

communicating for

LEARNERS

SPRING
No.2

*The Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology
Spring Semester 2007*

Accepting Responsibility is the Beginning of Succeeding at Anything

Dr. L. Dee Fink challenged his BGSU audience to accept responsibility as professional educators to know about and use “more powerful ways of teaching.” Dr. Fink was the keynote speaker at the BGSU Teaching and Learning Fair on March 23. The Fair and the Student Achievement Assessment Committee (SAAC) Awards on March 22 provided two days of BGSU activities focused on promoting student success.

Dr. Fink was present at both events, spending time interacting with BGSU faculty and students—from individual conversations with faculty about their teaching ideas to reviewing student portfolios to talking with graduate students about their teaching abilities giving them the “edge” in their professional development.

In his keynote, Fink laid a foundation about the issues facing our “flat world” (reference to Thomas Friedman) and coupled them with the charges that Derek Bok and others are making about students not having significant learning experiences in their college classrooms. Because we are educating future problem-solvers, Fink wants us to re-examine “**what we teach, how we teach, how we “gear up” as teachers, and who we are.**”

Using his taxonomy of significant learning, Fink stresses the importance of students being able to understand and remember the key content concepts; knowing how to use the content; being able to relate the subject matter to other subjects; understanding the personal and social implications of knowing the subject; valuing the subject and further learning about it; and knowing how to continue learning after the course is over. Fink charges us as professional educators to include all of these elements in **what we teach.**

How we teach is what Fink asks us to re-examine next because “for more powerful kinds of learning we need more powerful kinds of teaching.” Significant learning for our students can happen if we follow Fink’s principles of interactive course design and include the key components of learning goals, teaching and learning activities, and feedback and assessment. This course design model must be based on an in-depth situational analysis and include multiple activities that promote active learning.

How we gear-up as teachers is for Fink a dynamic process that goes beyond focusing on increasing our knowledge of our disciplines. We “need to spend time learning about new and better ways of teaching and learning.” He encourages us to not only learn from our own experiences, but to also learn from the experiences of others and from the literature on college teaching.

And finally, **who we are**—according to Fink, we have two roles, the subject matter specialist and the professional educator, which he feels we need to take more seriously. “EVERY faculty member is a professional educator, and all professionals take their own professional development very seriously.”

Look for Fink’s keynote address

The Joy and Responsibility of Teaching Well

at dvss.bgsu.edu



visionary STATUS

Niklas Zennstrom and Janus Friis are the creators of Skype, a free Internet telephone network. With growing popularity and cross-platform compatibility, Skype is making it easier to communicate with others from around the world.

Zennstrom received dual degrees in Business Administration and Engineering Physics from Uppsala University in Sweden. He spent his final year of school at the University of Michigan before partnering with Friis. Friis, a Danish entrepreneur, is the creator of Kazaa, a peer-to-peer file-sharing network. The two recently sold Skype to eBay and are now working on their latest project, Joost, a program that allows viewers to watch television through the Internet.

Not only has Skype revolutionized the way we communicate with friends, family, and the business world, it has also changed the way we communicate in academia. Included in Skype's free features is the ability to hold audio and video conferencing calls with up to ten users simultaneously. In the classroom, Skype can allow educators to connect with other institutions, business experts, and students from around the world to enhance teaching and learning.

To learn more about Skype, go to:

www.skype.com

Interact at The Center

On November 7, 2006, The Center launched a new, informative and interactive website called Interact at the Center. As its name suggests, Interact is a collaborative, online space where the BGSU community (faculty, staff, and graduate students) can access, share, and discuss current topics related to teaching and learning.



Why Interact at the Center?

The overriding purpose of the *Interact* site is to promote asynchronous dialogue on teaching and learning issues in higher education among the BGSU community. *Interact* also serves to:

- facilitate discussions on the latest developments and research in teaching and learning
- inform BGSU faculty, staff, and graduate students of the most current workshop offerings, learning community activities, recent events sponsored by the Center, emerging pedagogies, and technology tool integration strategies

Interact Format & Topics

Interact is arranged chronologically with the most recent posts listed first, while icons are used to represent different themes such as Teaching Tips and Workshop Extension. The posts are further categorized with labels that are organized alphabetically on the right side of the page along with an archive of older posts. The four main themes are:

-  Teaching Tips – strategies and suggestions on teaching and learning in higher education; you can comment on successful strategies you feel others could replicate and benefit from
-  Technology Tips – updates on technology tools for teachers and students that facilitate teaching and learning; you can comment on your experiences or concerns with these tools



The Hot Five

The Center presents its top five list of our hottest online resources.

1

Assessment
ahe.cqu.edu.au

A web site devoted to best practices in student assessment and related topics in higher education

2

EET
coe.sdsu.edu/eet

A collection of short multimedia articles on a variety of topics related to the fields of instructional design and education(TOC)

3

Bloglines
bloglines.com

An online resource where you can subscribe to, search, and share blogs, news, or podcasts

4

Open Learning
cmu.edu/oli/

A collection of openly available and free online courses and instructional materials

5

Maps of the Decade
kwfdn.org/map/index.aspx

A visual grid displaying the future forces affecting education



Learning Community News – latest accomplishments, updates, events, and/or news coming from one or more of the 12 communities



Workshop Extension – Opportunities to continue the workshop discussions or ask new related questions

“With your contributions, Interact is more than just another website—it is a collaborative venture in communicating and reflecting to learn.”

How To Start “Interacting” via Commenting

As with any new forum for communicating, the toughest part for most people is often in being the first to offer an idea, suggestion, or even simply how to get started... so here’s how in three, easy steps:

1. Go to <http://www.bgsu.edu/ctlc> and click on the *Interact at the Center* logo.
2. Browse or search the posts, or choose a topic of interest from the categorized list on the right.
3. Leave your ideas or suggestions by clicking on the “Comments” link located below each post. (When leaving comments, you have the option to include your name, initials, or remain anonymous.)

Watch for Campus Updates every 3–4 weeks that highlight the latest *Interact* topics. Visitors may read the posts without leaving comments, but the Center encourages more participation through the commenting feature, so Interact can truly become a dynamic place of connected, shared learning for the BGSU community.

Did you know?

March 20, 2007 was the date for the 34th annual University Business symposium at the Firelands campus. Ed Barlow, the keynote speaker, led off the "Community Speaks" lecture series where he talked about "aligning Firelands to the 21st century and beyond." The series will continue to focus on orienting Firelands' future. The lecture series is sponsored by the Initiatives for the Future (IF) @ BGSU Firelands.

scheduled workshops

To register for one or more of our discussions and workshops, contact the Center at ctlc@bgsu.edu or 419.372.6898

Discussion & Service Learning

The New Models of Owning Ideas

Tuesday, April 17, 12:00–1:15pm

Introduction to Service Learning

Tuesday, April 17, 11:30–1:00pm

Tools Workshops

Workshops on technology tools to use in the classroom or for research:

SNAP Survey Software

This is a two-part workshop. Please sign up for both sessions.

Tuesday, April 10, 8:30–11:30am (Part 1)
Thursday, April 19, 8:30–10:30am (Part 2)

Introduction to Blogs & Wikis

Thursday, April 12, 1:00–2:30pm

Advanced Blog

Wednesday, April 18, 1:30–2:30pm

Advanced Wiki

Friday, April 20, 10:30–11:30am

Managing Your E-Mail

Wednesday April 18, 3:30–4:30pm

Secure Documents

Tuesday, April 3, 11:00–12:00pm

Media Usability 101

Friday, April 20, 1:00–2:00pm

Film to Finish

Wednesday, April 11, 10:30–12:00pm

Digital Photography HDR

Thursday, April 12, 9:30–10:30am

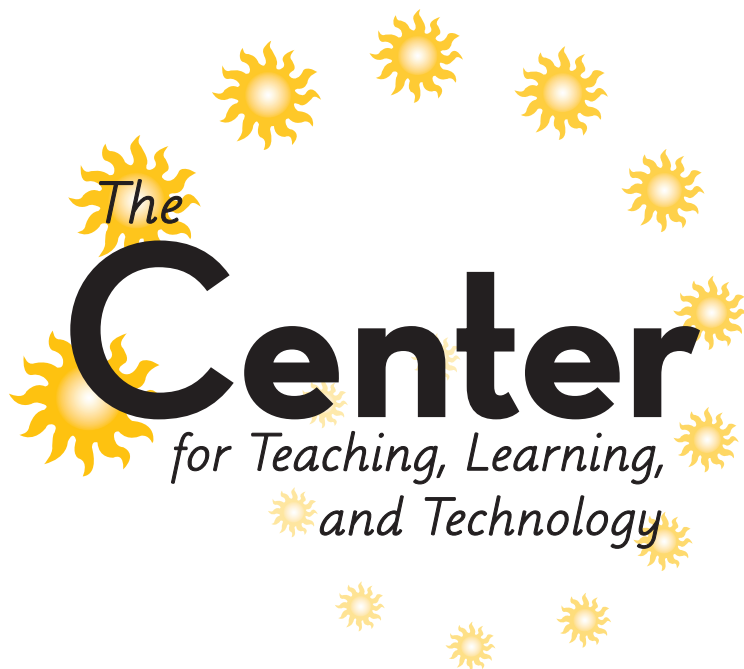
Audio Files with Audacity

Wednesday, April 18, 11:00–12:00pm

Podcasting

Tuesday, April 24, 9:30–10:30pm

CTLT in the SUMMER



We offer help with:

- Slide & Document Scanning
- CD/DVD Duplication
- Multiformat Audio/Video Transfer
- Workshops
- Pedagogy Consultations
- CD/DVD Printing
- Document Scanning
- Web Design
- Print Design
- Video Editing
- Information Organization

And much more...

For Your Information

The Center serves the BGSU Community.

- The Center is open from 8–5 during the academic breaks and summer sessions. If you need assistance, it's best to call or email for an appointment—otherwise, just walk in.
- Some of our many resources include a lending library of over 150 books, online archives of Teaching Tips and newsletters, and “Interact at the Center,” a website dedicated to encouraging faculty to share their own expertise and experiences in teaching, learning, and technology.
- This year, over 170 faculty and graduate students participated in Learning Communities on both the main and Firelands campuses. Applications for next year's communities will be available in June. For more information, visit <http://www.bgsu.edu/ctlc> and click on Learning Communities.
- The Center collaborates with departments, centers, and units across campus to offer specialized, targeted workshops to best fit the BGSU community needs. Call or email us for more information.



For more information about the Center:
www.bgsu.edu/ctlc
ctlc@bgsu.edu
419.372.6898