Bulletin
The people, news and ideas that shape NC State University | March 12, 2009

iTeacher
Easy-to-use digital tools are changing the face of education
Ask any child between the ages of 5 and 18 what they like to do in their spare time. In the past, answers would probably include going to soccer practice or piano lessons. Today, most kids would say, “Playing video games” or “Watching videos on YouTube and looking at my friends’ profiles on Facebook.”

It’s just a different world we’re living in. Online media and social networking Web sites are more popular than ever with this younger generation. Most can’t even remember not being able to check e-mail or post pictures on their MySpace pages.
With all this interest in Web 2.0 – such as blogs, networking sites and Twitter – it is no surprise that many teachers are wondering, “How do I use this in the classroom?”

“There have been discussions about this for years now. A group of teachers and administrators sit around and talk about how to use these digital tools as a teaching device, but most get so frustrated with its limitations, such as lack of security and ample inappropriate content, that they end up tabling the discussion...over and over,” says Dr. Lodge McCammon, specialist of curriculum and contemporary media at NC State.

McCammon and his counterparts at the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation have worked hard to come up with a solution to this 21st century conundrum. They call it FIZZ.

FIZZ – which is being used in 35 K-12 schools over seven North Carolina counties – allows teachers to implement safe Web 2.0 environments in the classroom, giving them a private YouTube-like site for each school. Through the FIZZ Web site, teaching and learning outcomes can be easily broadcast over the Internet to increase student engagement and achievement, while still allowing school administrators to control the Web site’s content.

“Teachers can film students in the classroom reciting poetry or they can work on a music video teaching a physics concept, and put it on the school’s private FIZZ site where students can go look at it from home – and show their classmates and family,” McCammon says. “People love looking at themselves in pictures and on film. With FIZZ, students go home and watch these educational videos of themselves, their teachers and friends over and over, therefore reinforcing educational material in a way that engages them.”

Jamie Hall, a math and science teacher at Centennial Campus Middle School, has seen the impact on his students. “My students really enjoy using FIZZ and being able to make their own videos and work with classmates to make videos for our school’s FIZZ site,” says Hall. “Parents enjoy it too. It gives them a window into their child’s world – they get to see what their kids work on at school, and their kids are proud to show it to them.”

Helping students solve math problems or learn Civil War facts is obviously an important part of this program, explains McCammon. But there’s another lasting component – teaching students appropriate ways to use Web tools.

“Students are getting mixed messages about how to use sites like Facebook and YouTube. At their schools, these sites are banned, giving students the impression that the sites are inappropriate,” McCammon says. “But then they go home and their parents tell them they can use the sites, but maybe for only 30 minutes a day. No one is really giving them guidance on how to use these tools in an appropriate manner. They don’t fully realize that once they put content online, it is out there forever and they can’t take it back.”

And it’s not just a problem with the younger generation. With the host of new digital tools readily available for people to keep in touch with friends – and meet new ones – there has been increased scrutiny over what is, and is not, appropriate for online sharing. There have even been cases of teachers getting fired for writing inappropriate comments about their students on MySpace and office workers getting reprimanded after their employers have found inappropriate pictures of them online.

McCammon hopes using FIZZ will teach children how to use Web 2.0 tools in a productive and appropriate manner.

“Facebook and YouTube aren’t going away. If anything, more and more sites like these will be popping up,” says McCammon. “If we can work with students, at a young age, to teach them how to use these great, informational tools in an appropriate way, then we’re doing an even better job of preparing them for living and working in the 21st century.”
UltraLight Exhibit in Brooks Gallery
Brooks Gallery is featuring “UltraLight,” an exhibit of works by Dutch graphic designer Harmen Liemburg through March 20. The artist will present a lecture at 5 p.m. Friday, March 13, in Burns Auditorium. He is among the most mobile, productive and contemporary artist/designers in the world. Liemburg was recently awarded a major grant by the Netherlands Foundation of Visual Arts, Design and Architecture to produce this curated, designed and packaged exhibition of 500 pieces of his work, created over the past decade.

Renewal Energy Awards
The N.C. Solar Center, along with Triangle Clean Cities and Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition, announced the third annual North Carolina Mobile Clean Air Renewable Energy (CARE) awards, which will recognize individuals, fuel and technology providers, fleets, and policy innovations that are advancing alternative fuel and transportation technology activities in North Carolina. Nominations will be accepted until March 13. The awards will be presented as part of 2009 Drive Clean and Green: A North Carolina Tour. This event will begin in Raleigh on April 15 at the 6th annual NC State Energy Office conference and continue April 16 in Greensboro and Charlotte. The Mobile CARE awards are supported by the North Carolina Division of Air Quality, State Energy Office, and the Department of Transportation.

Hillsborough Street Renaissance
For the first time since its original construction in 1972, Hillsborough Street will be closed for an all day eco-friendly arts and music festival on Saturday, March 14. The festival has been created to showcase the construction changes occurring on the street over the next two years, and to revitalize Raleigh’s famed Hillsborough Street. Proceeds from the festival will go to support student and community non-profit organizations focused on renewable energy research, sustainable development, and community improvement projects. The event will feature a wide variety of activities, as well as live music and an art sale. Come check out the first annual, soon-to-be-historic Hillsborough Street Renaissance with live bands, an eco-fashion show, fraternity, sorority and business BBQ taste-testing competition, iron chef cook-off styled after March madness basketball brackets, and more.

Fifth Annual Pinwheel Film Festival
The submission deadline for the Pinwheel Film Festival is Monday, March 16. The festival, which celebrates local and independent short films, will be held Saturday, March 28, in Witherspoon Cinema. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to submit entries. Contact Devin Orgeron at devin_orgeron@ncsu.edu.

Conference Entirely Online
The UNC Teaching and Learning with Technology Collaborative (UNC TLTC) board and staff will be hosting this year’s Teaching and Learning with Technology Conference completely online, eliminating the need for travel. In addition, the TLTC board and staff have decided to suspend the registration fee. You can attend from your home, office, library – anywhere you have a broadband internet connection – for free. The conference will run March 16-20 with pre-conference technical support beginning March 13.

While there is no registration fee, presenters and participants are still required to register for the conference to keep track of attendance.

The full conference program is currently available at: http://conference.unc ttl.org/program/index.php.

Most sessions will be held in real time via the Web, using Elluminate and Second Life for presentations and discussion.

Living on the New Racial Frontier
Rupert Nacoste, Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor of Psychology, will lead a campus dialogue on diversity from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, in the Witherspoon Student Center. The interactive forum will focus on the constantly changing face of diversity that influences the new social uncertainty people are feeling in trying to interact with each other. Contact Rupert Nacoste at rupert_nacoste@ncsu.edu.

Wachovia Executive Lecture
Dr. Dennis Gilling, chairman and CEO of Quintiles Transnational, speaks at NC State as part of the Wachovia Executive Lecture series, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, in Nelson Auditorium. The lecture series is sponsored by the College of Management.

Diversity Program Planned
The Office for Equal Opportunity sponsors several programs throughout the year to help the campus community learn more about equal opportunity and diversity. Upcoming programs include “Diversity, Discrimination and Affirmative Action,” from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, March 18. To learn more about this and other events, and to register, visit the Web site.

Gartman at Millennium Seminar
Dennis Gartman, publisher of The Gartman Letter, a daily commentary on the global capital markets, will speak at the Millennium Seminar Series with a presentation to students, faculty, staff and the public at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 19, in Stewart Theatre. His remarks will focus on the global economic meltdown, its effect on global and foreign markets, and what investors can and should do during this difficult economic time.

Tax Filing Assistance
NC State accounting students will help you file your taxes as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. It all happens from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 21, in the basement computing lab in Nelson Hall (Nelson B411).

Cellist Alan Toda-Ambaras to Perform
Presented as the third installment in the Price Music Center Lecture Series, Music@NCState is proud to present special guest cellist Alan Toda-Ambaras, accompanied by Misako Toda, at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 22, in Stewart Theatre. Alan’s father, Dr. David Ambaras, is an associate professor in the history department. Alan Toda-Ambaras captured the attention of the musical world when, at the age of fourteen, he received the Prize for the Most Promising Contestant at the 2005 Rostropovich International Cello Competition in Paris. Born in Tokyo, Alan began his cello studies at the age of 4, and has been a student of North Carolina Symphony cellist Leonid Zilper since 2001. In 2008, Alan won first prize in the North Carolina Symphony Youth Concerto Competition (appearing with the RSO in April). Alan, now 18, is a member of the East Chapel Hill High School Class of 2009.

Phi Kappa Phi Induction
The Spring 2009 induction ceremony for Phi Kappa Phi will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, in Stewart Theatre, followed by a dessert reception in the ballroom. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend.

Music on Trial: A Conversation
Presented as the fourth installment of the Price Music Center Lecture Series,
Music@NCState is proud to present “Music on Trial: A Conversation” at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, in Stewart Theatre. Catherine Admay, a human rights specialist and legal scholar at Duke University; Ferhat Tunç, a Turkish visiting artist in residence at Duke; and Louise Meinêtes, an ethnomusicologist at Duke, will contrast the case of Ferhat Tunç, a human rights activist and musician who has faced detention, censorship and prosecution by the Turkish state, with that of Simon Bikindi, a Rwandan musician indicted for genocide before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The conversation will explore the multiple relations among the arts and human rights, with a live performance by Tunç.

Seminar on Biochemistry
Dr. Ferre-D’Amare will present a seminar titled, “Catalytic and gene-regulatory RNAs: Sophisticated biochemistry by a simple biopolymer,” at noon on Thursday, March 26, in Polk Hall, Room 128. Ferre-D’Amare is interested in the structural principles that underlie the stability and function of biological RNAs, particularly catalytic RNAs (ribozymes) and protein enzymes responsible for post-transcriptional RNA modifications. His experimental approach combines X-ray crystallography and biochemistry.

Creek Restoration Moves Forward
Work has begun on campus to restore more than 1,400 feet of an urban creek, including digging up 235 feet of a buried stream running behind the Carmichael Gymnasium. The creek, known as Rocky Branch, flows more than a mile through campus and feeds into Walnut Creek, a tributary of the Neuse River, which runs into Pamlico Sound. In the weeks ahead, engineers and other scientists will use earthmoving equipment to pull concrete culverts from the ground, a process called “daylighting.”

Perry Retirement Reception
Attend a reception to honor Dr. Katharine Perry, senior vice provost, on her retirement. The event will take place from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, March 30, in the Atrium of the College of Textiles on Centennial Campus. To contribute a letter to be included in a book that will be presented to Perry, write to Vicki_Walton@ncsu.edu. Letters must be received by Friday, March 27.

Language Documentary to Air
UNC-TV will premier “The Carolina Brogue,” a film documenting the “hoi tod” dialect of Ocracoke, on Thursday, April 2, at 10 p.m. It is the most recent documentary from the North Carolina Language and Life Project (NCLLP), which is led by Dr. Walt Wolfram, the William C. Friday Distinguished Professor of English at NC State. The NCLLP focuses on researching and documenting language throughout the American South, and providing resources on these dialects to educators and others interested in the language and culture of the region.

Register for Technology Institute
Registration is now open now through April 3 for the 11th annual Teaching and Learning with Technology Summer Institute for Faculty. The event will be held May 11-15 in the D.H. Hill Library. The program is designed for faculty interested in Web-enhanced or online instruction. The program includes 20 hours of workshops, plus lunchtime seminars and optional lab sessions, spread over one week. Benefits include learning new ways to teach using technology, developing camaraderie with like-minded colleagues, listening to experienced lunchtime speakers, and receiving software and equipment in support of Web-enhanced teaching endeavors.

Apply at http://delta.ncsu.edu/summer_institute/apply.

Einstein Lecture Speaker Announced
Michael S. Waterman will be giving the American Mathematical Society’s annual Einstein Lecture on campus on Saturday, April 4. Waterman is professor of biological sciences, mathematics and computer science at the University of Southern California. He is one of the fathers of computational biology, which “applies the techniques of computer science and applied mathematics to problems inspired by biology.”

Arboretum Hosts Gala
The JC Raulston Arboretum will hold its annual Gala in the Garden on Sunday, May 3, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The theme of this year’s event is “An Enchanted Garden Party.” In addition to a silent auction, guests will enjoy live music by the Southern String Band and gourmet hors d’oeuvres, including a special dessert reception.

 Gala tickets are $60. To purchase tickets, contact Anne Porter at 919-513-3826 or anne_porter@ncsu.edu.

For more information about the JC Raulston Arboretum visit http://www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum.
During his second-annual State of NC State address, held Tuesday at Stewart Theatre, Chancellor James L. Oblinger celebrated a year’s worth of accomplishments by members of the university community, while also calling upon them to continue NC State’s legacy of groundbreaking research, education and service in spite of the challenging economic uncertainties facing those on campus and beyond.

“When history reflects on NC State’s response to these tough budget times, let us make sure it doesn’t say we sat waiting for a red light to change,” Oblinger told the assembled crowd. “Let us be remembered as an institution, an organization, a team, a family, where ‘Red Means Go.’”

Throughout his 40-minute speech, Oblinger touched on a number of student, faculty and alumni achievements that took place over the last year – stories he said are indicative of the successes that can continue to be achieved on campus in spite a gloomy national economic outlook.

“NC State does things that make North Carolina and the world a better place,” he said. “Each thing we do – each job we create, each program we develop, each student we graduate, each community we help, each example of groundbreaking research, and certainly in this day, each dollar we spend, builds on the history, the accomplishment, the success and the importance of North Carolina State University.”

He also took a moment to remember long-time NC State women’s basketball coach Kay Yow, who passed away Jan. 24 after a long, heroic battle with breast cancer.

“Coach Yow touched so many lives on and off the basketball court,” Oblinger said. “You know that her presence will be felt at NC State for a long time to come.

“While we are sad at her passing, I think I speak for everyone who knew her – or knew of her – when I say the greatest loss is the succession of student athletes and community members who will not get to know Kay Yow.”
NC State is kicking off a series of spring events that highlight the university’s commitment to sustainability. Called “S.E.E. NC State,” the semester-long series will feature events that focus on key aspects of sustainability: society, economy and environment.

David Dean, outreach coordinator for the Office of Sustainability, said, “S.E.E. NC State accomplishes many goals of the university’s dedication to moving forward with more sustainable practices. To my knowledge, this is the first time so much campuswide support has been given to changing the culture of the campus.”

S.E.E. NC State will run throughout the spring semester with the theme “Spring into Sustainability.” Most of the activities being planned will be open to students and the community at large. They include an E-Waste recycling event on March 11, an environmental movie series at the campus cinema, an Energy Fair and Friends of the Library book sale on Earth Day on the Brickyard, a Lake Raleigh Clean Up on Centennial Campus, and a concert featuring local and regional bands on April 24 on Lee Field. The concert will run from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. and feature DJs between four bands.

S.E.E. activities got started earlier this semester with the annual Camp Out for tickets to the men's basketball home game against rival UNC-Chapel Hill. The Jan. 16 event acted as the kickoff to RecycleMania, a national competition among universities to recycle as much as possible over a 10-week period. Last year, in its first year of participation, NC State achieved a no. 17 ranking nationally in the Grand Champion category. As of Feb. 14, the total recycled material collected is 40,600 lbs.

S.E.E. NC State will wrap up the weekend before exams with three unique events running April 24-25: Nano Days, the E-Games presented by the Entrepreneurship Initiative and the annual Science Olympiad. More events and details are available on the S.E.E. Web site, http://www.ncsu.edu/see. More information on Earth Day 2009 can be found at http://www.ncsu.edu/earthday.

“One thing I’m most excited about is the fact we have meetings where representatives from across this vast campus come together for a common purpose,” Dean said. “Various colleges and university units are all in the same room together, sharing the responsibility that comes with becoming more sustainable. Coordinating these events under a common brand helps our community realize it is going to take participation of the entire population at NC State to reach the challenging goals we face moving forward.”

If you are interested in getting involved or would like to know more about what is going on, you are encouraged to contact the Sustainability Office: http://www.ncsu.edu/sustainability or 513-0177.