Educational Technology Highlights: September 2015

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Center for Teaching (CFT):

- **Blackboard Support:** On August 16th, the CFT began providing centralized Blackboard support for the campus. Instructors can now obtain both technical and pedagogical assistance with Blackboard at the CFT through a variety of mechanisms. The CFT added three new staff members this summer as part of this new effort:
  - Stacey Johnson, Assistant Director for Educational Technology
  - Lee Scarborough, Instructional Technologist
  - Rebecca Panter, Instructional Technologist

- **EdTech Roadshow:** In collaboration with the Library and the Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning, the CFT shared information about its various educational technology resources at four school or college faculty meetings: Divinity, Nursing, Owen, and Peabody.

- **Timelines Working Group:** The CFT launched a new educational technology working group focusing on the use of online, collaborative, multimedia timelines in teaching. The launch meeting brought together 7 faculty, 2 librarians, and 1 graduate student.

- **BOLD Fellows:** The Blended and Online Learning Design (BOLD) Fellows program began its third year. In this program, faculty-graduate student teams design, implement, and assess online learning modules for use in Vanderbilt courses. Participants include 11 faculty and 11 graduate students from A&S, Engineering, and Medicine.
  - 2014-15 BOLD Fellow Mary Keithly, a doctoral student in chemistry, presented her BOLD project at the American Chemical Society national meeting in August. The project, titled “Blending it up: Active learning in a STEM classroom through the use of online materials,” was a collaboration with Biological Sciences faculty Kathy Friedman and Mark Woelfle.

- **EdTech Workshops:** The CFT hosted several edtech workshops during this time frame. Total participation: 45 faculty, 5 staff, 10 graduate students.
  - PowerPoint Clinic – 6 participants
  - Intro to Blackboard – 17 participants
Four Blackboard workshops at CSLS – 7 participants total
Several drop-in Blackboard support hours – 30 participants total

- **EdTech Consultations**: Consultation topics included course blogs, digital storytelling, classroom response systems, the creation of instructional videos, and a variety of Blackboard tools and features.
  - The CFT is still setting up mechanisms to track all EdTech consults, including Blackboard support consults.

- **Online Materials**: “Effective Educational Videos,” a teaching guide authored by CFT Assistant Director Cynthia Brame, was published on the CFT website. Additionally, 13 Blackboard walk-throughs (7 video, 6 PDF) were created and posted by the Blackboard support team.

**Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning (VIDL):**

- **Self-serve studio**:
  - Planning and preparation ongoing
  - Planned launch date: October

- **Ed-Tech Roadshow**: Presented at Peabody, Owen, Nursing, Divinity, & Blair; upcoming presentations at Arts & Sciences, Law School, & Engineering

- **Coursera MOOCs**:
  - **Music Business (upcoming)**:
    - Recorded interview with David Macias of Thirty Tigers for MusicBiz course
    - Recorded interview with Todd Ohlhauser of Mercy Lounge, and Anthony Aquilato, sound engineer/stage manager
    - Course preparation ongoing
  - **Personalized Medicine (upcoming)**:
    - All videos for Module 1 uploaded on Coursera platform for final review; assessments and resources pages for this module have also been built
    - Requesting permissions is ongoing with Library's help
  - **Programming with MATLAB**:
    - MATLAB - second offering completed, third will be starting October 5th.
  - **CIRTL-STEM**:
    - Part 1, second offering:
      - Ready to go live September 28
    - Part 2:
      - Upcoming
  - **Android Specialization sequence**:
    - Last sequence of courses nearing completion: Capstone course is ongoing
    - Next sequence starting October 5
  - **Other MOOCs news**: 
- Considering proposals for a Law School MOOC

- **Digital resources on campus:**
  - VIDL Graduate Fellows are building a list of resources on digital learning available at VU. This will reside on the Educational Technologies website.

- **Meetings with VU faculty:** Ongoing discussions with faculty on possible projects

- **Research with MOOC data:** Ongoing work examining forums and natural language processing; ongoing NSF grant proposal exploration

**The Curb Center:**

- **VandyApps:** 90+ students met in the Curb Workshop and Yamada room for overflow for VandyApps Boot Camp sessions on Android and iOS apps, and on arts and coding.

- **Vanderbilt Portal:** Opening debut. Immersive audio and video technology that illustrates how new technologies are fostering innovation in learning, teaching, and discovery.