

'My hovercraft is full of eels'

The challenge of reaching today's learner

If you want to relive one of Britcom's most zany madcap moments, look up Monty Python's *Dirty Hungarian Phrasebook* on YouTube. Remember? It's that not-too-naughty sketch where a tourist's hopelessly bad book of translations leads him to say very silly things to a hapless tobacconist. Exhibit A: *My hovercraft is full of eels*, asked in a vain attempt to buy cigarettes. Hilarity ensues as communication collapses.

That kind of communication breakdown could never happen in a college classroom. *Right?*

Right. But the creature ubiquitously known as "today's learner" is a moving target, and reaching him or her is complicated by fast-evolving technology and the generational behaviors that result from its adoption. It's a challenge not likely to be addressed by technology solutions alone.

Curious about how to adapt your teaching style

Reaching today's learner is complicated by fast-evolving technology and the generational behaviors that result from its adoption.

Communication Redux

In good teaching, communication is more than an exchange of information; it requires openness and vulnerability from both subjects—teacher and learner. Because of these added dimensions, the medium we use for our communication is secondary to the whole persona we bring to the moment of teaching and learning. Blackboards and PowerPoints, chalk and technology—none of these substitute for the desire to provoke insight and the basic skill of doing just that. For a change of pace, don't go to the Web for ideas about teaching. Have a conversation with a real human being.

—Dr. Becky Kasper, Center for Teaching Excellence

Yes, that's a blackboard—available now for recovering PowerPoint addicts everywhere.



to today's mobile, smart-phoning, texting-mad, generation of students? No worries, mate: you have friends with helpful teacher resources right here in LIS, along with expert staff ready to help you navigate the current communication labyrinth.

Start here:

Teaching Resources for Faculty

plattsburgh.edu/offices/centers/cte/teachingresources.php

Teaching Tips and Best Practices plattsburgh.edu/offices/centers/cte/teachingtips.php

FAQ on Teaching

plattsburgh.edu/offices/centers/cte/faq.php

Instructional Technology

plattsburgh.edu/technology/it/index.php

Teaching Online

plattsburgh.edu/academics/onlinelearning/resources.php

What? No more ANGEL quizzes?

This will be a year of transitions in almost all areas of **Instructional Technology**. The option to create new quizzes in ANGEL will be disabled in late October 2009, and IT will be offering an abundance of assessment workshops to aid those who need help in converting any remaining quizzes to assessments.

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IT Transitions (cont.)

As ANGEL 7.4 (coming in August 2010) won't deliver the quiz objects to students, it's critical that faculty who use ANGEL for testing shift from the quiz mechanism to the newer Assessment model.

Instructional Technology will also be replacing the faculty and research web servers with a new server. *FrontPage* will no longer be a supported web-development tool; it will be replaced by the freely downloadable *Visual Web Developer*. Details will be sent to faculty site owners once the new server is running. For a schedule of workshops addressing this software, please visit facweb.plattsburgh.edu/workshops/.

Enhanced web registration for workshops is now available. It's more dynamic, allowing you to select workshops in specific IT, CTE, and Library/Research subject areas. View the schedule online at: facweb.plattsburgh.edu/workshops/

Scan like the wind

Feinberg's new imaging center will super-save your time.

This October, Feinberg Library will introduce a new Knowledge Imaging Center (KIC), which will enable you to scan documents at high speed, without damage, and save them in a variety of electronic formats. You will also be able to e-mail them to the account of your choice. Designed for university libraries, the KIC kiosk is "a complete walk-up color digitization scanning system for excerpts from books and other materials, up to 24 x 17 inches."* For output, choose paper copies, images on CD, or image transferal via the Internet.

*www.imageaccess.com/dlsg/products_kic.htm

New! Manage your Feinberg account online

Your newly created My Library account now lets you conveniently view and renew checked-out library items and request Holds on items that are checked out. Follow these steps to access your My Library account:

1. Go to the **Feinberg Library** page (plattsburgh.edu/library) and select **Search Feinberg** under the **Find Books and More** heading.



Assigning class presentations? Be sure to remind your students about Feinberg's **Student Presentation Room**. Located in the Student Technology Resource Center (STRC), the room contains a group-meeting table, a networked computing station, and projection equipment—giving students the privacy needed for preparing and practicing their class presentations.

For tribal man space was the uncontrollable mystery. For technological man it is time that occupies the same role.

—Marshall McLuhan

I don't necessarily agree with everything I say.

—Marshall McLuhan

2. When the search page is displayed, select **My Account** in the tool bar below the banner on the left side of the page.
3. **Log-on** using your NetID and password. You will now see a record of your borrowing activities, along with important messages from Feinberg Library.

Alternatively, you can gain access through the **MyPlattsburgh** portal—simply log-on, click on the library tab, then click on My Account. Learn more at plattsburgh.edu/library/mylibrary.php

Required training for online teachers

If you're planning to teach your first online course next summer or fall, you'll have to train-up. Drill sergeants are standing by! Workshop calendar online at: plattsburgh.edu/academics/online-learning/angelworkshops.php