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Conference Networking with Social Media
  - Dates: May 18 – June 3, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Conference: The Teaching Professor Conference
  - Dates: May 20 - 22, 2011
  - More Information: http://www.teachingprofessor.com/conference
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Fair Use and the TEACH Act – A Closer Look
  - Dates: May 25 – June 3, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops

June Events
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Certificate in Online Education Foundation Course
  - Dates: June 1 – August 5, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Asynchronous Tools for the Blended Classroom
  - Dates: June 6 - 26, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Blended Learning – Using the HyFlex Course and Design Process
  - Dates: June 8 - 17, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): MERLOT 101 – an Introduction to MERLOT
  - Dates: June 15 - 24, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Web Accessibility for Online Learning – a How-To Guide for Creating Accessible Content
  - Dates: June 15 - 24, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Beyond Google and Bing – Mining the Internet
  - Dates: June 15 - 24, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops
- Conference: eLearning DevCon 2011
  - Dates: June 15 - 17, 2011
  - More Information: http://elearningdevcon.com/
- Online Workshop (SLOAN-C): Getting Started – the First Step toward Online Teaching
  - Dates: June 22 – July 8, 2011
  - More Information: http://sloanconsortium.org/2011workshops

To learn more about ILCCO, contact Jeff Newell at jeff.newell@illinois.gov

Research to Read (full article)

Application of Online Discussion and Cooperative Learning Strategies to Online and Blended College Courses (Douglas J. Lynch)
Michael Skwara, Highland Community College

The class discussion can be a powerful learning activity or an exercise in frustration. A large group of passive students, a small vocal minority, or poor listening behavior can cripple the opportunity for authentic engagement and learning. Online discussion forums are subject to the same pitfalls that occur in face to face class discussions, but they can also face unique challenges, such as informal online communication styles learned from social networking media and text messaging. Despite these challenges, with successful strategies online discussions can be very effective learning experiences.

This article presents a set of research-based online discussion models and techniques to encourage student engagement, cooperation, and reflection. Discussion group size, level of instructor involvement, student facilitation, assessment, discussion formats, cooperative learning, and reciprocal teaching strategies are discussed. Examples are provided and an annotated appendix of sample discussion assignments is included to demonstrate practical application. The article also addresses discussion forum use in fully online classes and as a supplement to face to face coursework. This is a thought provoking read with both theoretical and practical appeal for those interested in online student discussion and interaction.

To read the full article, search your library for: Lynch, Douglas J., *Application of Online Discussion and Cooperative Learning Strategies to Online and Blended College Courses* College Student Journal; September 2010 Vol. 44 Issue 3, P 777-784.

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Web Site Watch (full article)

On the Horizon
Jeff Newell, Illinois Community College Board

The year has turned and spring is in the air. It must be time for predictions. Educause released their annual Horizon Report that describes six emerging technologies that will impact higher education over the next five years. The technologies discussed include electronic books, mobile technology, augmented reality, game-based learning, gesture-based computing, and learning analytics. The report is available online at http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/HR2011.pdf.

Additionally, e-learning expert Tony Bates has posted his "e-learning outlook for 2011" at http://www.tonybates.ca/2011/01/16/e-learning-outlook-for-2011/. He discusses six predictions for the year related to course redesign, mobile technology, open educational resources, multimedia, learning analytics, and shared services. Tony Bates' website, e-learning and distant educations RESOURCES, is a resource site for useful information on distance education.

The two discussions of coming trends in education technology and distance learning provide food for thought as we prepare ourselves for what's next.

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Tech Tool Talk (full article)

Presentation Option: xtranormal Movies
Anne Humphrey, McHenry County College

In the quest to offer something other than PowerPoint, several providers have appeared with web-based applications for creation of presentations or video clips.

One option which is making a stir lately is xtranormal, an online animated movie maker. Making the movies is simple, and there are options for choosing characters, settings, and background sound. You type in text, the add icons in that script to provide character movement, camera angle change, facial expressions, pauses, or sounds. In a short time, with no camera, a video with fairly complicated direction and staging can be produced. You may have seen this video about a professor new to online course design, or this one about online course evaluations. GEICO has recently made some commercials using the service, commercials which emphasize how quick it can be to use xtranormal to create a video.

xtranormal is not free, but you can create and preview movies for free. Publishing is low cost: $10 gets 12 movies published (created in a high-quality file). Movies in process can be previewed, adjusted, and saved, prior to publishing, for free. Publishing can be private or public. Movies can be loaded to YouTube and then linked or embedded in the course management system or from your website. xtranormal movies don't look bad in YouTube, as compared to some other types of video; and of course production is easier in xtranormal than with a camera and real actors and sets.

Just considering how to present your point in short film format can start you thinking in a new way about your content. Using a short video to introduce a concept can also be engaging for students and help them to remember the main points. It might even be useful to assigning students to script videos related to course concepts, then create the best ones on your account.

Home page: http://www.xtranormal.com/index

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Tip of the ICEberg (full article)

Copy/Paste Email Address Function
Karen Herold, Harper College

One of my favorite functions in ICE is the copy/paste email address function. I use this function to send out a "Welcome Letter" to all ICE students, regardless of whether they are Local or Enrolled. This letter consists of everything they need from contact information for our Bookstore to where they can find technical support. Even though there is a direct email function in ICE itself, I prefer to use my Outlook, so I have copies of every letter I send out. Below are instructions on how to use this function:

- Log in to ICE
- Under "Manage Students" in the left hand column, choose "Enrolled Students"
- Click on the "Manage Students" button in any section you see
- Right mouse click on a student's name, and you'll get the option to "Copy Email Address"
- Go back to Outlook and right click and paste the students address into the "To" address line