National Read a Book Day – Sept 06

On September 6 we celebrate National Read A Book Day. So this Sunday, it is time to turn off the television and enjoy the relaxation of reading. Did you know that reading is very good for improving memory and concentration as well as reducing stress?   Reading books is among brain-stimulating activities shown to slow down cognitive decline in old age with people who participated in more mentally stimulating activities over their lifetimes having a slower rate of decline in memory and other mental capacities.

Let's step back in time for a minute:

- The very first books used parchment or vellum (calf skin) for the book pages.
- The book covers were made of wood and often covered with leather.
- The books were fitted with clasps or straps.
- Public libraries appeared in the Middle Ages.
- Books in public libraries were often chained to a bookshelf or a desk to prevent theft.

Moving forward:
Book manufacturing's recent development include the development of digital printing. Book pages are printed using toner rather than ink. The development of digital printing has also opened up the possibility of print-on-demand, where no books are printed until after an order is received from a customer.

E-books are rapidly increasing in popularity. E-book (electronic book) refers to a book-length publication in digital form. They are normally available through the internet however, can also be found on CD-ROM and other forms. E-books are read either by computer or via a portable book display device known as an e-book reader, such as a Reader, Nook or Kindle.

Reading can be educational, enjoyable and informative!

We, at DLIT, want to encourage you to join in and read an e-book this weekend. We want to share the following FREE E-BOOK:
77 Tips On Today's Hottest Topics From DevLearn Thought Leaders
In this eBook, the eLearning Guild explore tips provided to them by workshop presenters from DevLearn 2015 Conference & Expo. These experts explore critical topics and skills for today's learning and performance professionals, among them Connie Malamed on virtual design; David Ferguson on job aids; Koreen Pagano on learning metrics; and Lou Russell on project management.

Download your **free** copy today at: http://bit.ly/1PCjbsh
Sit back, relax, R E A D – A – BOOK and CELEBRATE WITH US!!

Take Action With "It's On Us" Campaign – The Videos!
UNT Dallas recently joined the #ItsOnUs campaign, an initiative to address sexual assault on college campuses. During the summer DLIT partnered up with Student Affairs to create our own It's On Us videos. **Dr. Constance Lacy** and **Dr. Marco Shappeck** took an active role in front of our cameras in these videos along with some of our other fellow Jaguars (staff, students and faculty) and encourage us to take the pledge and to stand up to sexual assault. In case you missed the premiere of the videos earlier this week, click the following images/links to watch them:

It's On Us – UNT Dallas
Feat. **Dr. Constance Lacy**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e92UugrVhWQ

Esta en Nosotros – UNT Dallas
Feat. **Dr. Marco Shappeck**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fa4xmrd7sY0

Excellence in Online Teaching Awards
Beginning this academic year the Distance Learning Advisory Committee will be selecting two faculty members to be honored, during the spring semester, with the annual **Excellence in Online Teaching Awards: Innovative Teaching with Technology and Outstanding Online Course**
The purpose of these awards is to recognize outstanding work by our faculty and to promote effective practices for online and distance learning in all disciplines.
All UNTD instructors of record that taught a course during the Fall 2014, Spring 2015 and/or Summer 2015 academic terms are eligible to be nominated and, if nominated, to submit an award application.
Visit the DLIT website for more information and links to the nomination forms:
http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/awards
(Links to access the forms will become active on Monday, September 8)
Get your colleague's model course noticed!

Let's Meet Up!
Meetups are colleagues getting together to "do something, learn something, share something, change something." This space is for any faculty (FT or adjunct) or staff member that wants to meet either in person or virtually to talk about and lead the eLearning transformation at UNT Dallas. We will held our first Meetup 1 gathering on
Sep 8 (3:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 127– Let's **do** something!
Click to **register** for this event!

» Making Schools a Game Worth Playing: Digital Games in the Classroom

Most of us have seen the excitement and extreme task commitment involved with playing a digital game. A vast majority of the globalized world plays video games as a pastime or hobby. If instructors could somehow harness the excitement and engagement of playing digital games in the classrooms, then students would truly experience heads-on, brains-on learning using the digital media that is an everyday, always-on part of their lives outside of schools. This interactive webinar will help instructors and curriculum specialists to:

* Find, critique, and evaluate digital games using search and evaluation strategies to determine if they are suitable for instruction.
* Integrate a wide range of digital games into the curriculum utilizing standards such as the Common Core.
* Explore the instructional strategies essential to making a digital game-based learning experience a success for students.
* Determine meaningful assessment processes such as product and process rubrics, as well as self and/or peer evaluation practices for digital game-based learning experiences.

Presenter: Ryan Schaaf, Assistant Prof. of Technology at Notre Dame of Maryland University
Sept 9 (3:00 PM - 4:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 127 (Seating capacity: 10 seats) or join virtually
Click to **register** for this event!

Blackboard Open Lab

Whether you're just starting work on your spring course or putting on those finishing touches in your fall courses, visit our Blackboard Open Labs for advice, assistance, or simply a collegial place to work. We will have worksheets, information and ideas on constructing assignments. Staff from the Office of DLIT will be available to discuss online/hybrid/traditional course design and help with Blackboard or other instructional technology. Please note, there is no formal program and there's no need to make an appointment. This is a drop-in-whenever-you-can event.

Sept 9, (2:30 PM – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336 (Seating capacity: 15 seats)
Click to **register** for this event!

Brown Bag Series

Join the DLIT team for our *NEW* Brown Bag Series. All UNT Dallas faculty and staff may attend and it's free of charge-just bring your lunch or stop by the cafe before the workshops and come learn with us. You won't want to miss these! Our series will start next week with the following session:

Evolving Learning for the New Digital Era

"Next gen" may be an apt phrase to describe the evolving learning environment in an increasingly digital era. Colleges and universities are no longer taking their first steps into the use of digital tools for either in-person or online instruction. Rather this is an era of refinement of strategies. Colleges that have for up to a decade used digital teaching tools have been doing so long enough that they can track success and failure and adjust accordingly. Colleges that experimented with MOOCs are applying lessons learned to in-person instruction. With hybrid formats increasingly popular, colleges are mixing and matching the best of in-person and online instruction. And for all of higher ed, having the right learning strategies is closely related to enrollment and financial goals. In this free webinar *Inside Higher Ed* editor Scott Jaschik and technology reporter Carl Straumsheim discuss these issues.

Sept 10 (12:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 127 (Seating capacity: 10 seats)
Click to **register** for this event!

eLearning Faculty Learning Communities
To bring faculty that are either currently or soon to be teaching distance learning courses together to learn, share, and exchange ideas, we have launched a new initiative beginning the Fall 2015 semester: the eLearning Faculty Learning Communities (eFLC). To facilitate this initiative, we will coordinate regular meetings (in person or virtually) and logistics, and will provide online tools so that faculty/members can share resources and best practices.

Hopefully, these communities will be comprised of an interdisciplinary group of faculty devoted to enhancing teaching, learning, and the university experience who engage in active, collaborative exploration around a common learning issue. Each eFLC will grow at its own pace and embrace a unique topic and we are continuing next week with the first meeting for the **Teaching with Technology eFLC.**

Explore a range of software and web-based tools to enhance teaching and learning. No matter if you are teaching a fully online, a hybrid, or on-ground sessions join Brian, our Digital Media Instructional Designer, to learn how you can incorporate educational technologies as a means to enliven the classroom and promote active learning experiences.

Sep 10 (2:00 – 3:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 127 (Seating capacity: 10 seats)
Click to **register** for this event!

We are very excited to provide such rich opportunities for community building, interdisciplinary collaboration, and explorations of online teaching and learning!

Articles

(Click the images to read the articles)

The Teaching Professor

The majority of faculty who have used a flipped learning approach rated the experience as positive for themselves (70.3%) and their students (64.8%). See what else Faculty Focus found in Flipped Classroom Trends: A Survey of College Faculty. http://ow.ly/RhQHU

Flipped Classroom Survey Highlights Benefits and Challenges
facultyfocus.com

5 Tips To Create Compelling Interactions

Learning becomes not only more fun, but also more effective when interactivity is involved. In this article, I'll share 5 great tips to create compelling interactions that will turn any eLearning course into an exciting and greatly effective eLearning experience.

http://elearningindustry.com/5-tips-to-crea...
Continue Reading
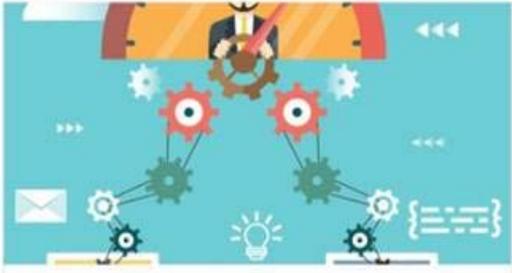
5 Tips To Create Compelling Interactions - eLearning Industry
elearningindustry.com

More

SEP 16	**Blackboard Basics Workshop (For Students)** 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM Dal 1, Rm 336	**SEP 24**	**DLAC—Advisory Committee Meeting** 10:00 AM—12:00 PM DAL2, Rm 127
SEP 17	**How do I know if my PDF is accessible?** 1:00 PM—2:30 PM Dal 2, Rm 127 or virtually	**SEP 29**	**Issues and Trends in Edtech in 2015** 12:00 PM—1:00 PM Dal 2, Rm 127
SEP 17	**eFLC: Hybrid/Online Teaching** 2:00 PM—3:00 PM Dal 2, Rm 127	**SEP 29**	**Characteristics of Effective Feedback** 4:00 PM—5:00 PM Dal 2, Rm 127 or virtually
SEP 23	**BITS #2 - Best Practices for Communicating With Your Students Through Blackboard** 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM Dal 1, Rm 336	**SEP 30**	**Mid-Term Grading Café** 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM Dal 1, Rm 336

"It's On Us" Video Premier – Jag Fest (09/02/15)
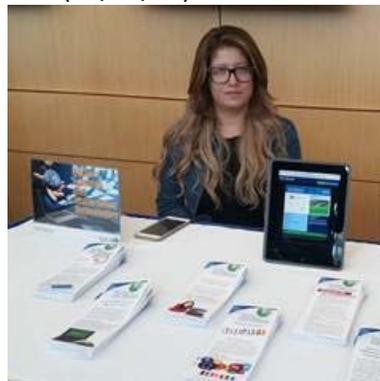
Distance Learning and Instructional Technology Information Table for Students and Staff (09/02/15)

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

Arturo Cole, M.S.
Director - Office of Distance Learning
and Instructional Technology

University of North Texas at Dallas
Office of Distance Learning
7400 University Hills Blvd, Ste. 123
Dallas, Texas 75241
972.338.1606 | untdallas.edu/dlit