

Why

a conference on technology at Fairfield?

Fairfield has a history of commitment to the development of instructional technology. Beginning in the early 80s with Latin tutorials on a mainframe computer, faculty members have steadily been involved in projects that infuse technology into the teaching and learning process. In 1993, we received a grant to construct our first two multimedia classrooms. Since then, grants from a variety of foundations and corporations have allowed us to construct additional classrooms, labs, and learning environments that expose students to state-of-the-art hardware and software. More recently, grants have supported faculty training and course redesign, as well as the development of our Center for Academic Excellence. Examples of major projects and initiatives are described below.

• **The Economics Department** has restructured courses in its curriculum to incorporate a variety of “lab” experiences, in which students are able to use technology in the study of economics. The goal of this redesign is to create, in the words of author and educator Dee Fink, “significant learning experiences”, which enable students to take both cognitive skills and affective tendencies away from the course in a more engaged way. Assignments require students to develop competencies across Bloom’s taxonomy.

• **The Sociology Department** has partnered with Modern Languages and International Studies in a project that engages students in interdisciplinary learning teams. Students in French class use geography and demographics to better understand the development of language, while students in Sociology learn how the development of French language and culture affect patterns of urbanization. Teams develop their own projects, and use software and data to analyze complex questions of importance to language and the social sciences. Global Information Systems technology in turn provides students with the information that they need to better understand social and cultural implications.

• **The mission of the Center for Academic Excellence** is to provide faculty with the resources they need to develop effective pedagogy both in and out of the classroom. Faculty members are encouraged to pursue curriculum development projects, course redesigns, and technology-enhanced strategies with the goal of improving student learning outcomes. Faculty are also encouraged to work with the Center and reflect on and analyze various innovative teaching techniques.

We welcome participants to join us in exploration and discussion and invite you to share your stories with us.

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Directions to Fairfield University:

By car: Via I-95 from New York, Exit 22, turn left onto Round Hill Road; from New Haven/Boston, turn right onto North Benson Road. Follow to main entrance.

Via Merritt Parkway (Route 15), Exit 44, proceed south on Black Rock Turnpike (Route 58), two miles to Stillson Road (Route 135) and turn right. Bear left onto North Benson Road to the main entrance on your right, and follow signs to the Charles F. Dolan School of Business.

By plane: Bradley International Airport (Hartford) or New York City (limousine service available to/from LaGuardia, JFK, Newark, and Bradley airports).

By train: The University is five minutes from Fairfield’s Metro-North station, 10 minutes from Bridgeport’s Amtrak station, and one hour from New York City’s Grand Central Terminal.

Comments from previous participants:

“I look forward to this conference as one of the summer’s bright spots for sharing and learning. It is enjoyable to interact with others who are engaged in similar classroom/course/professional activities.”

“I really liked hearing from different disciplines. It was great to be on site for meetings, food, residence.”

“The conference is excellent. I am going to recommend it highly to our faculty. I would love to see more of them attend. I think they would enjoy it, learn a lot, get great ideas, and really enjoy conversations with other faculty.”

Conference Sponsored by:

Fairfield University’s Center for Academic Excellence
<http://www.fairfield.edu/cae>

Technology Redesign Projects Supported by:

The Davis Educational Foundation
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
The Charles E. Culpeper Foundation
The Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Inc.
FIPSE

For further information:

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Focusing on Learning Outcomes

Technology, Pedagogy & Course Redesign V



June 1 - 3, 2005



Fairfield
UNIVERSITY

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Fairfield, Connecticut

Conference Overview

Goals

The first core principle for effective teaching is to focus on the learning outcomes we want people to achieve. After researching and teaching a discipline for years, it is easy to fall into an obsession with covering all the material. However, as learners forget most of what they learn within five years, we do better to focus on the ways of thinking that we want people to practice.

Learning outcomes vary in type and in degree of complexity. In this, the fifth annual conference on “Technology, Pedagogy & Course Redesign,” we ask ourselves:

- How can we redesign courses to facilitate *recall* of concepts?
- How do we help others make *connections* between disparate issues?
- What practice do we provide at *applying* principles to new situations?

This year, a pre-conference workshop has been added on “ePortfolios.” Defined as “digital resources demonstrating growth, allowing for flexible expression (i.e. customized folders and site areas to meet particular job requirements), and accessible to interested parties (parents, potential employers, fellow learners, and instructors),” ePortfolios not only help learners but allow faculty to:

- Move from testing to more authentic assessment
- Prepare learners for life-long learning
- Create a centralized, learner-controlled assessment trail
- Share content with colleagues

(See <http://www.elearnspace.org/Articles/eportfolios.htm>)

Participants

This conference is for anyone in higher education interested in creative uses of technology to enhance learning. You may be:

- Considering using technology in a class
- Initiating a project and want to think about the next step
- Deeply involved in a project and wondering about its long-term sustainability
- An old hand with experiences, ideas, or methods to share

In recent years, the conference has attracted college educators from all over the country, as well as administrators, grants officers, foundation representatives, and members of the broader community involved in the academic use of technology.

All aspects of redesign and technology are open for discussion. And discussion is what to expect. Many give presentations describing their own efforts or struggles starting to use technology. All disciplines are welcome. Indeed, previous participants have said that the broad array of subjects enlivened the exchange of ideas.

Conference Presentation Formats

We would like to combine formal presentations and keynotes with more informal panel discussions and workshops. We hope you will bring your own ideas and concerns to the group. We encourage you to make either a formal 25-minute presentation of your work, volunteer to be a panelist, or suggest your own idea for a panel discussion. We will try to make space on the agenda for all topics of general interest.

Keynote Speakers

RANDY BASS, executive director, CNDLS (Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship), and assistant provost for teaching and learning initiatives, Georgetown University

GLORIA ROGERS, vice president for institutional research, planning and assessment, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology



Conference Schedule

Wednesday, June 1, 2005

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Optional pre-conference workshop: “ePortfolios”
4 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Registration, check-in
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Welcome reception
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Buffet dinner
7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.	Opening presentation

Thursday, June 2, 2005

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Continental breakfast
9 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Official welcome
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Keynote address I
10:30 a.m. – noon	Panel discussion I
noon – 1 p.m.	Lunch
1 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Concurrent sessions I
2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Concurrent sessions II
4 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Panel discussion II
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Reception
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Dinner

Friday, June 3, 2005

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Continental breakfast
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Keynote address II
10:30 a.m. – noon	Panel discussion III
noon – 1 p.m.	Lunch
1 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Concurrent sessions III
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Wrap-up session

Registration Information

The conference registration fee is \$190 per person and includes food (six meals), two nights lodging, and conference materials. Two or more participants from a single school each pay a reduced rate of \$150. Guests will be housed in Fairfield’s apartment-style complex, with individual bedrooms for each guest within a four-person apartment. All meals will be served on campus. The conference fee does not include travel expenses.*

* Housing is guaranteed for the first 50 participants.

Name

Title/Department

School

Address

E-mail

General conference application deadline: May 15, 2005. If you would like to make a presentation, please send a one-page abstract, by April 15, 2005 to: cae@mail.fairfield.edu.

Yes, I am interested in making a 25-minute presentation showcasing my use of technology and pedagogy.

Yes, I am interested in the Pre-Conference workshop on ePortfolios.

Yes, I am interested in participating as a panelist on:

- Assessing Your Teaching Before It’s Too Late
- Course Management Systems: Are We Getting a Big Enough Bang for Our Bucks?
- Electronic Portfolios: Are They for Students, Faculty, Institutions, or All?
- Fostering the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning on Campus
- Fitting Course Assignments to Student Learning Styles
- Quick and Easy Student Engagement Strategies

Other ideas for panels (or email cae@fairfield.edu):

Please complete this registration card and mail with a check made payable to: Fairfield University
(Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards.)

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