"All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make, the better."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Upcoming Workshops

12/1
"Making Courses Unavailable to Students in Moodle"
2:00 PM (Online)

12/2
"Preparing Your CTRE Grant Applications"
12:00PM (LIB 301)

12/6
"Moodle Gradebook"
7:00PM (LIB 144)

12/8
"Archiving/Backup/Restoring Your Courses in Moodle"

See page 4 for more!

Inside this issue:

NEW FACES, NEW EXPECTATIONS

On November 18-19, New York University's **Faculty Resource Network's 2011 National Symposium** entitled "Emerging Pedagogies for the New Millennium" was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico to discuss "the convergence of several factors that are redefining higher education in the 21st century."

Of particular interest was the availability of new technologies, and how they can be harnessed to expand and deepen teaching opportunities across the higher education spectrum.

In attendance was CSU Interim Associate Dean of Library and Information Services, **Dr. Elizabeth Osika**, who came away with a positive impression of the quality of speakers and topics, including keynote address, "From Digital Desert to Digital Ocean: How Educational Concepts and Boundaries Change the New World Order", delivered by **Dr. John Behrens**, Director of Networking Academy Technology Strategy & Learning Systems Development at Cisco Systems. Dr. Behrens' address echoed many similar topics presented at the conference, which included not just technology as a teaching tool, but how technology, society, new media, and education can

A BETTER WAY TO USE E-TEXTBOOKS?

On November 17, members of the CTRE met with **Ryan Hively** of **Courseload, Inc.**, via webinar to learn more about the e-textbook services that his company offers.

What makes Courseload unique is that it has no publisher affiliation; rather, it is a self-described "neutral third party" that simply pairs learning institutions with

COURSELOAD

the textbooks they want for their classes. Need Prentice Hall's *Clinical Laboratory Biology* or Cengage's *Social Media Marketing*? Done. What about *Freakonomics* or even *Harry Potter*? No problem.

Courseload is not beholden to one specific publishing house contract; rather, they go after whatever books you need for your classes, and present them in one central user experience that is

NEW FACES, NEW EXPECTATIONS (cont.)

all work together synergistically to create a powerful learning experience for both educators and students alike. In other words, the day of education merely acknowledging the existence of blogs, chat-rooms, games, webinars, social media, and the like is far gone; the day of not just using—but innovating—ways to implement these technologies in the classroom has arrived, and it is up to educators to create delivery methods that engage their students beyond the four walls of the classroom. The biggest hurdle, however, is helping instructors to orient themselves toward these new technologies; after all, as FRN noted, "we are experiencing a major transformation in teaching and learning." Indeed.

Upcoming FRN Conferences

- **June 11-15, 2012—"Network Summer 2012 Seminar"**
This seminar will feature 11 lectures with speakers from around the country addressing topics as diverse as Malcolm X and modern evolutionary biology. To learn more, click HERE.

- **November 16-17, 2012—"National Symposium 2012: New Faces, New Expectations"**
FRN is currently accepting proposals for those who wish to present (deadline is April 6, 2012). To learn more, click HERE.

Chicago State University LIBRARY

AT YOUR FINGERTIPS
News from the CSU Library

Chicago State University LIBRARY

*"At Your Fingertips" is a new feature to the monthly CTRE newsletter. It is a chance for library staff to inform the campus at large about new or existing services, programming, and resources that are available for faculty and their students to use. This month's feature is co-written by **Prof. Sharon Hu**, **Director of Systems and Technical Services** in Library and Instruction Services.*

"Library Automation with Information Technology" is a three-credit, graduate-level course for students working toward their Master of Science in Library Science (MSLS) degree. I am currently teaching it for the fall 2011 semester, and use the resources of the Center for Teaching and Research Excellence (CTRE) extensively for it.

This course provides a systematical overview of library automation with information technology, introducing students to various types of tools, such as computers and peripherals, networks and web applications, digitization, and radio-frequency identification (RFID). It also explores the functions of major library automation systems such as the integrated library systems (ILS) and online public access cataloguing (OPAC), as well as theories, organizational principles, and historical development of library science. This course also focuses a lot on hands-on exercises, which are very important, using ILS client software installed in the CTRE computer lab, which aids student understanding of how information technology is applied to library automation systems.

The CTRE staff provide related training and great support to both me and my students in using instructional technology such as Moodle and El-luminate, in addition to letting us use their computer lab facilities.

A BETTER WAY TO USE E-TEXTBOOKS? (cont.)

tied to existing learning management systems, like **Moodle**.

Another feature of Courseload is the ability to employ **analytical tools** that track student progress, such as which students are looking at which sections, how long they're reading particular pages, and how many notes they're contributing to a given passage. So there's not only built-in accountability that helps in-structors keep track of what their students are doing, but that data can then be used to fine-tune future lesson plans, as-signments, and exams.

And, keeping pace with current e-learning trends, all Courseload texts are available on **any mobile device**, at any time. But if reading off of a screen gets too tiresome, then you can simply **print out what you need**. From one page to an entire book, this feature would be particularly useful for those who eschew study-ing in front of a bright blue screen.

Cost is another focus of Courseload, with its cata-logue of digital titles costing sig-nificantly less than their hard copy counter-parts; so students wind up paying less for the textbooks they so often complain about having to buy.

With the ease of use, supplemental features, and overall model of Courseload, it's no wonder that major in-stitutions like **Indiana University** have recently jumped on board, signing a **3 1/2-year part-nership agree-ment**.

Check out Cour-seload's website HERE and let the CTRE know what you think!

SUN, SAND, AND SLOAN-C

On November 9-11, **Ro-chelle Johnson** and **Sonya Ratliff** of the CTRE descended upon Lake Buena Vista, FL for the **17th Annual Sloan Consortium Interna-tional Conference on Online Learning**. Over 1,400 in-person and vir-tual attendees from nearly 700 institutions were expected for this year's conference, at-tracting people from all over the globe to learn about the latest trends in online learning.

This year's theme was "Online Learning, Teach-ing, and Research in the New Media Ecology," di-recting attention to the rapid pace of change on the web. As **Peter Shea** and **Ray Schroeder**, board members of Sloan-C International noted, "Websites num-ber in the hundreds of millions, social media us-ers surpass one billion, email flows in the tril-lions, and we live in a world that is ever more digital." In other words, how do we not only com-prehend the current and future scope of internet usage, but harness it to educational growth?

That question was on everyone's mind, not least of which, Ms. John-son and Ms. Ratliff, who attended a seminar on maintaining online course quality. With web-based and –assisted learning growing by leaps and bounds, it is now more crucial than ever to maintain criti-cal quality control, lest online learning become the Wild West of education.

To learn more about the recent conference and download a seminar program booklet, click HERE.

December 2011— CTRE Events

MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
28	29 "Elluminate Basics" (2:00PM - LIB 144)	30	1 "Making Courses Unavailable to Students in Moodle" (2:00PM - Online)	2 "Preparing Your CTRE Grant Applications" (Noon - LIB 301)	3
5	6 "Moodle Gradebook" (11:00AM - LIB 144 & 7:00PM - Online) "Course Checklist" (2:00PM - Online)	7	8 "Archive/Backup/ Restore Your Courses in Moodle" (2:00PM - Online)	9 "Discovering the Socratic Seminar" (Noon - LIB 301)	10
12	13	14 "Spicing Up Your Syllabus" (11:00AM-2:00PM - LIB 4th Floor)	15	16 "Leading a Socratic Seminar" (Noon - LIB 301)	17
19	20	21	22	23 **UNIVERSITY CLOSED**	24
26 **UNIVERSITY CLOSED**	27	28	29	30 **UNIVERSITY CLOSED**	31

From the Director's Desk   By Mike Sukowski

The fall 2011 semester is winding down but work still needs to be done! Do you need a quiet place to grade final papers and projects, enter grades, or just check email? The **CTRE Faculty Technology Lounge** is exactly what you need. You can spread out, use a Mac or PC, and get everything on the books before you book it out of here for Winter Break.

Also, if you're interested in applying for a **CTRE Faculty Enrichment Grant** or **Seed Grant**, don't forget the fast-approaching deadline of **January 1, 2012.** (If you have any questions, let us know.)

And on behalf of the CTRE staff, and faculty members of the CTRE Advisory Board, have a safe, happy holiday and wonderful New Year!