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Office of Teaching and Learning Newsletters

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Winter 2010

## Winter 2010 CTL Newsletter

University of Denver, Office of Teaching and Learning

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## Center for Teaching and Learning Winter 2010 Newsletter

### In This Issue

[CTL Conference Recap](#)

[Video Resources](#)

[Is your Bb Course  
Student-Approved?](#)

[Customizing your DU  
Portfolio](#)

[Tech Tools We Love](#)

**Innovations in Mass  
Comm Video goes  
viral!**



Dr. Lynn Schofield Clark's student video essay was written up in [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) after being featured in [Michael Wesch's blog](#). The YouTube video has been viewed over 16,000 times since its debut at the CTL conference two weeks ago.

**Congratulations  
to Dr. Bruce  
Uhrmacher!**

### Education and the New Media Conference

Thank you to all who attended the CTL 2010 Winter Conference: Education and the New Media!

We had a stimulating event with nearly 200 DU faculty and staff members gathering to discuss issues of new media, technology, teaching and learning. It was an eye-opening day. You can find highlights, video archives, and more on our [conference portfolio](#) website.

**What now?** You've given us many ideas for coffee breaks, online resources, and technology workshops and we'll be starting some of these efforts in the Spring. For those of you who left feeling overwhelmed, perhaps we should all take Dr. Lynn Schofield Clark's suggestion of trying out one new teaching strategy/technology/new media per quarter. The CTL is always available to assist faculty members with these explorations.

#### Conference highlights:

1. Media expert [Michael Wesch](#), impressed the crowd with his dynamic and thought-provoking talks, ranging from an anthropological history of YouTube to the interactive virtual world simulation method used in his 200-student introductory anthropology course. Over 180 viewers from across Colorado and the U.S. as well as from Canada, Chile and Australia watched the keynotes virtually via our live stream and posted their thoughts on [Twitter](#). The [video archives](#) are now available.
2. Concurrent sessions by DU faculty members showcased educational uses of blogs, Twitter, online tutorials and Google Wave, discussed open educational resources and free textbooks, and revealed common Blackboard pitfalls. View the [video](#) and [presentation](#) archives.
3. 20 faculty members showcased the innovative ways they are using technology and new media to enhance student learning during a [digital poster session](#).
4. Nearly 200 attendees worked in small groups to uncover the



**Dr. Uhrmacher,  
Professor at the  
Morgridge College of  
Education, won the  
CTL Conference raffle  
prize, a new Flip  
Cam!**

### Using new media technology tools in your classes?

If so, we want to hear  
from you!

Email [ctl@du.edu](mailto:ctl@du.edu) with  
your experiences of  
using technology in the  
classroom to help us  
plan future coffee  
breaks and workshops.



### Visit our Blog!

#### **ED-TECH @ DU**

Ed-Tech News, Tips,  
Events, and Software  
Discussion provided by  
the CTL

<http://ctl.du.edu/techblog/>

Want the latest news  
and updates about  
the CTL and  
Blackboard?

meaning of a pre-conference technology survey and discuss next steps. Comments from the groups include:

- "Students' and instructors' responses are not that different when asked how they want to interact with each other."
- "Students have enormous complaints about current use of Blackboard and PowerPoint in the classroom."
- "Good teaching is good teaching. We need to be clear about our teaching and intended learning, and then ask how can technology facilitate the learning or outcomes."
- "It is possible to use the new technologies to teach and not just to appease students' appetites for something as entertaining as Facebook."
- "Our students already live in a cyber world and need us to help them make the transitions between that world and the classroom."

View highlights of the groups' [findings and suggestions](#) about how to help students make meaningful connections at DU.



### CTL Conference Video Resources

Michael Wesch Keynote Presentations now available:

[How can we create students who create meaningful connections?](#)  
[Making Connections: Experiments in Learning with New Media](#)

CTL Graduate Technology Assistants give advice on:  
[Creating a Student-Friendly Blackboard Course](#)

Dr. Lynn Schofield Clark's Innovations in Mass Communication Course:  
[Student Video Essay "The Class"](#)

Michael Wesch on instructors, digital media, copyright, and more:  
[More with Michael Wesch! Interview with Ethan & Ryan](#)

Michael Wesch's popular YouTube videos:

[A Vision of Students Today](#)  
[Web 2.0 ... The Machine is Us/ing Us](#)





[BbatDU](#)

[CTLatDU](#)

[CTLgradtech](#)

## Quick Links

[Blackboard](#)

[DU CourseMedia](#)

[DU Portfolio](#)

[CTL Homepage](#)

## CTL Contact List

### [CTL Helpdesk](#)

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### Blackboard Training and Support

[Jenn Light](#)

[Kathy Keairns](#)

### DU Portfolio

[Jenn Light](#)

[Carrie Lorenz](#)

[Joseph Labrecque](#)

### CourseMedia/ALORA

[Jenn Light](#)

[Alex Martinez](#)

[Joseph Labrecque](#)

### Clickers (Student Response Systems)

[Jenn Light](#)

[Kathy Keairns](#)

### Grants and Funding Opportunities

[Julanna Gilbert](#)

[Jeanie Tischler](#)

### Coffee Breaks and

## Is your Blackboard Course Student-Approved?

Blackboard was the #1 technology mentioned by DU students when asked what recommendations they would give to their professors to better implement technology in their courses. Many students indicated that they really like Bb and appreciate faculty members who use it effectively and take the time to post their materials online.

One student stated, "Blackboard is truly a great tool that helps students understand as well as have access to class materials." Some students expressed frustration about disorganized Blackboard courses. For example, "Organize Blackboard better. Some teachers post way too much information and it is not organized into folders or easy to find without having to search all over the place."

The top five Blackboard recommendations:

1. Post Materials/Use more features
2. Post Grades
3. Organize/Keep up-to-date
4. Require Use
5. Utilize Communication Tools



[Click here for tips on designing a student-friendly Bb course!](#)

**Attention Faculty!** The CTL is recruiting faculty members within each division to work with us to develop quality Blackboard courses. Please email [blackboard@du.edu](mailto:blackboard@du.edu) if you are interested in sharing your course with your colleagues and/or participating in the "Blackboard Exemplary Course Program."

## Customizing your

# DU PORTFOLIO

The CTL recently made several updates to DU Portfolio, including a shortened name and new functionality for users.

The most significant enhancement is the ability for users to perform a number of customizations with banners, fonts, and colors. Providing a certain level of control to users while retaining consistency across all portfolios was the driving idea behind these enhancements.

Some of the changes include:

- Allow for customization with banner images, font and color
- Improved module for small photo webcam capture
- Custom community URLs
- Gradebook enhancements
- Image resizer improvements

Workshops  
[Bridget Arend](#)  
[Jenn Light](#)  
[Kathy Keairns](#)

Instructional Design  
Distance Learning  
[Kathy Keairns](#)  
[Bridget Arend](#)

Software  
Development Projects  
[Joseph Labrecque](#)

Teaching  
Consultations  
[Julanna Gilbert](#)  
[Bridget Arend](#)

Electronic Capstones,  
Theses and  
Dissertations  
[Alex Martinez](#)  
[Gary Taylor](#)

Online Surveys or  
Registration Forms  
[Bridget Arend](#)  
[Jenn Light](#)

- Ability to display Image Gallery in multiple areas



View [this video](#) to learn more about DU Portfolio customizations

Set up your personal Portfolio at: <https://portfolio.du.edu>

## Tech Tools used during the Conference

**[GoogleDocs](#)** - Documents created here can be accessed from any computer with an Internet connection, and if you share a document with someone else, they can edit the document in real time. This easy tool is useful for groups collaboratively working on a document, spreadsheet or presentation.

**[Twitter](#)** - This "microblogging" service allows you to post short (140 characters or less) comments, and follow certain people to stay up to date with their postings. While there are instructional uses, Twitter is popular in academia as a reference tool, to find current information and resources posted by others with similar interests.

**[Flickr](#)** - An online space to post and share photos. You can create groups to share photos about a particular topic or event, and view photos posted by others around the world.

Have a free technology tool that you love? Email [ctl@du.edu](mailto:ctl@du.edu) with a short description and we'll share it in this newsletter.

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