

Faculty Focus



Cristobal Cardemil-Krause,

Assistant Professor of Language and Cultures



Constance Case,

Assistant Professor of Costume Technology and Design

WCU faculty Cristobal Cardemil-Krause and Constance Case presented at the December 16, 2014 PADLA Conference at Sykes and we asked them to share their experience with us.

Cristobal stated that online teaching can be very rewarding but careful planning is a must. Thinking about organizing activities, fostering a sense of community, or converting a face-to-face class to online can be daunting. Online teaching is something so new, it is important to get the right resources and training.

Cristobal attended the presentation via Skype (with the help of WCU's Office of Distance Education), since he was in Amsterdam. Constance Case was the presenter/facilitator and was extremely engaging. Cristobal showed a brief presentation on how to plan class modules, promote discussion, avoid cheating (basically by embracing critical thinking over memorizing material), and creating interesting assessment materials, including virtual group presentations.

Constance discussed some of the challenges regarding online learning such as student retention, interaction and interest. She also stated that fortunately, these can be ameliorated through the creation of communities within your course. She also demonstrated the benefits of communities and how to successfully create them.

Both were extremely satisfied with the high-quality discussion and Q&A with the audience regarding best practices when creating an OL course and a sense of community within it. They were also gratified to see people committed to improving distance education by providing outstanding material that would benefit students at this institution and across the region.

New Recording Studio!

Starting in April, faculty will be able to reserve time in our office's audio/video recording booth. Located in Wayne Hall, the booth contains a high definition video camera, radio broadcast quality microphone, and computer with Camtasia, iMovie, Audacity, and other commonly-used recording software.



Introducing Swivl!

What is Swivl? Swivl is a robotic mobile accessory, app and cloud service made to help anyone use video to create and share knowledge content, get feedback on skills and collaborate remotely. You can simply deliver lessons the way you always have on whiteboards and slides and turn them into sharable, measurable learning content.

Lynn Monahan, DCN, MPH, RD, LDN; Assistant Professor in the College of Health and Sciences states, "After I started to teach two 100% online courses in the MPH-Nutrition graduate program, I became more interested in innovative ways to enhance online delivery, especially lecture. I had wished for a way to tape a 'live' lecture, without just standing behind a podium, like I had done using Mediasite. I posed this "wish" to Marc Drumm, designer for Distance Education at WCU. He suggested "Swivl". Swivl is a robotic platform for recording presentations or class lectures that connects with your smartphone or tablet. It has a 360-degree swivel that allows you to move about the classroom – it follows you! So, no extra time sitting in front of a computer, recording your lectures! Just set up Swivl and let it record your 'live' lecture, easily edit it in Camtasia and upload the finished video to D2L for your students to view. Swivl is easy (and fun) to use, easy to edit and provides students with a "live", dynamic lecture."



Monthly Workshops

DE Workshops are now on the Software Application Training (SAT) calendar that IT distributes monthly and will be held in WAYNE 303. Some topics will include:

March:

3/31: Designing D2L Modular Pages; 2-3pm

April:

4/1: Camtasia for Windows; 2-3pm

4/22: Life after PowerPoint Bullets; 11am-12pm

4/17: Camtasia for MAC; 11-12pm

Lunch N Learn Special!

The Office of Distance Education and the Teaching, Learning and Assessment Center (TLAC) are presenting our Lunch N Learn series again, with guest lectures and lunch provided. All sessions are held from 11:30am-1:00pm at WAYNE HALL Room 303. Sessions are for both face to face and online educators. To attend, please RSVP to Pat Brander X2948 or pbrander@wcupa.edu.

February 11: 30 Technology Tools in 30 minutes - Office of Distance Education

March 19: Online Course Management and Facilitation – Tips From a Panel of Online Faculty

April 10: Using D2L to Monitor Student Learning

Distance Education Scholarly Center (DESC)

Researchers at DESC continue to investigate and study distance education culture and effectiveness at WCU. A new study titled “*Understanding Faculty Attitudes about Distance Education: The Importance of Excitement and Fear*” was recently accepted by Online Learning Journal, the official journal of Online Learning Consortium.

Coming Soon!

*Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Center (TLAC) in collaboration with the Office of Distance Education will be sponsoring an **Online/Blended Teaching with Technology Excellence Showcase and Award**. Effective and Innovative uses of pedagogical approaches and technology tools to enhance online teaching, learning, and assessment environment are being sought after. A Call for Participation email will be sent out late March.*

Did you know?

- For-profit four year institutions recorded the first-ever drop of 8.7% while public four-year institutions increased 7.2% and private non-profit four year institutions increased by 12.7%
- Only 16.3% of academic leaders believe that MOOCs represent a sustainable method of offering online courses down from 28.3% in 2012.

Spring 2015 Distance Education Enrollment Data

- 104 Online courses (2151 students)
- 37 Blended courses (1358 students)
- 3 ITV courses (23 students)

Need Assistance?

Contact The Office of Distance Education:
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