



# Connections

## Connecting Teaching, Learning, Research and Service

Volume 2: Issue 6

February 2012

*“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”*

- Thomas Edison

### Upcoming Events

2/3

“Integrating Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum”  
12:00 - 2:00 PM  
(LIB 301)

2/10

“Using the CSU Archives”  
12:00-2:00PM  
(LIB 301)

2/17

“Teaching Today’s Generation”  
12:00-2:00PM  
(LIB 301)

See page 4 for more!

## Chicago Area Assessment Group (CAAG)

Especially in a city like Chicago, which enjoys a vibrant and distinguished community of higher educators, professional groups abound. With every passing year, it becomes increasingly evident that if you’re looking for a particular kind of professional

group, it probably exists. And if it doesn’t, you can simply create it yourself.

For the Chicago Area Assessment Group (CAAG), that was the case. In 2008, a group of educa-

tors dedicated to advancing the understanding of assessment and its impact on college and university planning organized an inaugural two-day conference. Spearheaded by Loyola

University Chicago, it has since grown to a robust, dedicated group of individuals representing higher education

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Turning the Page on eTextbooks

On January 19, Apple, Inc. unveiled a plan that will change the landscape of educational technology—and particularly textbooks. In just the United States alone, textbooks constitute a \$10 billion market, with major publishers like Pearson, McGraw-Hill, and Houghton-Mifflin-Harcourt essentially composing an unbreakable oligarchy. For years, the only way to enter the

textbook market was as a provider to niche markets.

But Apple sees this as a perfect time to jump in the ring. With the iPad having taken off, the time is ripe for a major e-textbook revolution. Apple intends to “reinvent the textbook,” but to do so, it doesn’t want to have to go to war with the major publishers. Like with iTunes, Ap-

ple has made partnerships with the existing balance of power, and will make money by transforming



*(Continued on page 3)*

### Inside this issue:

Teaching and Research Excellence 2

At Your Fingertips: News from the Library 2

Community of Educreators 3

From the Director’s Desk 4

CTRE Calendar 4

## Teaching and Research Excellence

The CTRE's schedule of events for this month has some pretty exciting topics for the CSU community to explore. The focus, of course, is on helping faculty to better their teaching and/or research, and the CTRE has approached those two areas as innovatively as possible.



Below you'll find some upcoming workshops, each with a brief description to help you find what you're looking for.

*All Friday Faculty Fest workshops take place from 12:00-2:00PM.*

**Integrating Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum (Feb 3 / LIB 301)** Join Dr. Juanita Holliman for a look at how to incorporate criti-

cal thinking into various curricula in innovative ways.

**Using the CSU Archives for Better Research (Feb 10 / LIB 301)** CSU Archivist Stuart Campbell will lead this workshop on how to unlock the potential of the CSU archives. (Remember—not everything is on the internet!)

**Teaching Today's Generation (Feb 17 / LIB 301)** Rev. Otis Moss III will examine how cultural

influences like Facebook, Google, and hip-hop are changing both pedagogy and student spiritual development.

**Everything's an Argument: The Pedagogy of Critical Thinking (Feb 24 / LIB 301)** Dr. Kim Dulaney will suggest some ways to help get your students to exercise their critical thinking skills in new and challenging ways.

To register for a workshop, please [click here](#).

## At Your Fingertips By Profs. R. Fielder & C. Snelling

The CSU Library is currently running product trials for a limited time on several new **health science** databases. Current trials include *STATREF*, *Anatomy TV*, *Films On Demand*, and *AccessPharmacy*. Try these databases today and encourage your students to experiment with them. Visit the following URL for more information and to access the databases: <http://bit.ly/CSUTRIALS>. Please provide feedback on a brief online evaluation form. Contact **Professor Charlene Snelling**, Life

and Health Science Liaison, if you have questions or need additional information about the products or the trials. She can be reached by email ([csnellin@csu.edu](mailto:csnellin@csu.edu)) or by phone (x.2557).

The January issue of *Connections* included an article about the inauguration of the **One Book, One University** program, a campus-wide reading of one book accompanied by a series of events focused on issues raised in the selected book. The article

spotlighted the book selection for this year, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Everyone who participates in the program will receive a copy of the book. If you would like to involve your spring classes in this exciting project, please fill out an online registration form located at <http://bit.ly/1book1usignupfac>. If you have further questions, contact Professor Snelling by phone at the Reference desk (x.2235).



## CAAG

(Continued from page 1)

institutions around the Chicago area. The CTRE is proud to be a member of CAAG, and will continue being an active participant.

If you are interested in joining CAAG yourself, or would like to learn more about it, contact James Kowalski at [jkowalsk@csu.edu](mailto:jkowalsk@csu.edu) or x.2498, or visit the CAAG website [HERE](#).



## Community of Educreators

“Teach what you know. Learn what you don’t.” Those are the first words that greet you on the homepage of [Educreations.com](http://Educreations.com), a website that connects educators to each other so that they can carry out that almost zen-like mission.

Educreations allows you to create video lessons for your courses. Only in addition to sharing them with your students, you



can share them with the entire community of Educreations members. By signing up for free, you can share and borrow as many video lessons as you please. Your students can also create their own accounts to

explore the video lesson showcase, as well as create their own presentations to share with each other.

You can also embed your lessons on a blog or website, so that the boundaries of shar-

# educreations

ing your work are virtually nonexistent.

To create presentations, it is preferable to have some kind of stylus and a dedicated drawing surface—for example, a whiteboard or [USB drawing tablet](#)—but having them is not essential. Just a mouse will do, really. Then, using the

tools provided on the Educreations website, you can draw, color, erase, and animate to your heart’s content.



Remember, the more vivid the media, the more your students will follow.

To try out Educreations for yourself, or simply to learn more, click [here](#).

## Turning the Page on eTextbooks

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the industry rather than confronting it. By integrating iBooks2, iBooks Author, and iTunes U, a trifecta of electronic formats delivered via the iPad will not only take the place of conventional textbooks, but also bring ways of interacting and learning into the classroom that previously didn’t exist—at least on the kind of scale that Apple is hoping for.

With iTunes U, for example, hundreds of free courses are available from top institutions like Stanford, Yale, and the University of Chicago.

The viability of Apple’s plan is only a question of how long it will take for users to adopt. Sure, having assignments, lessons, discussion boards, and all



your textbooks on an iPad sounds great, but there’s still the little matter of cost. With the cheapest iPad costing \$499, and many cash-strapped institutions struggling to pay for pens and staplers, early growth will most likely be modest. But Apple seems to be realistic about the current landscape: Philip Schiller, head of marketing, said,

“We wanted to get started early.” With a price point of \$14.99 for a full e-textbook—and the likelihood of subdivided content *a la* iTunes songs—getting started early might pay off in a big way, especially over the next ten years.

Of course, nothing is set in stone when it comes to education, but one thing is for sure—there will be some interesting changes coming soon.



## February 2012—CTRE Events



MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI
30	31	1	2 Moodle Workshop 3:00-4:00PM	3 “Integrating Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum” 12:00-2:00PM (LIB 301) <a href="#">RSVP</a>  LiveText Tutorial 10:00-12:00 / 12:30-2:30 / 2:30-4:30 (LIB 144) <a href="#">RSVP</a>
6	7 Moodle Workshop 11:00-12:00 / 3:00-4:00	8	9 Moodle Workshop 3:00-4:00PM	10 “Using the CSU Archives” 12:00-2:00PM (LIB 301) <a href="#">RSVP</a>
13	14 Moodle Workshop 11:00-12:00 / 3:00-4:00	15	16 “Integrating iPads into the Math Curriculum” 12:30-2:30PM LIB 301 <a href="#">RSVP</a>  Moodle Workshop 3:00-4:00PM	17 “Teaching Today’s Generation” 12:00-2:00PM (LIB 301) <a href="#">RSVP</a>
20 <b>HOLIDAY PRESIDENTS’ DAY</b>	21 Moodle Workshop 11:00-12:00 / 3:00-4:00	22	23	24 “Everything’s An Argument: The Pedagogy of Critical Thinking” 12:00-2:00PM (LIB 301) <a href="#">RSVP</a>
27	28 Moodle Workshop 11:00-12:00 / 3:00-4:00	29	1 Moodle Workshop 3:00-4:00PM	2 “Best Practices in Developmental Math” 12:00-2:00PM (LIB 301) <a href="#">RSVP</a>

## From the Director’s Desk

By Mike Sukowski

We at the CTRE hope that your spring semester has gotten off to a great start. Here are some things to keep in mind as you continue forward.

The CTRE provides faculty and students with the tools that are needed for successful teaching and learning at CSU. Several workshops and opportunities for faculty and students are offered

each month, including weekly **Friday Faculty Fest workshops** from noon to 2:00pm. We also provide Moodle training, software tutorials, and special events.

The **CTRE Advisory Board** grew last semester by adding members to every one of its committees by recruiting from



each college. These efforts enabled faculty to engage in collaborative growth and professional development. The faculty **Distance Education Committee (DEC)**, for example, recommended that all faculty who wish to teach an online or hybrid course must suc-

cessfully complete online teaching training. To appropriately prepare CSU faculty for the task, then, the CTRE offers an online certification training program, **CSU-OCT**, which was recently updated.

Watch future weekly and monthly newsletters for more information from the CTRE.