TEACHING WITH TECH
News from the Office of Distance Learning

JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY

February 5, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blackboard is offering free webinars throughout the spring semester. These webinars range in topic from creating rubrics to encouraging collaboration. Visit the Blackboard Learn website for more information and to sign up for these free webinars.

To learn about other upcoming webinars and to watch the ODL workshops, go to the ODL Webinars page.

Faculty Workshops

click here for more information

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Tonya Suarez
Instructor, College of Business

"Keep it simple" were the words of advice I received during my first year as an instructor. However, we want to make our classes the best so we look for new and creative ways to stimulate the interests of our students. Well, I learned the hard way that "keep it simple" was some great advice; therefore, my first few years of teaching brought me back to learning how to best present the material to my students that met the desired objectives for my courses.

It was not until I was asked to teach an online class that I discovered some new and rather simple technological tools that could really help me enhance the classroom. Of course I had to use these tools for the online world but I was pleasantly surprised at how I could incorporate them into my traditional undergraduate classes (TUG).

TONYA'S TOOLS

Tegrity (lecture-capture) allows me to teach the material to my online students as if I were standing in from of the students in a classroom setting. I now use these recordings for my TUG students.
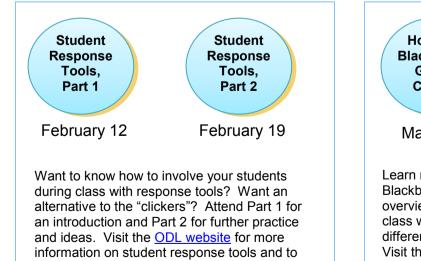
Discussion Boards are used to promote student collaboration. Students are encouraged to present questions about the course and homework on the discussion board as opposed to sending me an email.

Collaborate (web-conferencing) is used for my office hours in the online environment. I was pleasantly surprised at how easy it was and how it truly allowed for a face to face conversation to occur as if they were sitting in my office.

Want to show how you use technology in your courses? Be a part of our Faculty Spotlight. E-mail us for more information.

TECH TUESDAYS

Student Response Tools, Part 1

February 12

Student Response Tools, Part 2

February 19

How To: Blackboard Grade Center

March 12

Advanced Features of Grade Center

March 26

Want to know how to involve your students during class with response tools? Want an alternative to the "clickers"? Attend Part 1 for an introduction and Part 2 for further practice and ideas. Visit the ODL website for more information on student response tools and to sign up.

Learn more about using the Grade Center in Blackboard. The Basics class will be an overview of the Grade Center. The Advanced class will go into more depth about several different Grade Center settings and capabilities. Visit the ODL website for more information and to sign up.

WHERE HIGH-TECH MEETS HIGH-TOUCH

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