



# Connections

Connecting Teaching, Learning, Research and Service

Volume 1: Issue 3

February 1, 2011

*People don't care  
how much you  
know, until they  
know how much  
you care.*

- Unknown

### Hold The Dates

- **Apple in Education: Podcasting and iPads**—Thursday, February 3, 10:30 am—2:30 pm
- **Faculty Showcase: Service**—Wednesday, February 16, 3pm—4:30pm
- **IRB Research Training**— Friday, February 18, 12:00—3:00 pm
- Additional Workshop Dates on page 4.

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## Faculty Highlighted for their Excellence in Publishing

At the second Faculty Showcase held on Wednesday, November 17, three faculty members were showcased based on their success in publishing.

Pancho McFarland an associate professor in Sociology, has published, *Chicano Rap: Gender and Violence in the Postindustrial Barrio*. His second book, *New Millennial Mestizaje: Hip Hop and Chicano Identity*, is approaching completion. He shared the process of book authorship and publishing. Giving pointers to those who may go down that road.

Leon Hendricks, a professor in Education, has multiple publications in the fields of education finance, principal

preparation, character development, and safe schools to name just a few. Leon was able to share his passion for education and how that has developed his research agenda.

Abir El-Alfy an assistant professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, came to CSU with a solid background in publishing and research in the field of neuropsychiatric disorders.

Abir shared with the faculty how publications are one part of the triangle. Publications are supported by a solid foundation of research and are necessary to be successful in the pursuit of grants.

Our next Faculty Showcase will be on Wednesday, February 16 at 3:00 pm in Library 301, where we will highlight faculty who have excelled in service.



Professors Hendricks, McFarland, and El-Alfy share their insights into publishing with other faculty members at the November Faculty Showcase.

## Enrichment Grant Awardees

The CTRE and the Office of the Provost are proud to announce that the university was able to provide fourteen faculty members funding for professional enrichment activities through the CTRE's Enrichment Grants.

This funding will be used by faculty to attend and present at national and international conferences, attend workshops to gain skills that will be brought back to campus and shared with others, and purchase necessary equipment and database access to continue research.

We are proud of the work faculty are doing and want to continue to encourage and support such activities. Congratulations to the awardees.

### 2010-2011 Enrichment Grant Winners

- Walid Al-Ghoul, Biology
- Sarah Austin, Occupational Therapy
- Anser Azim, Biology
- Moussa Ayyash, Library, Media, & Info Studies
- Jeff Crisman, Art
- Kathleen Haefliger, Library
- Tonya Hall, Counseling
- Angelique Jackson, Elementary Education
- Thomas Lyons, Health Studies
- Suzuko Morikawa, History
- Kumar Mukherjee, Pharmacy Practice
- Mohammad Newez, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Yvonne Patterson, Counseling
- Ventekaswara Potluri, Biology

## Someone You Should Know: David Hampton, Coordinator of Examinations



David Hampton is the Coordinator of the Office of Examinations. The Office of Examinations assists students with their testing needs: Qualifying examinations, state and federal constitutional exams, and testing for AART, ACT, CLEP, GMAT, GRE, LSAT, and PEP.

Mr. Hampton thoroughly enjoys interacting with the students he meets. His ability for working with people was developed over time. Prior to coming to CSU, David worked as a corrections officer and as a judicial hearing officer for the Board of Education. He also has strong ties to CSU, as he received his Bachelors in Business Administration here and both his parents retired from CSU.

He feels that he is able to help students succeed by identify the best course placement for them. If a student is placed into a course that is too easy or too hard, they will

not achieve the highest level of success.

Faculty can help students by being positive about the tests and encouraging students to complete them as soon as possible. It has been shown that the earlier the students take the placement exams the better they do in their courses.

In addition, faculty can help students recognize when it may be beneficial for them to sit for a

CLEP exam. Here a student can earn college credit in areas where they have sufficient background. Please check the CSU website for all the details and services provided by the Office of Examinations.

### Office of Examinations

773-995-2481

126 Cook Administration

Monday–Friday 8:30 am–5pm

Extended Hours on

Thursday to 7 pm

### Advice to Faculty:

- New advisors should call for training on how to read and interpret the SOATEST screen
- Have your students test EARLY—The earlier your students test the better they will perform in classes.
- Encourage students to use the study materials available on the Examinations website.
- Don't forget that many transfer students need to take the placement exams as prerequisites for their courses.
- If you need a test proctored call the office, we can help.
- Remember, we are here to make sure the students are best prepared for their next course.

## Tidbits—Teaching, Technology, and other Thoughts

### Educational Distribution

Quote by Benjamin Bloom

The normal curve is a distribution most appropriate to chance and random activity. Education is a purposeful activity and we seek to have students learn what we would teach. Therefore, if we are effective, the distribution of grades will be anything but a normal curve. In fact, a normal curve is evidence of our failure to teach.

### Encourage Studying with StudyMate Author

Would you like your students to become more engaged with the content you present in class? Do they need practice reviewing terms and understanding concepts?

If so, you will want to download and use StudyMate Author from the CSU-Instructor course in Moodle.

This program lets instructors create ten activities and games using tem-

plates. These can then be published directly into Moodle and used on their smartphones. Use your existing test banks to supply the questions or create your own content.

So challenge your students with online crossword puzzles, flashcards, word puzzles, etc.

Check out some examples at [respondus.com/studymate/](http://respondus.com/studymate/)

### IRB Training

Friday, Feb 18 at noon

If you are planning on conducting research at CSU, it is important to attend this training.

Please register at

<http://tinyurl.com/csu-irbtraining>

### Learn Software at Home

Whether you need to learn how to manipulate graphics, create spreadsheets or PDFs, design a website for your class, or many other tasks, you do not need to look any further.

The CTRE has purchased a pilot subscription to Lynda.com. Here you will find over 950 tutorials on hundreds of different software programs. Each with clear videos taking you step by

step through the learning process. Look for yourself at what it offers at [www.lynda.com](http://www.lynda.com).

You can check out a “seat” to Lynda.com by contacting Theo Garth at [tgarth@csu.edu](mailto:tgarth@csu.edu) or calling x2960. Once registered in the system, all the work you complete is saved, so you can come back at different times without losing any of your work.

## CSU Distance Education Report—Fall 2010

With the transition from Blackboard to Moodle, The fall 2010 was one marked with change.

The focus this semester for the Office of Distance Learning (ODL) was our customers – the faculty and students using Moodle. We targeted communication and service as the two primary areas of our efforts. This was especially important; given the volume of

users of the course management system was at an all time high with 6122 unique users active in the system (358 instructors and 5764 students). From feedback received faculty felt communication and service was “unprecedented.”

**Comparison of Usage – Fall to Fall:** Fall 2010 saw the highest number of online courses yet, with 79 course sections offered and 1633 student enrolled. Even with the transition to Moodle, this was an 18% increase in the number of course sections and a 27% increase in student enrollment. The average

enrollment per course also saw a slight increase from 19 to 21 students.

**Future Outlook and Plans:** The focus for ODL will be to determine how to provide incentives for online course development in the general education sequence. This should help students work through their courses and matriculate in a more timely fashion.

In addition, while online courses continue to increase slowly, the number of hybrid courses jumped dramatically this year. The ODL believes that this format, along with a new format referred to as synchronous online courses (where students meet online at a scheduled time with their instructor through Internet conferencing) will be where the true growth and impact of online will be felt.

Hybrid and synchronous online courses bring together the best of both worlds for the student and the instructor. For the student, they

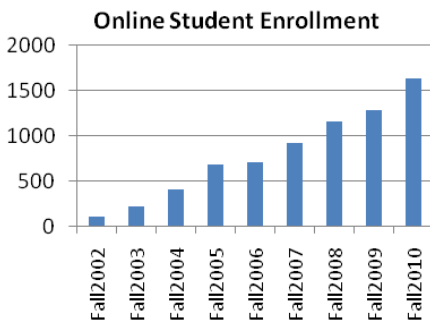
### Fall 2010 Distance Ed Statistics

- 358 instructors and 5764 students actively used Moodle
- 27% increase in student enrollment in online courses
- 167% increase in hybrid courses (14 to 34 course sections)
- Hybrid and synchronous online formats seem to be the future.

can still attend class from home or other location, yet still have immediate contact and communication with their peers and instructors.

For instructors, the learning curve is much smaller and the technology is far less intimidating as they are able to ease into the use of Moodle and Elluminate (an online conferencing system) by using the same pedagogical strategies that have been successful for them in the past.

Finally, more coordinated training and certification for online instructors is being developed.



## Mastering Moodle: Scheduled Maintenance Windows

Beginning January 3, 2011, the CTRE has set the first and third Mondays at 1:00am to be the scheduled maintenance window for Moodle.

By scheduling maintenance times in advance, we hope to limit the impact to faculty and students.

When maintenance occurs, notification of changes will be posted on Moodle’s home page. This will include a listing of changes and a video showing any changes to features.

### *Moodle Tip of the Month*

#### Set up the Grade Book early.

If you are going to use the grade book in Moodle, take the time to set it up early.

You can use categories to weight grades or simply sum the points.

Tip sheets on setting up the grade is available in the CSU-Instructors course in Moodle. Plus, you can always make an appointment with the staff at the ODL.

## Who is the CTRE: Introducing Theo Garth

Theodis Garth is the newest member of the Center for Teaching and Research Excellence. He comes to us from the Information Technology Department at CSU where he served as a Support Associate.

Theo brings with him a Masters in Workforce Education and Development and a variety of technology support experience. In his new position of Instructional Development Specialist, he will leverage these skills to help faculty successfully integrate technology into their teaching.

In the CTRE, Theo serves as the point person when it comes to resolving user issues with Moodle.



He also investigates various system features and provides workshops and materials to help faculty effectively utilize them.

So, if you are working within Moodle and come across something, you just don’t think is right—Theo would be the person to contact at tgarth@csu.edu.

Please join us in welcoming Theo to the team.

## February 2011— CTRE Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
31 Moodle Q&A Open Forum 12:30 LIB301	1 Moodle Grade Book 12:30 LIB301	2 Using Elluminate 12:30 LIB301	3 Apple in Education: Podcasting and iPads Pre-registration is re- quired	4 Moodle Gradebook 12:30 LIB301
7 Moodle Q&A Open Forum 12:30 LIB301	8 Using Turn It In: A Plagia- rism Detection Program 12:30 LIB301	9 Using Elluminate 12:30 LIB301	10 Creating Assignments in Moodle 12:30 LIB301	11
14 Moodle Q&A Open Forum 12:30 LIB301	15 Facilitating Discussions in Moodle 12:30 LIB301	16 Faculty Showcase 3:00 pm LIB301	17 Moodle for the Non- Moodler 12:30 LIB301	18 IRB Training Noon—Sunroom Pre-registration re- quired
21 Moodle Q&A Open Forum 12:30 LIB301	22	23 Using Elluminate 12:30 LIB301	24 Moodle for the Non- Moodler 12:30 LIB301	25

### Center for Teaching and Research Excellence

The purpose of the Center for Teaching and Research Excellence (CTRE) is to build a community among the faculty at Chicago State University, where best practices and current research is shared with the intent to improve the quality of teaching and learning; promote involvement in areas of service, integrate 21<sup>st</sup> century tools and technologies into instruction, and encourage and support research.

Director: *Open Position*

Faculty Associates:

- Mark Erhart
- Rosalind Fielder

Staff Associates:

- Theo Garth
- Rochelle Johnson
- Brandon Taylor

Office: Library 318

Phone: 773-995-2960

Mark Your Calendars

## Faculty Showcase: Service

Wednesday, February 16

3:00 to 4:30 pm

Library 301

Come celebrate the service accomplishments of Tonya Hall, Devi Potluri, and Virginia Shen and hear their stories of why they believe in investing in our campus and community..

Learn how you, too, can become involved.

Refreshments will be served.