Online Teaching Excellence Recognized
Faculty Honored as Inaugural Finalists and Winners of Excellence in Online Teaching at UNT Dallas

University faculty members received recognition of their excellent online teaching at a ceremony on Monday April 4. The event started with a reception where guests had the opportunity to enjoy some light refreshments and socialize with the honorees. Achievements in the field of distance learning at UNTD were highlighted during a short but meaningful event. As well, videos that showcased the winning project, courses and instructors were included in the program.

The Excellence in Online Teaching Awards promote superior online teaching, provide models of excellence and innovation for fellow faculty, and encourage all faculty to continue to improve and advance their online teaching pedagogy and their use of instructional technology in support of the teaching and learning process at UNT Dallas.

These awards recognize different ways of engaging students in the online environment and helping them learn through the use of educational technology, from creating and delivering exceptional online lectures and demonstrations to the innovative use of technology to bring courses and subjects to life.

As mentioned by Arturo Cole, director of the office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology and who acted as MC for the evening, "Integrating technology into education requires a new approach to educational change that infuses new technologies with teaching and learning. We must understand the power of this technological transformation and apply it in redesigning our courses to meet the needs of today's learners for tomorrow's technological workforce and we need to embrace the different ways technology in education helps our students connect, learn and succeed."

Dr. Marco Shappeck and Dr. Katie Welch from the school of education were distinguished as winners of the Innovative Teaching with Technology Award for improving student learning or engagement through an approach that leverages technology in their Linguistic hybrid courses taught during the 2015 spring semester.

Click the following image and/or link to watch the brief video showcasing the winners of Innovative Teaching with Technology:

[Duration 5:57 min]
Dr. Marco Shappeck & Dr. Katie Welch
Winners – 2015 Innovative Teaching with Technology

Also receiving recognition during the ceremony was Dr. Amy McCortney as winner of the Outstanding Online Course Award for her Appraisal in Counseling online course taught during the summer of last year as part of the curriculum of the school of Human Services.

[Duration 3:42 min]
Dr. Amy McCortney
Winner – 2015 Outstanding Online Course

"The effort of instructors thinking about what works in the online environment and carefully crafting their course content that makes learning meaningful to students is really important" mentioned Mr. Cole.

A special plaque where the recipients of the awards will be engraved each year was also presented during the program. 'This will be our "Hall of Fame" and will provide an inspiration to faculty, and serves as proof of UNT Dallas appreciation for their efforts and contributions in the field of Online Learning'. This perpetual plaque will hang outside of the Academic Affairs suite in the 3rd. floor of the Founders Hall building for everyone to see.

The awards were presented by Dr. Lois Becker, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Excellence and Student Success.
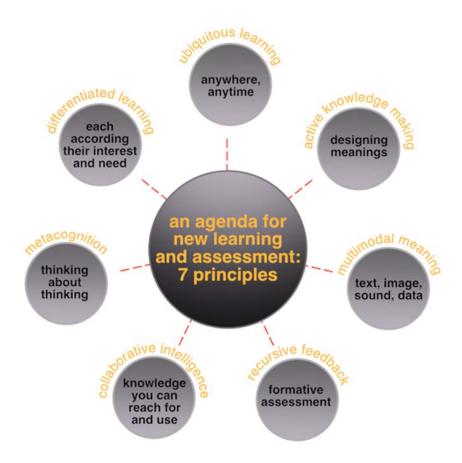
UNT DALLAS
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

Dr. Marco Shappeck

Innovative Teaching with Technology
Spring 2015 Linguistics Hybrid Courses
April 4, 2016

2015 Outstanding Online Course Award
Dr. Amy McCortney
Appraisal in Counseling (Summer 2015)

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How do you use technology in your eLearning courses?
Check the 7e-Affordances and the new ways of learning.

The 7 e-Affordances In eLearning
By Caterina Mastroianni
Source: eLearning Industry

An online course should provide a rich learning experience for all learners. Do you use technology to simulate traditional teaching and learning practice or do you do more with it? In fact, educational technologies should make it easier to incorporate activities that may not have been possible before. How do you do this? This is when thinking about the seven e-affordances can help you create that.

Explained by Dr. William Cope and Dr. Mary Kalantzis in their Coursera eLearning Ecology course, an e-affordance refers to whether the technology you use can enable new learning and assessment opportunities and experiences.

Here are the 7 e-affordances:

1. **Ubiquitous learning.**
   Ubiquitous learning makes it easier for learners to access content from any computer or mobile device, online or offline, anywhere and anytime. Historically, knowledge and information has been restricted by class and

privilege, but creating a networked learning environment opens up access to validated knowledge and a plethora of facts.
o Can your learners learn anywhere and anytime using their preferred device?
o Can they work offline (with some of the content at least)?
o Are there open resources they can go to, as well as the required resources of the course?
o Can they draw on a learning network of experts and resources?

2. **Active knowledge making.**
Making new connections between pieces of information in order to create new meanings is part of the learning process. Learners build upon existing knowledge and/or on what they already know, so it helps if there are a variety of activities that are both process and product orientated.
o Is the content learned step-by-step in a structured sequence or holistically?
o What can learners create, develop, or do with the content?
o Is it possible to make connections between key points?
o Do you provide a mix of challenging and easy tasks?

3. **Multimodal meaning.**
Text, media, sound, and data resources are easier to create more than ever. Multimodal resources add interest and break up the style of learning. If the content is presented in multiple ways it ensures that you not only can choose your preferred medium, but also have concepts reinforced along the way.
o Does the course offer multimodal resources?
o Do learners have an opportunity to create and submit assignments multi-modally?
o Are there opportunities for both print and visual learning?
o Do the resources comply with universal learning principles?

4. **Recursive feedback.**
Recursive feedback is an important way for learners to check their progress. Receiving timely and relevant feedback has always been part of any course but now most obviously received as part of an online activity. It helps you think about what you are doing, your successes and failures, and how you can improve.
o Does the learner receive feedback immediately or do they have to wait?
o Is there an opportunity for peer feedback or is it all teacher-centric?
o Is the feedback relevant and related to the task?
o Can the learner track their own progress in a meaningful way?

5. **Collaborative intelligence.**
Whether it's to participate in a forum or to collaborate on a resource together, online social activities provide support and teamwork opportunities. Working with others in a collaboration space also stimulates more food for thought.
o Does your course lend itself to a forum or an online project space? Or both?
o Do learners need to answer focus questions? Or is there an activity prompt?
o Is the collaboration activity an asynchronous or synchronous event? Can it be both?
o Is there a shared goal?

6. **Metacognition.**
Thinking about thinking is a valuable activity for online learners. It helps you reflect on what you have learned and where you are going. It helps you determine areas of weakness as well as strengths and it helps you think about what questions to ask.
o What kind of metacognition activities is available for your learners?
o Does the course lend itself to self-assessment surveys, quizzes, or learning journals?
o Is there a standard model that learners can check their work against?
o Is there an opportunity to discuss their thoughts with others?

7. **Differentiated learning.**
   Differentiated learning is also more possible now than ever before. It refers to personalizing learning experiences or tailoring a course to a learner's needs and interests. After all, not everyone learns in the same way.
   o Is your course learner-centered?
   o Is there a survey or assessment of individual learning needs?
   o Is there relevant advice and support along the way?
   o Can learners choose either a slow-paced or fast-paced option? Or one suited to their level?

It's worth thinking about what elements you need to design and run an effective online course, so that learners don't miss out on new ways of learning.

Using Images in an Online Course
[Brown Bag Lunch Series. Track 3. Stepping Up Your Online Course]
Presenters: Tara Koger, Educational Technologist, Instructional Development Specialist, Jessica Phillips, Sr. Instructional Designer & Universal Design and Accessibility Coordinator, Maria Scheid, Rights Management Specialist, Program Coordinator, Office of Distance Education and eLearning, Ohio State University

This will be a very informative webinar about using images in an online course. We will talk about how to strategically select images for use in our courses so they have the greatest impact, techniques we can use to ensure we have permission to use images and give proper attributions along with ways we can be sure the images we use meet accessibility standards.
Monday, April 11 (12:00 PM - 1:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127
Register **here**.

BITS #4 - Are You Bored with Discussion Boards?
Collaborative Strategies in Blended and Online Courses
[Blackboard Innovative Teaching Series]
Presenter: Anna Reese, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Worldwide
While collaboration is encouraged in blended and online courses, many instructional designers and online instructors find the discussion board to be too artificial and shallow to be successful and engaging. In this session you will see specific examples of successful collaborative activities that go beyond the traditional discussion board question.
Tuesday, April 12 (2:00 PM — 4:00 PM), DAL1, Rm 336
Register **here**.

Get to Know Canvas - The Smart and Easy LMS

[Getting to Know Canvas Series]

Join Instructure for a 50-minute webinar demonstrating the functionality of its Canvas learning management system. You'll see why some of the largest and most innovative colleges and universities have made the smart move to Canvas. You'll learn… how Canvas' SpeedGrader makes grading (with rubrics) up to 70% more efficient, how to engage students via integration with modern Web sites and devices, how cloud hosting makes life easier for everyone, and how Canvas' modern Web interface makes it easy for faculty and students.

Thursday, April 14 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Register **here**.

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Articles

The Theory Of Mind, Empathy, And Mindblindness In eLearning

By Christopher Pappas
Source: eLearning Industry

Being aware of differing perspectives and how our emotional states and beliefs shape us is an essential social skill. It also allows us to communicate more effectively and collaborate with others in our personal and professional lives. In this article, the author shares 5 tips on how the Theory of Mind, Empathy, and Minblindness can transform your eLearning experiences.

Read more…

10 Tips To Create Learning Simulations For Non-Game Designers

By Timothe
Source: ITYSTUDIO

Want to know how to create Learning Simulations without being a game designer? In this article, we are going to discuss how to make your very first Serious Game live, without having any technical background nor an entire web design team at your disposal.

Read more…

5 Things Star Wars Can Teach You About eLearning (No Spoilers)

By Nikos Andriotis
Source: Talent LMS

Us older folk have been waiting for 3 decades for the first decent new Star Wars movie to hit the big screens, and with the Force Awakens, we finally have it! (yeah, there have been the prequels too. Key word: decent). Millions have seen the movie already, and millions more will be seeing it during the rest of its screening weeks, therefore, we won't go into any spoilers. Instead, we'll give you a Yoda-approved list of things Star Wars can teach you about eLearning (and/or life in general).

Read more…

More

APR 18	**5 Ways to Personalize Your Next eLearning Course** (12:00 PM) Founders Hall, Rm 127	**APR 25**	**Gamify Your Next E-Learning Course** (12:00 PM) Founders Hall, Rm 127
APR 19	**Blackboard Open Lab** (2:00 PM - 4:00 PM) DAL1, Rm 336	**APR 26**	**DLAC Meeting** (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM) Founders Hall, Rm 127
APR 20	**Using GoToMeeting for Web Conferencing** (3:00 PM - 4:00 PM) *Online*	**APR 26**	**Finals Grading Cafe** (2:00 PM – 4:00 PM), DAL1, Rm 336
APR 21	**Migrating Your LMS Made Simple** (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM) Founders Hall, Rm 127	**APR 28**	**Making the Change to a New LMS—and Making it Easy** (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM) Founders Hall, Rm 127

Contact Us!

The **Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies** invites faculty and staff to join and participate in our development programs. These events provide an opportunity to network with faculty from other departments, learn new instructional strategies and tools, and become aware of best practices in online teaching and learning.
Hope to see you there, and don't forget to register for our workshops and sessions!
Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for future events:
Web: http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit
Phone: 972-338-5580
Email: UNTDDistance@unt.edu

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