

Blackboard Support Migrates to ITS

by Dan Madigan

Blackboard support for online courses is migrating from CTLT to ITS at the end of the 2005 spring semester. Since 1997, CTLT has played an important role in the support of BGSU's Content Management Systems (CMS). At that time, we introduced WebCT to the campus and developed the first WebCT courses to be delivered fully online. Since then, our supporting role for those using our CMS has grown as we have worked with faculty to develop new courses online and have conducted CMS workshops on levels from beginning to advanced skills.

In 2002 when the university decided to switch from WebCT to Blackboard, our Center put together a transition team to assist faculty in converting their courses from WebCT to Blackboard and to develop new workshops to complement the new tools being offered. During this successful transition period, faculty use of Blackboard grew tremendously as departments adopted strategies for implementing more online courses and entire curriculums to meet new demands from students. As a result, CTLT adjusted and our staff grew to meet the growing demands for Blackboard support.

But, we have not been the only means of Blackboard support on campus. In some cases, individual faculty have

helped department colleagues learn the nuances of the BB tools and department/college level workshops on the uses of online courses are not unusual across campus. But mostly, CTLT, Continuing & Extended Education and ITS have provided the bulk of CMS support for faculty and staff over the last several years. Together, these units pooled their expertise and coordinated activities so that the BGSU community had ample CMS support across campus. While this collaboration has been successful overall, the multiple areas of support have sometimes been confusing to BB users and the redundancy of services has not always been easy to justify in these times of fiscal responsibility.

As a way to consolidate the support services for BB, and to group BB support expertise in one area, BGSU has made a decision to centralize its support for BB in ITS. The transition of all BB support is taking place at present and will be completed by the end of the spring semester 2005. Starting this summer session (2005), CTLT will no longer be a primary support unit for Blackboard. Instead, CTLT will focus its resources towards supporting a broader mission of pedagogical support for both faculty and graduate student instructors. After the spring 2005 semester, faculty and staff who call CTLT for BB support will be redirected to ITS who will have qualified staff to answer all questions regarding Blackboard's CMS tools.

We at CTLT will miss the prominent support role for BB that we have had in the past. Yet, we are excited about this institutional change, which will allow us to focus more specifically on workshops, seminars, and consultations that support issues of student learning and pedagogical methods related to both face-to-face and online instruction. As the office of CTLT continues to evolve in the area of technology support, we will offer new workshops that integrate the learning of technology skills, such as content management systems in general, personal response systems, and presentation tools, with the skills, philosophy and art of teaching.

Graduate Assistantship Opportunity

CTLT is excited to announce the opening of two graduate positions for the academic year of 2005/2006. These two positions seek to complement our staff and programs that are dedicated to graduate student, instructors, and faculty. For the job description, please go to the CTLT website at <http://ctl.t.bgsu.edu/> and download the "Graduate Student Application".

Interested applicants should send a resume with cover letter to Kris Sautter at ksautte@bgnet.bgsu.edu or via mail at the Center of Teaching Learning and Technology, 201 University Hall, Bowling Green, OH 43403.



Digital Video Workshop Series

May 16-19

The week of May 16, CTLT will be offering a series of workshops guaranteed to help you become more proficient in the realm of digital video. These modular workshops are designed for all faculty and graduate teaching assistants who want to incorporate video into their teaching and/or research. If you are interested in attending one or all of these workshops, please sign up soon by contacting Kris Sautter at ksautte@bgnet.bgsu.edu or 372-6898.



This workshop series covers pre-production and post-production of digital video and digital photography. Learn the basics of digital video cameras and techniques to help improve the way you incorporate photos into your digital video story. Our Digital photo workshops will cover both basic and advanced topics.

Pre-production

Monday, May 16, 9:00-11:30 AM

Covers basic video camera usage and how to plan out a video project, using scripts, story-boards and other techniques.

Final Cut Express Overview

Monday, May 16, 1:30-4:00 PM

For use in sophisticated home movies complete with transitions and effects or pro-level videos for your class, Final Cut Express provides the capabilities you need to express your creativity. This workshop will cover importing video and editing in Final Cut Express.

Lighting & Audio

Tuesday, May 17, 9:00-11:30 AM

Tired of low quality audio and visual movies? Learn how to properly light and record audio for video with this hands-on workshop.

Final Cut Express Filters & LiveType

Tuesday, May 17, 1:30-4:00 PM

Attend this session to make your video look more professional. Final Cut Express filters and the program LiveType will be covered to create sophisticated, professional-quality titles for your video projects.

Digital Photo Basic

Wednesday, May 18, 9:00-11:30 AM

Become familiar with all the standard features of a typical consumer digital camera. Learn how to: choose the right camera, use automatic camera features, use the flash, store your photos on a Compact Flash card, & upload your pictures to a computer for editing and exporting.

DVD Studio Pro Overview

Wednesday, May 18, 1:30-4:00 PM

DVD Studio Pro is the most complete, flexible and creative tool for DVD authoring. Learn the basic features this powerful high-end program has to offer.

Digital Photo Advanced

Thursday, May 19, 9:00-11:30 AM

Develop better digital photography skills by discovering how to use the manual settings, to white balance your camera, and to compose an intriguing shot.

DVD Studio Pro Advanced Features

Thursday, May 19, 1:30-4:00 PM

Learn how to add subtitles to your video DVD, or include multiple angles of an action. This workshop will cover DVD Studio Pro's more advanced features.

Digital Storytelling Learning Through Images

June 6-8 CTLT will be conducting a Digital Storytelling workshop. This workshop is a first in a series of future CTLT workshops on Visual Literacy. Participants will be introduced to ideas such as the use of images to challenge student thinking, how to critically read an image, and the notion of students as visual/auditory learners. One of the major goals of this workshop will be for participants to begin to develop ideas about how to use the digital video story as a means for expressing course concepts and ideas, and how to teach students to use the digital video story concept to present major ideas.

Participants will also learn the technical aspects of creating a digital video story using images and audio that is royalty free and software that is easy to use and familiar, such as Powerpoint, iPhoto, MovieMaker and iMovie.

Summer Tenure & Promotion

Please join Dan Madigan for an individual 70 minute T&P portfolio consultation that will be held throughout the summer. During these consultations, he will be offering faculty tips on how to enhance their T&P portfolio in such areas as organization, written narratives, evidence, and sample artifacts.

To sign up for an individual consultation starting at 10:00 and 11:30 am on the following dates, please call 372-0325 or email ksautte@bgnet.bgsu.edu. All workshops will be held on site at 201 University Hall.

Tuesday, May 17
Thursday, May 19
Thursday, May 26

Wednesday, June 1
Thursday, June 2
Thursday, June 9

