Welcome to Fall 2013 semester at Towson University! Please consider this your invitation to participate and join us in the Education Innovation Lab for a number of interesting events this year. We plan to continue exploring interactive whiteboard features and the use of iPads and apps in the classroom. We have a fantastic line-up of interesting speakers who will be sharing their research and ideas for the coming school year. The Education Innovation Lab is pleased to be hosting Patricia Halstead, a Senior Blackboard Administrator from the Office of Technology Services. Join us September 18 to learn how to simplify and streamline your grading with Blackboard.

Technology integration in the classroom engages students, but furthermore challenges our future teachers to make complex decisions on how, when, and why to use technology in their own classrooms. As educators, we seek ways to make connections and integrate technology into our teaching and learning. There are many ways to accomplish this, such as new apps for curriculum support, Google Hangouts for virtual discussions, or interacting with history through web experiences. Our purpose in creating, demonstrating, collaborating, and publishing material continues to rest upon meeting the needs and discovering the learning styles of our students. As education technologist Andrew Churches said, “It’s not about the tools, it’s using the tools to facilitate learning.”

In Hawkins Hall 110, we seek to provide professional development that is helpful, meaningful, and relevant in the College of Education and we look to our faculty and staff for feedback. Please stop in or email coe110@towson.edu to let us know what needs you may have or ideas and suggestions for professional development you would like to see for this year.

Technology and The Common Core

As Maryland schools begin full implementation of Common Core, there are a number of resources available to aid the transition.

Common Core Standards from Mastery Connect is a simple and straightforward app to help you keep track of the standards. Quickly find standards by subject, grade, and subject category (domain/cluster) for Math and Language arts K-12. Available in the iTunes and Android App Store.

To Learn More About the Common Core Visit These Links

http://www.corestandards.org/
http://mdk12.org/instruction/commoncore/
http://www.parcconline.org/
Meet Sara McKeen!

Hi, I’m Sara McKeen. I will be starting the Master of Arts and Certificate of Advanced Study program in school psychology this fall. I am excited to join the Towson community and I am especially looking forward to continuing my work with the field of education as a graduate assistant in the Education Innovation Lab. For the past 4 years I worked as an elementary school teacher in Virginia and in Maryland for Anne Arundel County Schools. As a teacher, I integrated technology into instruction on a daily and hourly basis. I believe in empowering students to utilize classroom technology to increase their engagement in the lesson. My students were adept at using the Smartboard, Sento Responders, and iPads. I look forward to working with the faculty of the College of Education as they integrate technology into their teaching.

Meet Justin Pickering!

Hello, my name is Justin Pickering and I’m excited to be joining the Education Innovation Lab as a Graduate Assistant! I will be studying in the Counseling Psychology Master's program, which will direct me to my ultimate goal of becoming a therapist. My passion for technology grew out of troubleshooting network issues while working at my middle and high-school computer help-desks; this passion continued through my undergrad career at UMBC where I studied Information Systems. In addition, I’ve worked as an IT Project Manager for four years at GE Capital. I love helping others to find new and innovative ways to use technology to simplify their work/life. Stop by the lab for some cool tips/tricks I’ve learned and would be glad to share. One of my favorite tools to use is OneNote. I sincerely look forward to joining the team!
Are you looking for a way to organize, read and share the contents of your favorite sites? **Feedly** is a RSS feed reader that helps curious minds curate and consume their digital world. Once you define which topics you would like to have more information about, Feedly will search the internet for previously published information about put these articles, videos, etc. into one easy-to-find location for you. Basically, instead of looking at 20 websites in the morning to get your latest news and information, Feedly puts it all in one spot. This is a wonderful way for students and faculty to stay current with publications in their professional field. *Available in the iTunes and Android App Stores.*

Stay current with STEM by using **Science 360**. Science 360 is a science and engineering news app designed to engage the user in visual explorations through photos, videos and text. New content is added weekly by scientists, engineers, and the National Science Foundation. Teachers can email images and videos to save for classroom instruction. A built-in news feed keeps students and teachers up to date with the latest scientific discoveries. *Available in the iTunes App Store.*

**Easy Bib** provides students and teachers with a tool allowing them to create properly formatted MLA, APA, and Chicago style citations. Users can build, organize and manage their works cited by simply scanning the barcode on a book or typing in a title. *Available in the iTunes and Android App Stores.*

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**Quote:**

“The future is here; it’s just not evenly distributed yet.”

- William Gibson, Pew Research Institute

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**Education Innovation Lab Open Hours for Fall 2013**

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September 2013 Newsletter

Technology Tips

Need a few new Google+ tips? How about 100?

Would you like a quick reference to convert units, get a definition, calculate, look for a peer-reviewed paper, create an online survey or graph from a spreadsheet?

For more information on 100 Teacher Tricks, visit the links below:
http://www.teachhub.com/100-google-tricks-teachers

Technology Tips

Using Mac’s OS X provides a number of Finder commands to shorten your desktop workflow by using hidden menu and keyboard commands using Shift, Option, or Control.

For a recent MacWorld article and video tutorial follow the link below:
http://www.macworld.com/article/2044195/ten-fabulous-finder-commands-you-should-be-using.html#tk.nl_mwhelp

Mark Your Calendars!

Visit the Education Innovation Lab in September for a stellar line-up of Workshops and Lunchtime Discussions:

Interactive Whiteboard Features and Web Tools
Please join our ongoing monthly workshops to learn about new features you can use in your classroom. Presented by Wendy Gibson.
September 10, 10 am - 11 am

Common Core App Lunchtime Discussion
Join our first lunchtime discussion around iPad apps that will support Common Core Standards. Learn how to quickly find standards by subject, grade, and subject category (domain/cluster) for Math and Language Arts K-12. Presented by Wendy Gibson.
September 11, 11 am - 12 pm

OTS Blackboard Grade Center “Lunch & Learn”
Take the next step with Blackboard by using it to simplify and streamline your grading! Bring your lunch and your questions as OTS demonstrates the newest features of “Grade Center.” Presented by OTS.
September 18, 11 am —12 pm

Interactive Whiteboard Features and Web Tools
Please join our ongoing monthly workshops to learn about new features you can use in your classroom. Presented by Wendy Gibson.
September 19, 1 pm –2 pm

Google Hangouts Workshop
This workshop will explore important features for first time users and other tips for experienced users. Presented by Wendy Gibson.
September 24, 11pm-12pm

RSS Feed Reader Lunchtime Discussion
This lunchtime discussion will center around using RSS Feed Readers as a web and app resource to support classroom instruction. Presented by Wendy Gibson.
September 25, 11 am —12 pm

Educational Gaming with Dr. Quing Li
Interested in discovering how video games can be used in education, teaching, and learning? Join us for this engaging, hands on event. Presented by Dr. Li
September 27, 3:30-5:30 pm

All scheduled events will be held in HH110.
If you have any suggestions of workshops/presentations you would like to attend, please let us know!
Email us at coe110@towson.edu
October 2013 Newsletter

Thoughts from The Education Innovation Lab
Wendy Gibson
College of Education
Manager of Professional Development

We have a number of activities and workshops planned this month to support and enhance our understanding of digital learning tools and discussions around incorporating technology into our instruction. Learning about integrating new technology is based upon pedagogy, purpose, and practice. Our recommended progression is to become familiar with a new technology, learn how to comfortably use the technology, and then apply the technology into instruction. Join us in the lab as we look at using game-based instruction, mobile devices, and new software features to think critically about new ways for our students to learn. Our offerings this month include Apple’s new iOS 7 updates, new features in Google Hangouts, and discussions and learning opportunities around the Common Core. We’ll continue to ask what it is we want technology to do and hope your join our conversation.

Faculty FAQ

Q: Where can I find out more about the features and functionality of Blackboard?

A: Visit the Blackboard Faculty/Staff Resources page at http://www.towson.edu/blackboard/facultyresources.asp for helpful walk-throughs, short movie clips, and quick tutorials on features like Grade Center, Course Settings, Interactive Tools (blogs, journals, wikis) and more.

Lab Technology Available for Professor Use

The Education Innovation Lab has iPads, iPad Minis, Kindle Fires, and Nexus 7s that are available for faculty/staff to check out. In addition, the lab is debuting its very own gaming lab. Educational gaming is at the forefront of technology. We have Wiis, Xbox 360s, and PS3s for you to explore and use in the lab. In addition, many games are available for the various gaming platforms to play in the lab or take out on loan.
Mrs. McQuitty was caught using technology in the classroom! We asked her to share how she uses technology to aid her instruction:

“As I’ve attempted to integrate technology into my teaching, I’ve realized that it can be either an integral part of the course or simply an ‘add on.’ The most successful integration seems to happen when the technology solves a real teaching dilemma. For example, one challenge of meeting class only twice a week is that it takes half the semester to learn students’ names. So I’m now using my iPad to take each student’s picture with their name tag. This helps me to put names and faces together much more quickly.

A second challenge of teaching a writing class is that there is too little time to teach all the writing strategies that I want students to learn. So I began creating ‘online mini lessons’ by using Jing, a screen capture program. With Jing, I can record both my typing and my voice, which allows me to demonstrate and explain the writing strategy to students. The end product is no different than modeling a strategy on the document camera in class, but students can watch it online between class sessions. By using this technology, I have doubled the number of writing strategies that students learn during the course, and I have seen marked improvement in their writing.

A third challenge I’ve faced is recording and distributing our ‘shared thinking.’ In a K-12 classroom, we frequently use chart paper to map out ideas, then hang the charts on the wall for students to reference. I’ve started using Google Drive as virtual chart paper. When we collaboratively create lists and charts, I record them in a Google Drive and link to it through Blackboard. Students like that they can access it at any time, and because it frees them from having to copy things into their notebooks, they participate more actively in the discussions.

I doubt my use of technology is particularly innovative. However, it has helped my course run more smoothly and my students learn more, which is—in my opinion—what educational technology should do.”

Written by Vicki McQuitty
School Fuel Apps is a mobile learning platform that allows teachers and school leaders to connect with students in class and on the go. School Fuel Apps provides customized app libraries aligned to Common Core Standards helping schools deliver the right apps to the right students at the right time-on any device. App libraries are based on subject areas, grade level, Common Core standards and mobile OS type. Available in the iTunes, Android, and Windows App stores.

See. Touch. Learn. is a Picture Card Learning System which replaces all your physical flash cards. Designed by professionals specifically for those with autism and other special needs. Used by SLP’s, BCBA’s, Teachers, and Parents to provide custom picture card instruction. Winner of numerous awards. Available in the iTunes App Store.

TeacherKit is a personal organizer for the teacher. It enables the teacher to organize classes and students. The app’s simple and intuitive interface enables teachers to track the attendance, grades and behavior of students. Available in the iTunes App store.

Use Book Creator to create digital books with ease, adding photos, videos, audio, and text. Export the final books to iBooks or other locations like Dropbox. Available in the iTunes App Store.

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**Quote:**

“Teachers need to integrate technology seamlessly into the curriculum instead of viewing it as an add-on, an afterthought, or an event.”

- Heidi-Hayes Jacobs, Educational Consultant

**Education Innovation Lab Open Hours for Fall 2013**

Contact coe110@towson.edu to make an appointment or reserve the lab for a class demonstration or workshop. Open Lab refers to a time when the Education Innovation Lab in Hawkins Hall 110 is available for Towson staff or faculty who wish to work on integrating technology into their instruction.
October 2013 Newsletter

Mark Your Calendars!

Have you ever planned to attend a workshop or lunchtime discussion only to run into a schedule conflict? We’ve expanded our dates and times to provide additional time offerings and allow more flexibility!

October Workshops

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Workshop Descriptions

Listening, Literacy and the Common Core, How Audio Books Improve Reading Webinar: Please join our ongoing monthly workshops to learn about new features you can use in your classroom. Sponsored by Tales to Go.

iOS 7 Lunchtime Discussion: Bring your lunch to the lab to learn about Apple's new software features and share what you have discovered about iOS 7. Presented by the Education Innovation Lab.

Getting to Know Google Hangouts Lunchtime Discussion: Share your lunchtime with us and discover some of the new Google features that enhance video and audio chat. Presented by the Education Innovation Lab.

Common Core Workshop: This workshop will focus on updates and practices for classroom instruction using tablets and apps.

Educational Gaming Drop-In: Ever wonder how video games can be used in classrooms to enhance teaching and learning? Stop by our drop-in time to explore some of the features that support classroom practices.

Common Core Lunchtime Discussion: Join us for a round-table discussion about Common Core implementation.

All scheduled events will be held in HH110.

If you have any suggestions of workshops/presentations you would like to attend, please let us know! Email us at coe110@towson.edu

As persons’ use of mobile devices continues to grow, educators too are encouraging the practice. The Common Core State Standards require students to develop digital media and technology skills, and we, in The Education Innovation Lab, see a relevant connection and want to play an important roll in extending technology integration. As mobile devices become more essential to daily life, educators have a wonderful opportunity to harness this potential for teaching and learning. Join us this month for a wide range of offerings supporting mobile learning. Please see our workshop listings for dates, times, and topics.

**Faculty Facilitator**

**Becoming a “Techie” Little by Little**

by Barbara Steele, M.Ed.

Over the past couple of semesters, I have been working on ways to help our early childhood interns integrate technology into their teaching because paper and pencil will soon be on the side-lines when it comes to teaching and learning. I started by looking at tablet technology and interactive Whiteboards, and formulating my own use into my lessons so that they would see these tools as viable in their own lessons. I knew I would be doing a little bit of homework before hand to do this, but I have now had three semesters of the interns using these new technologies for themselves during my reading methods and material class. I knew this would mean learning how this stuff works and becoming confident enough with the technology to actually demonstrate their use in front of one of my classes, but I know that modeling the behavior is the most important part of good teaching.

I started with the idea of bringing in our department iPad cart to class. There is a lot to know before you wheel one of these things into a class, but the Innovation Lab support team was very helpful in teaching me the protocols and procedures needed to use the iPad cart effectively. I decided to introduce my interns to phonemic and phonics apps that make learning these fundamental reading steps easy and fun for anyone. With Wendy’s help, we loaded about ten phonemic and phonics apps. Some of the better ones I came across were: *Phonics Awareness, 1st Grade* by Bugbrained Apps., *ABC Phonics Animals* by Hien Ton of BrainCounts, and *Tic Tac Toe Phonics* by Lakeshore Learning Materials. *(continued on page 2)*
I found that by my interns actually having time to play with these apps in class, they were more disposed to the idea of including tablet technology into their lesson plans. However, having students use the apps is one thing, (What person with an electronic device wouldn't want to play these cute games?) but having our interns look at them critically for their educational value is another. So, to give this experience with the apps more value, I had them rate the apps for their educational value. Thanks to good collegial exchanges with Mrs. Deborah Tessier in the SPED department, she shared with me an excellent evaluation tool teachers can use to rate apps used in the classroom. It was devised at Johns Hopkins: http://kathyschrock.net/pdf/ipad_app_rubric.pdf. After the interns had their fun playing with the apps, I handed out this evaluation tool and told my interns to rate the apps that they had tried out. Now, the interns took a fresh look at these games and started pointing out problems and limitations in the apps as well as finding ones that got perfect scores. This clarified for them which of the apps would really make a difference in how a child learned the skills and whether the app might actually be beneficial in a teaching episode.

The second new technology that I incorporated into my work with interns was the Promethean and SMART Boards and the responding devices that go with each of these tools. I was actually forced into learning both at once because I teach two sections of this reading methods course; one in a classroom with a Promethean Board, and one with a SMART Board, so there you go, I was back in the Innovation Lab working with Wendy on how to use these boards strategizing ways for my interns to use them in their teaching, too. Interactive Whiteboards tend to be similar, but there are differences, so learning the features took some time, but the returns were amazing. I created a true-false test, one for each type of interactive whiteboard. The ten question test was on the difference between phonemic awareness and phonics. It was as simple as putting each question on something like a PowerPoint slide, which I found very do-able, but the resulting data I got when the students used the responders or Activote devices was truly the best part. My interns instantly saw graphs and charts of how they did on each question and how the class did as a unit on the test. Needless to say, they saw the value that this type of technology can bring when working with young children on basic fundamental skills development.

So, without the Innovation Lab and the staff, I would never have even tried out these two types of technology. I can truly say that these experiences have enriched my course work with my interns.
November 2013 Newsletter

Phonics Awareness, 1st Grade by Bugbrained Apps is a research based common core app to build Phonics Awareness. 1st Grade Reading, is a fun way for your child to learn core phonics. Bugs are used to add whimsy and help in the teaching. This tutorial is highly interactive, giving your 1st grader a chance to relate to phonics on a personal level and get instant feedback on how they are doing, Available in the iTunes and Android App Stores.

ABC Phonics Animals by Hien Ton of BrainCounts is a great learning tool that focus in on alphabet phonics, phonetics, spelling, reading, and word comprehension. Available in the iTunes and Android App Stores.


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Education Innovation Lab Open Hours for Fall 2013
Contact coe110@towson.edu to make an appointment or reserve the lab for a class demonstration or workshop. Open Lab refers to a time when the Education Innovation Lab in Hawkins Hall 110 is available for Towson staff or faculty who wish to work on integrating technology into their instruction.

Quote:
“Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important.”
- Bill Gates
Instead of sitting back and watching TV, why not have children create their own educational show? Puppet Pals, an app for tablets, lets students tell their stories with pictures, cartoons, audio, and video. The basic format is free. A $2.99 Director’s PPass is a good choice for schools. Although it doesn’t add functionality, it’s an unlocked version with no in-app purchases.

I-NIGMA  [http://www.i-nigma.com/i-nigmahp.html]
Quick Response (QR) and Data Matrix codes, the barcode-like square boxes, are cropping up everywhere in print these days, from newspapers to magazines and books. With i-Nigma, students with phones can scan QR or Data Matrix codes to access additional information via text, websites, and videos that supplement classroom resources. Or they can create QR codes themselves and embed them in their work.

NEARPOD  [http://www.nearpod.com/]
Want to create a multimedia presentation that all of your students can follow at the same pace on an iPad? Try Nearpod, a free app (good for K-12) that lets you put together interactive displays and allows students to submit feedback, offering you a real-time way to assess their performance.

MARTHA SPEAKS DOG PARTY  [http://pbskids.org/mobile/martha-speaks-dog-party.html]
An app created by PBS KIDS designed to help kids expand their vocabulary. According to a 2010 PBS KIDS-sponsored study of 90 children between the ages of three and seven who played with it for about two and a half hours over two weeks, the app was able to enrich vocabulary by as much as 31 percent.

MOTION MATH
Another app with a lot of buzz. According to a 2011 study by GameDesk, commissioned by Motion Math, this game for the iPad improved understanding of fractions in 120 children by an average of 15 percent.

TEXT PLUS  [http://www.textplus.com/]
This application takes the genius and immediacy of texting and combines it with the power of social networking, allowing for instant out-of-classroom communication. Create a group for each class and you’ll be able to text everyone basic reminders, questions to ponder between lessons, and more. You can text via a Wi-Fi connected device (cell phone, iPod touch, etc.), so students don’t have to pay for every text.

WORD JOUST  [http://play.wordjoustapp.com/]
Students can go on knightly quests, do battle with trolls, and learn vocabulary words to win points. Kids can compare their performance with classmates.

FROG DISSECTION  [http://frogvirtualdissection.com/]
Biology lab without the mess and the smell? Now that’s a revolution. Students dissect a virtual amphibian to learn about the parts of a frog and how it functions. (cont. on pg. 5)

SHAKESPEARE PRO http://readdle.com/products/shakespeare/  The complete works of the Bard, including 41 plays, are available with a few swipes and clicks of this iPad and iPhone-enabled app.

EDUTOPIA’S “MOBILE LEARNING: RESOURCE ROUNDUP” http://www.edutopia.org/mobile-learning-resources  Great ideas, advice, and tools from educators incorporating mobile devices in classrooms.

THE MOBILE NATIVE http://www.themobilenative.org/  Teacher and blogger Scott Newcomb shares classroom resources and helps educators make the case for mobile learning.


NEW LEARNING INSTITUTE http://www.newlearninginstitute.org/blog  This blog is sponsored by the Pearson Foundation and covers the latest in new learning.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MOBILE LEARNING  http://www.iamlearn.org/  Examples of digital initiatives in the site’s “Projects” section.

CENTER FOR DIGITAL EDUCATION’S “12 KEYS TO FINDING QUALITY EDUCATION APPS” http://www.centerdigitaled.com/classtech/12-Keys-Education-Apps.html  This article can help you evaluate apps for your classroom.

TWITTER HASHTAGS Mine https://twitter.com/ for tips on mobile learning using these hashtags: #mlearning, #mobilelearning, #edapps, #appsforkids, #slide2learn, #ipaded, #ipadchat.

All content on this page sourced from Edutopia. https://app.box.com/files/0/f/1083736998/1/f_11212106676
November 2013 Newsletter

Mark Your Calendars!

Have you ever planned to attend a workshop or lunchtime discussion only to run into a schedule conflict? We’ve expanded our dates and times to provide additional time offerings and allow more flexibility!

## November Workshops

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<td>4 12:00-1:00 Safari Montage Workshop</td>
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<td>11 12:00-1:00 LessonCast Workshop</td>
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<td>18 12:00-2:00 Diversity Community TED Talk</td>
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### Workshop Descriptions

**Safari Montage Workshop:** Come learn how to use Safari Montage. Features that will be covered at the workshop: video streaming library, learning object repository, media delivery system, digital presentation platform, and a functional demonstration. Presented by Andrew Cary.

**Tips for Getting Started with Mobile Lunchtime Discussion:** Join our lab manager, Wendy Gibson, for this informal round-table discussion around instructional shifts needed for mobile learning.

**LessonCast Workshop:** Learn how to use LessonCast to deepen your understanding of content knowledge and pedagogy. LessonCast can help you in assessing a candidate’s readiness to implement new instructional ideas. Presented by Nicole Tucker-Smith.

**Diversity Community TED Talk:**

**How to Find Good Resources for Mobile Instruction:** Join our lab manager, Wendy Gibson for this workshop around free, available resources teachers can use on tablets and phones for teaching and learning.

**Learning OneNote Workshop:** Interested in how to make your instruction easier by simplifying your notes? Join Justin Pickering for this workshop for OneNote and SkyDrive tips and tricks for the iPad and web versions of OneNote!

**All scheduled events will be held in HH110.**

If you have any suggestions of workshops/presentations you would like to attend, please let us know!
Thoughts from The Education Innovation Lab
Wendy Gibson
College of Education
Manager of Professional Development

Membership in the Digital Divide

Do you take it for granted that you can check movie times, look up directions, and view weather forecasts online? Do you apply for jobs or review your bank balance with your computer? Perhaps all your business and personal travel plans are made through a website or even an app. These are just a few of the daily tasks taken for granted that have become a part of our routine, yet for many Americans, using the Internet is still not an option. According to a recent Pew Research Study, the gap between a digitized society and those left behind includes about 15% of Americans older than eighteen. While many of us apply for jobs, pay bills, hunt for bargains, or even enroll in a MOOC and take college courses, many among us are not participating in this aspect of civic life, culture, or community via the Internet.

Where are schools and education in this mix? Gene B. Sperling, Director of the National Economic Council said at a recent education meeting, “There’s not enough connectivity not only to the school, but then within the school.” The nonprofit Education Superhighway has found 72 percent of public schools located in both urban and suburban areas lack the broadband speed necessary to fully access the Internet. While visiting schools this past summer in North Carolina, President Obama said, “In a country where we expect free WiFi with our coffee, why shouldn’t we have it in our schools?” (continued on p. 4)
My Nearpod Experience
By Kelly Keane

The idea of using an interactive mobile presentation with my ISTC 301 students sounded great. This group of future teachers is studying Universal Design for Learning, gaining proficiency with integrating technology effectively into their lessons, and excited about using new technologies. In a previous newsletter, I read about an app called nearpod that looked promising and decided to test it out. Essentially this app turns a handheld mobile device like an iPad into an interactive white board.

First I created my nearpod presentation. At http://www.nearpod.com, I started by uploading a previously-created PowerPoint about assessments (just a matter of dragging and dropping). After the file was uploaded, I edited it by adding some interactive features one slide at a time, dispersing them throughout my presentation. The choices of these features are numerous and include adding a poll, an open ended question, a quiz, and a “draw it.” You can also add a video or webpage. For my nearpod about assessments, I added an interactive slide that required students to match the common assessment format to the type of learner to which it appeals. Another interactive slide that I added required the students to respond to a scenario in which a student in “their” class who relies on supports including text to speech software and a word processing program throughout the marking period should be required to complete a handwritten exam. For this, students responded in a poll format and then added a short explanation. An additional slide that I added asked students to identify the options of expression that were most appealing to them by circling them in various colors. Once my nearpod presentation was complete (about 20 slides total, 8 of them with interactive features), I published it with the click of a button.

On the day students were learning about assessments, I borrowed the classroom set of iPads (all already loaded with the free nearpod app), making sure there was one for each of my students. In the classroom, I opened my presentation at nearpod.com and selected the “live session” mode. A 5-letter code was generated. Each student then opened the nearpod app on their iPad and entered the code to join my presentation. Students were asked to provide their name after the first slide so I could monitor their activity. From my computer, I controlled the advancement of the slides, and the students followed along, as engaged as I have ever seen them. The interactive slides caught their attention and it worked well from my perspective to have these activity slides dispersed throughout. The students particularly liked the matching slides, drawing slides, and live polls. I could monitor not only the pace of the presentation, but I could also see the activity on each of their screens in real time. Once the nearpod presentation was complete, a report was generated with all of their responses and emailed to me.

The reviews of this app from my students were excellent. They were excited about the interactivity, the colorful graphics, and having the ability to write, draw, erase, and highlight right on their screens. I found the nearpod website to be easy to navigate and I believe my students were truly engaged and focused throughout the entire presentation. It was a rich learning experience for all of us and one I will replicate.
App Corner

**Nearpod** The Nearpod platform enables teachers to use their iPads to manage content on students’ iPads, iPhones or iPods. It combines presentation, collaboration, and real-time assessment tools into one integrated solution. *Available in the iTunes and Android App Stores.*

**CloudOn** Unleash your productivity. CloudOn makes Microsoft Office® (Word, Excel and PowerPoint) files more accessible and useful on your iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch letting you edit documents, spreadsheets and presentations from anywhere with all the functionality you need. *Available in the iTunes and Android App Stores.*

**KidBlog** is designed for K-12 teachers who want to provide each student with an individual blog. Students publish posts and participate in academic discussions within a secure classroom blogging community. Teachers maintain complete control over student blogs and user accounts. *Available in the iTunes App Stores.*

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**Education Innovation Lab Open Hours for Fall 2013**
Contact coe110@towson.edu to make an appointment or reserve the lab for a class demonstration or workshop. Open Lab refers to a time when the Education Innovation Lab in Hawkins Hall 110 is available for Towson staff or faculty who wish to work on integrating technology into their instruction.

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**Quote:**
“Who dares to teach must never cease to learn.”
- John Cotton Dana, Librarian and Author-1856-1929
Some may wonder what the real advantage is to having access to the Internet in schools. Schools with limited Internet access for teachers and students are at a growing disadvantage. Limited availability means limited access to new tools for 21st century learning. The lack of ability for streaming video, viewing lectures, participating in flipped classrooms, joining a MOOC, Skype conference, or Google Hangout all contribute to a growing digital divide. Having access to the Internet in school gives students access to a global economy with vast educational advantages and opportunities. "The divide between the haves and the have-nots in public education can be closed using technology. For me, it's a justice issue." says Baltimore mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake.

As schools move toward using tablets, individualized Web-based projects, and Common Core test requirements, the need for Internet access and more broadband becomes increasingly necessary. In the Education Innovation Lab, we are working with our faculty and staff to provide support and training for using educational technology to improve teaching and student learning. Join us for an upcoming session on how using devices enhances teaching and learning, or stop by to be apart of the conversation around connected learning.

http://makelearn.org/2013/06/07/app-suggestions-for-learning-activities-in-byod-classrooms/


President Obama reveals initiative to connect 99% of students to high-speed broadband within 5 years.

“In a country where we expect free WiFi with our coffee, why shouldn’t we have it in our schools?”
-Presdent Obama in North Carolina-

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake says Baltimore could have been a fiber city, but she and others decided the city could become wired without google. “We are our own conduit,” she says. The reason? “You can’t grow jobs with slow internet.”

Gene B. Sperling is director of the National Economic Council and assistant to the president for economic policy. Sterling spoke at Washinton Post Live’s 2013 Bridging the Digital Divide forum about ConnectED — an initiate by President Obama that plans to connect 99% of students in schools with high-speed connectivity in the next five years.

VIDEO OF SPERLING
December 2013 Newsletter

Mark Your Calendars!

Have you ever planned to attend a workshop or lunchtime discussion only to run into a schedule conflict? We’ve expanded our dates and times to provide additional time offerings and allow more flexibility!

December Workshops

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Workshop Descriptions

Stress Free Game Drop-In: Join us for a time of stress free fun around XBox360, PS3, Wii, and WiiU Gaming.

Scholarship Practice Sessions Presentation Series: We are pleased to announce Dr. Richard Vatz will kick off our Scholarship Practice Sessions Presentation Series with a talk on his book, The Only Authentic Book of Persuasion. The Only Authentic Book of Persuasion has roiled the field of Communication by focusing on individual responsibility in persuading. Other extant theories have taken a passive view toward persuaders and depict them as reacting to objective situation realities. My book argues that major persuaders, such as the President of the United States, create reality through their efforts at persuasion.

Digital Device Workshop: Bring your own device or use ours to discover ways to enhance teaching and learning!

Digital Divide Workshop: Join us for a discussion about Pew Research Report findings and how to shore up your digital knowledge on this topic.

All scheduled events will be held in HH110.

If you have any suggestions of workshops/presentations you would like to attend, please let us know!

Email us at coe110@towson.edu
January 2014 Newsletter

Thoughts from The Education Innovation Lab
Wendy Gibson
College of Education
Manager of Professional Development

How Technology Can Support Your 2014 Classroom

“Education is ever changing” so the saying goes. “Today’s education system was built for an agrarian world” is another phrase that is passed around. These comments may be debatable, but the need for sound pedagogy has not changed. The art and science of education and instructional theory recognizes good teaching in all its forms. As we move into the 21st century we are challenged with exploring how technology enhances our practice as the world outside education is filled with everyday gadgets. Technology in education that supports pedagogy will open doors for students to do things they could not previously do.

Pedagogical research has shown students learn best when collaborating with others, and through active learning. Technology can support collaboration in new ways through the use of Google Docs, Padlet, and so many other applications that allow users to share and work together. Collaborating on documents, spreadsheets, presentations, pictures, video, and simple brainstorming can all be done through connected devices. With a free account and an Internet connection, users can collaborate beyond the classroom. Additionally, actively learning through doing gives students ownership of their understanding and is more fun than watching from the sidelines. Technology allows students to create and communicate their thinking by showing what they know. Apps and websites such as Educreations, Voicethread, Snapguide, iMovie, and many others provide students with a platform to create a product and demonstrate understanding.

Educators have long enjoyed inviting guests and expert speakers into the classroom. Providing a fresh perspective, a new voice on a topic or making real world connections is beneficial for classroom engagement. I have seen firsthand the tremendous benefits of Skyping with scholars on issues of the past and present. Using Skype or Google Hangout provides students with the opportunity to connect and interact with experts from anywhere in the world. The impact of listening to an author firsthand and to interact with questions through this technology greatly enhances the quest speaker experience. As we move into 2014, let us remember it is not just about the technology, but what we do with it to support teaching and learning.

Quote:
“We need technology in every classroom and in every student and teacher’s hand, because it is the pen and paper of our time, and it is the lens through which we experience much of our world.”
- David Warlick

Pew Research Center Fact Tank reports more than half of cell owners affected by ‘distracted walking’ 53%. More than half of all adult cellphone owners have been on the giving or receiving end of a distracted walking encounter.

http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/01/02/more-than-half-of-cell-owners-affected-by-distracted-walking/
Taking video on smart phones and tablets is popular, but sharing the video can be tricky. **RealPlayer Cloud** enables you to move, watch and share your videos! Upload your videos to RealPlayer Cloud and watch them on your Windows computer, iPhone, iPad, other smartphones, TV through Roku, and popular browsers like Internet Explorer, Firefox and Chrome. No more worrying about formatting or converting videos, or carrying HDMI and USB cables. *Available in the iTunes and Android App Stores.*

**Snapguide** is a simple, beautiful way to share and view step-by-step how to guides. Discover new things to cook, build, wear, play and more. Create your own guides and share what you love making with your friends on Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest and more. Discuss your interests with other people who share your passions. *Available in the iTunes App Stores.*

**Educreations** turns your iPad into a recordable whiteboard. Creating a great video tutorial is as simple as touching, tapping and talking. Explain a math formula… Create an animated lesson… Add commentary to your photos… Diagram a sports play… With voice recording, realistic digital ink, photos and text, and simple sharing through email, Facebook or Twitter, now you can broadcast your ideas from anywhere. *Available in the iTunes App Stores.*

**VoiceThread** Create and share dynamic conversations around documents, snapshots, diagrams and videos - basically anything there is to talk about. You can talk, type, and draw right on the screen. VoiceThread takes your conversations to the next level, capturing your presence, not just your comments. Anyone can join the discussion from their iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac or PC -- anytime, anywhere. *Available in the iTunes App Stores.*

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**Quote:**

“New technology is common, new thinking is rare.”

- **Sir Peter Blake**

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**Minimester Lab Hours**

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Education Innovation Lab Open Hours for Minimester 2014
Contact coe110@towson.edu to make an appointment or reserve the lab for a class demonstration or workshop. Open Lab refers to a time when the Education Innovation Lab in Hawkins Hall 110 is available for Towson staff or faculty who wish to work on integrating technology into their instruction.
February 2014 Newsletter

Thoughts from The Education Innovation Lab
Wendy Gibson
College of Education
Manager of Professional Development

For thousands of years, education was more or less the same until the Industrial Revolution came along. The old ways of doing things weren’t working quite as well. New demands on learning required our education system to adapt and change to meet society needs.

Could we be facing something similar? Would it be in our interest to abandon a few traditions for a newer model? We have many options for innovative approaches suited for the needs of our students and educators alike. One option available to us here at Towson University is WebEx.

WebEx is a Web-based collaborative technology available to faculty, staff, and students here on campus and at home. Documents, desktops, and web-browsers are shared remotely, allowing users to communicate using video, voice, and chat. WebEx allows faculty to conduct a course session and deliver instruction, conference with students or colleagues, record lecture, and then post the live sessions onto Blackboard for later viewing.

Stay tuned for upcoming WebEx workshops the Education Innovation Lab will host later this month, or stop by HH 110 for information.

Visit the WebEx page:
http://www.towson.edu/adminfinance/ots/trainingdoc/webex/index.asp

Did you know that Towson University provides a web conferencing tool for hosting online meetings? WebEx is a web-based collaborative technology that allows users to share resources (documents, desktop, web browser, applications, etc.) remotely and communicate with each other using voice, video, and chat. This technology may be used to conduct online courses, meet with students individually or as a group, conduct interviews, host guest lectures and presenters in the classroom, collaborate with colleagues across campus or across the country, and more.

Faculty and staff may host a WebEx meeting using their Towson University NetID and password. If you have never had a WebEx account and are anxious to start using this valuable tool, simply activate your account. Learn how by visiting our website: http://www.towson.edu/webex and follow the simple instructions. We have also developed a quick reference guide to help with the process. It is available on line here.

OTS Training will be offering a WebEx Information session for COE. In this session, you will learn how WebEx can be utilized, how to log in, how to create a session, how to navigate the user interface, how to share resources, and, finally, where to find WebEx support.

Don't Leave College Without These 10 Digital Skills:
These skills are important for students but how much do we know?

http://mashable.com/2013/05/06/digital-skills-college/?utm_cid=mash-com-Tw-main-link#
February 2014 Newsletter

Faculty Facilitator

How I Use Tech With My Students
By Saundra Deltac

Mark Twain has been acknowledged for penning the following quote currently found on food boxes, bookmarks, magnets, and tea bags: "I never let my schooling interfere with my education". When it comes to my technological schooling, I beg to differ. My use of technology has not only saved my face, but also effort and time! And as we can all agree, these are finite resources in the life of a university instructor!

Two utilizations of technology that has made my teaching life more streamlined are the PhotoBooth and IPHOTO apps on my Mac and the SCAN function on the copier machine.

As a former ESL teacher, I can attest that I am a very visual learner. On day one or two of class, I bring my laptop in, set it up in a properly lit corner, and while the students are responding to an individual activity (i.e., writing their educational autobiography or responding to a survey), I have them come up one by one and take their picture using PhotoBooth in the order of the roll generated by PeopleSoft. Prior to class, I do give them notice via Blackboard that I will be taking their picture in case they like to primp and prep. I promise them I won't draw mustaches on their faces or post them to Facebook. Once each student has posed and snapped their image, they are tapped with the responsibility to call the next on the list. Eventually when I have a full class of head shots, I create a folder in IPHOTO. (continued on p. 3)
How I Use Tech With My Students

I move all the photos from PhotoBooth to there, change the title to their name, and print as a CONTACT sheet. You can adjust the number of images on a page and corresponding font size depending on your vision needs or class size. Usually I print versions which show all students within two pages, and load them back to back in a clear plastic sleeve. The handy reference has made learning the names of 70 students a semester a much easier task and made me look like an astute and caring instructor. Finally, when I file the classes’ final grades away at the end of the semester, I include that photo sheet just in case they ask for something (like a reference letter) in the future.

A second tool, that I will continue to "school" folks on is the SCANNING capability currently available on the HH107 copy machine across for the COE Tech Lab. Specific directions have been posted on the wall above the machine. Once aware of what that illustrous machine can do, I have had colleagues scan a myriad of materials such as pages from picture books (for writing prompts), readings from out of print texts, etc. Please use this resource to share your "favorite" teaching documents with your colleagues, preserve your last copy of a paper, a timely newspaper article or political cartoon.

I am the first to admit to having been plagued by technological gremlins during my time at Towson, but these processes have literally connected the dots between MY schooling and my STUDENTS’ education.

Cheers,
Saundra Deltac ☝️
February 2014 Newsletter

App Corner

Pdf-notes for iPad Utilize pdf-notes to manage all the pdf files on your iPad. Fast display, quick page-turning even a thousand pages, useful finger-writing and email your notes to your friends. *Available in the iTunes App Stores.*

PDF Reader—Annotate, Scan, Fill Forms, Take Notes. PDF Reader is not just a file viewer. With PDF Reader’s powerful annotation and editing features, you can be as efficient on the road as you were in front of a computer! Form filling, contract signing, free handwriting, text box, highlighting, sticky notes, stamp tools, we take care of all that! *Available in the iTunes and Android App Stores.*

eduClipper has recently released a new update to its iPad app making it possible for teachers to give their students feedback in the form of audio, video or written format. Additionally, students can use eduClipper to create clips from the web, Drive, and Dropbox. They can also create their own personalized learning portfolios that embed a wide variety of materials. *Available in the iTunes App Stores.*

Questia Library—Scholarly Sources for Writing Research Papers, Essays and Homework With access to over 75,000 books, 9 million articles, and 7,000 research topics this app is designed to help you to write better research papers faster! Quickly find credible books, scholarly articles and topics for your research papers. Read full-text books and articles in the app. Save what you are reading for future access in a project folder. Easy to use display makes searching and reading a fluid, seamless experience. *Available in the iTunes App Stores.*

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Education Innovation Lab Open Hours for Spring 2014
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Quote:
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- David Warlick
February 2014 Newsletter

Mark Your Calendars!

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<td>18 12:00-1:00 WebEx Information Session</td>
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<td>20 12:00-1:00 Google Drive, Box, Drop Box Open Hour</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>12:00-1:00 Blackboard Grade Center Open Hour</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>27 11:00-12:00 Using Responders in Your Classroom</td>
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Workshop Descriptions

Using Responders in Your Classroom: Learn how to use SMART Responders and Promethean Responders in your classroom to assess students and get instant feedback.

Google Drive, Drop Box, and Box Open Hour: Stop by during our open hour session with your questions on Google Drive, Dropbox or Box.

Blackboard Grade Center Open Hour: Stop by during our open hour session with your questions on Blackboard Grade Center.

WebEx Information Session: In this session, you will learn how WebEx can be utilized, how to log in, how to create a session, how to navigate the user interface, how to share resources, and finally, where to find WebEx support.

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