Reminder

CTRE grant applications are due **today by 5:00 p.m.**

If you have any questions, contact Mike Sukowski at msukowsk@csu.edu or x2501.

Upcoming Events

7/11
"Teaching Online and Staying Sane" with Angela Solic
12:00-2:00 / LIB 301

7/18
"Getting Students to Do the Reading: Practical Suggestions for Course Design" with Jodi Cressman
12:00-2:00 / LIB 301

7/19
"Using Rubrics as a Direct Assessment of Learning"
Faculty Webinar
12:00-1:30 / LIB 301

See page 4 for more!

Inside this issue:

Midwest Moodle Moot Conference

Calling all Moodlers! The 2012 Midwest Moodle Moot will take place on July 25-27 in Goshen, Indiana.

It is an opportunity for educators interested in Moodle—from novice to pro—to come together and learn, share, and collaborate to build their proficiency with the learning management system. Sessions such as "Encouraging Student Engagement in Moodle," and "Ramp Up Your Grading Efficiency" will be offered, and the keynote address will be delivered by Stuart Mealor, Managing Director of Human Resource Development, and Particularly Helpful Moodler (PHM).

Midwest Moodle Moot has something for everyone to learn. For more information, including registration instructions, visit the official website here.

Students Share Their Thoughts on Active Learning

By Mary Bart

"Learning is not a spectator sport. Students do not learn much just by sitting in class listening to teachers, memorizing prepackaged assignments, and spitting out answers. They must talk about what they are learning, write about it, relate it to past experiences, apply it to their daily lives. They must make what they learn part of themselves."
– A. Chickering and Z.F. Gamson

Active learning, a learner-centered approach to teaching in which the responsibility for learning is placed upon the students (often working in collaboration with each other), is not new. Yet there are still many faculty who lecture almost exclusively and are convinced that active learning activities won't work in their courses.

Some of the most frequently cited concerns about learning activities include that they take up too much class time,

(Continued on page 3)

Images: Lecture; Midwest Moodle Moot;

More Free Video Resources

A few months ago, the CTRE featured a handful of free video resources for educators to use in the classroom. By now, you may have exhausted those outlets, so here are some more to keep your classroom buzzing:

1)   Big Think

Big Think contains over 600 videos of interviews with some of the biggest movers, shakers, innovators, and—naturally—thinkers, of our time. As the name implies, the focus is on big ideas, such as "Power and Influence" and "Earth and Beyond."

2) CosmoLearning

CosmoLearning is an aggregator of free online documentaries, course materials, and clips from around the Web. 40 subjects are represented, from Anthropology to Veterinary Medicine, so chances are very good that there are at least a few things here for you to use.
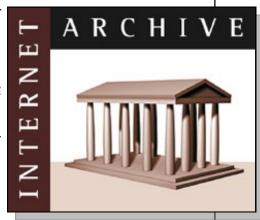
3) 5min

5min bills itself as "your one-stop shop for instructional videos and DIY projects," and, as such, runs the gamut on all kinds of topics. This would be a great resource for anyone looking for less of an "educational video" per se, and more of an instructional or illustrative video.

4) Internet Archive

The Internet Archive contains over two hundred thousand videos, embracing a plethora of subjects and eras, all with the intention of encouraging "widespread use of moving images in new contexts by people who might not have used them before." It even includes a strong collection of full-length classic films.

5) The Futures Channel

Despite its name, The Futures Channel does not simply cater to futurists and sci-fi nerds. Rather, it offers "real world movies" on a range of topics, like Design, Earth Science, Business and Commerce, and even Sports.

"At Your Fingertips: News from LIS" will return for the August newsletter.

Images: Television set; Big Think logo; CosmoLearning; Internet Archive logo;

Active Learning

(Continued from page 1)

make it more difficult to control the class, work only in small classes, take too much time to design, and are difficult to grade.

Supporters of learner-centered teaching may counter those objections by citing a growing volume of research that supports active learning techniques. Or they may just have their students share their perspectives on active learning and what makes a learning activity effective for them.

In the online seminar **Active Learning That Works: What Students Think**, presenter Ken Alford, Ph.D., took the latter approach. Using video clips from about a dozen students from across a variety of disciplines, the associate professor at Brigham Young University allowed students to share their thoughts on active learning—what they like and why they like it. Their comments, summarized here, cover a wide spectrum, including the benefits of learning activities to:

- Help students build connections with what they're learning
- Bring a change of pace to class sessions so students don't get bored

"Build My Own Website?" You Bet!

For the vast majority of the population, the term "web development" carries the same notion of obscurity as "alchemy." Especially if one has seen what the language of HTML looks like (or CSS, JavaScript, PHP, etc.), it can seem like a bunch of gobbledygook. But for those whose curiosity outweighs trepidation, there are a wealth of resources on the Web to help you learn how to build your own site from the ground up.

True, programs like iWeb and Google Sites do exist for those who wish to casually build a low-powered website, but for someone who wants to create a more powerful, customizable online presence, take heed of the following resources:

1) w3schools.com

- Force students to participate rather than allowing them to just sit back and be spectators
- Allow students to get to know one another
- Open the class to different perspectives
- Make it easier to understand and remember the material

Of course being a learner-centered

teacher doesn't mean you never lecture. Active learning and lecture are not mutually exclusive. They can, and often are, used together in the same class session.

"It's very easy to overpopulate your class with learning activities," said Alford. "Learning activities should be the seasoning and not the main course. Look for opportunities in the class; normally they will stand out—key concepts, important transitional lessons, or a summation. View things from a student perspective. When do they really need to internalize a concept? Those kinds of places set themselves up for learning activities."

This article first appeared in Faculty Focus *on July 18, 2012. Mary Bart is the editor of Faculty Focus.*

Images: Cartoon; w3schools.com;

July 2012—CTRE Events

MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI
2	3	4 UNIVERSITY CLOSED INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY	5	6
9	10	11 "Teaching Online and Staying Sane" with Angela Solic 12:00-2:00 / LIB 301	12	13
16	17	18 "Getting Students to Do the Reading: Practical Suggestions for Course Design" with Jodi Cressman 12:00-2:00 / LIB 301	19 "Using Rubrics as a Direct Assessment of Learning" Faculty Webinar 12:00-1:30 / LIB 301	20
23	24	25 "Effective Ways of Using Social Media in the Classroom" with LaWanda Burrell 12:00-2:00 / LIB 301	26	27
30		1 "Don't Call on Me!: Drawing Shy Students Out of Their Shells and Into Discussion" with James Kowalski 12:00-2:00 / LIB 301	2	

"Build My Own Website?" You Bet!

(Continued from page 3)

w3schools.com is the self-described "world's largest web developer site," and a quick visit reveals all the proof you'll need. w3schools.com provides a veritable wealth of free learning resources, and even offers certification exams and internet hosting options.

2) Mozilla Developer Network

Similar to w3schools.com, the Mozilla Developer Network has thousands of docs, demos, and discussions to help you get coding.

3) YouTube

While not a web developer-specific website, YouTube nevertheless houses hundreds of helpful how-to videos, courtesy of some very charitable web developers.

4) Lots more!

There are also plenty of books, classes, and discussion boards to offer guidance. So jump in and get yourself started!

Images: Sanity/insanity; Shy person; Facebook logo