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NOVEMBER

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UPCOMING TRAINING

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| MOODLE GRADEBOOK | 11/15 NOON LIB 144 & 7:00 PM ONLINE |
| MOODLE BASICS | 11/17 11:00 LIB 144 & 7:00 PM ONLINE |
| MOODLE GRADEBOOK | 11/19 1:00 PM ONLINE |
| MOODLE BASICS | 11/20 3:00 PM ONLINE |

SHOULD CSU GO WITH AMBROSE?

Let us know! Click [here](#) to look at Ambrose Video's list of programs, then send your thoughts—good or bad—to the CTRE by emailing **James Kowalski** (jkowalsk@csu.edu) or calling him at x.2498.

GOOGLE NINJAS IN THE CTRE!

On November 3-4, **Theodis Garth** and **Rochelle Johnson** of the CTRE traveled to the Glacier Canyon Lodge in Wisconsin Dells to attend the **Google Summit Midwest** conference.

For two days straight, attendees talked, debated, and learned about all things Google, from Google Docs to Picasa to the newly unveiled **Chromebook**.

The focus of the conference was on education, specifi-

cally how Google and its many products can help students learn, instructors teach, and everyone to navigate the sea of apps



that are available.

Julia Stigliz of Google's **Apps for Education team**, for example, presented on

"32 Ways to Use Google Apps in the Classroom," highlighting such programs as **Moderator**, **SketchUp**, and **Knol**.

Stigliz was joined by 3 of her Google peers at the conference, who all came to demonstrate how such time-tested applica-

tions as Gmail and Google Docs are still evolving to allow for better user experiences and greater productivity.

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HD VIDEO STREAMING AT CSU

A new HD video streaming service may be coming to CSU.

On November 9, **Allen Dohra** of **Ambrose Video Publishing** met with members of the CTRE to discuss the possibility of using the Ambrose

Digital video streaming service. In addition to all 37 Shakespeare plays, Ambrose's collection includes a plethora of videos catering to core physics, biology, history, law, and minority studies classes. What sets Ambrose apart from websites like YouTube

and Discovery Education is the breadth of topics and quality of video, in addition to features like a usage statistics tool, which would allow instructors to keep track of how many students are watching videos, and which ones they are choosing.

Follow the CTRE on Twitter!

YOUR ONE-STOP SPOT FOR NEWS IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

The CTRE now officially has a shiny new Twitter account. If you'd like to keep track of current trends and news stories regarding educational technology and what's going on in the CTRE, then follow @CSU_CTRE.

For some academicians, Twitter represents an ominous encroachment on verbal articulation; for the CTRE, however, it simply represents a great way for us to keep in touch with people not just across CSU, but other academic institutions as well.

So even if you've never considered jumping on the Twitter bandwagon before, perhaps now is the time. Like many social media outlets on the web, it can serve as an illuminating and fascinating learning tool if used wisely.

And don't forget—students will think you're cool, too.



STUDENT ONLINE EVALUATIONS

According to the CSU contract, the CTRE must provide a standard course evaluation for all online and hybrid courses. Therefore, we have contracted with **Digital Measures** to pilot an online course evaluation system this semester. Faculty teaching online or hybrid courses will be notified this week with additional information about how they can customize their individual course evaluations and the instrument will be open to all students beginning **November 28**. If this pilot is successful, this process may be rolled out for all courses next semester. For more information please click [here](#) or email Liz Osika at eosika@csu.edu.

GOOGLE NINJAS IN THE CTRE! (CONT.)

Also featured at the conference was Google's Chromebook, which is an innovative alternative to the conventional laptop. Rather than a hard drive, for example, all data is stored in the cloud, and instead of using Windows or Mac OS X, a proprietary, web-based Chrome operating system is used. So far, reception has been enthusiastic, though measured; time will tell if the Chromebook can serve the myriad uses of, say, the

iPad, or if it will fade away like the ill-fated Newton.

With **61 of the top 100 universities** in the nation currently using Google Apps, it's an undeniable presence in higher education. CSU, like many of its peer institutions in the Midwest, have jumped onboard with Google Apps, and with good reason, too. If nothing else, one reality was made patently clear at the conference: Google—and especially Google online

learning as a whole—are realities that are only going to grow in scope as time goes on.

Luckily for skeptics and slow adopters alike, the technologies presented at the conference had one thing almost universally in common: they're easy to use. And therein lies Google Apps' greatest strength, which, incidentally, is also the mark of a great educational tool.



An advertisement for the Google Chromebook, highlighting its web-centric operating system.