

Faculty Technology News

A Newsletter sponsored by the Academic Technology Advisory Board (ATAB)



OF SPECIAL INTEREST

NEED HELP ?

- [Faculty Guide to Technology](#)
- [Contact your TC.](#)
- [Contact your FTC.](#)
- Call the Help Center x2-HELP.
- Walk in for help at O'Neill 248.
- [Visit Hardware Repair](#) in the Service Building.
- [Contact E-Teaching Services.](#)
- [Contact the Faculty Micro-computer Resource Center.](#)

YOUR LECTURES PRESERVED!

Lecture Capture allows instructors to create audio/video recordings of classroom lectures or presentations. With lecture capture, instructors can record their presentations (both audio and video) including any material that gets projected onto the classroom's screen. To find out more click this [link](#).

BC SOFTWARE LIBRARY

Web browsers, Office Suites, Statistical Analytic Software are all available to BC Faculty for internet download at the [university software library](#). Check it!

Edited by Richard Jenson, jenson@bc.edu (Photos around Paris)

E-Teaching Day (Mark Your Calendar)

Save the Date: Wednesday, May 16th, 2012

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Eric Mazur, Balkanski Professor of Physics and Applied Physics at Harvard and Area Dean of Applied Physics

In addition to his work in optical physics, Dr. Mazur is interested in education, science policy, outreach, and the public perception of science. He believes that better science education for all -- not just science majors -- is vital for continued scientific progress. To this end, Dr. Mazur devotes part of his research group's effort to education research and finding verifiable ways to improve science education. In 1990 he began developing *Peer Instruction* a method for teaching large lecture classes interactively. Dr. Mazur's teaching method has developed a large following, both nationally and internationally, and has been adopted across many science disciplines.

Morning sessions (before Dr. Mazur's lunchtime keynote) will showcase innovative uses of technology in teaching by several of our faculty. The TWIN awards (Teaching with New Media) will be presented as part of the lunchtime event. After lunch IDeS will hold a collection of workshops addressing a variety of faculty interests. Don't miss it!

Blackboard Vista to be Replaced

Boston College's Learning Management System (LMS), Blackboard Vista, has served the community for a number of years, but its product life cycle is coming to an end. Additionally, Boston College faculty and students have increasingly expressed needs for LMS tools and features that extend beyond the scope of Blackboard Vista's capabilities. Thus, in the current academic year (2011-2012), Instructional Design and eTeaching Services (IDeS) and Information Technology Services (ITS) have begun a project to replace Blackboard Vista.

Next Mac OS: 10.8 Mountain Lion

Is due this summer. Click [here](#) to get a taste.



Electronic Textbooks are Here!

The Academic Technology Advisory Board and Instructional Design and eTeaching Services are sponsoring an iBooks Author summer pilot. They are looking for faculty who are willing to begin an ebook creation using iBooks Author. Applicants must be willing to begin this summer and dedicate time to training and creation. If you are interested, please send an email with a request to participate and brief description of your project to Cristina Joy (joyc@bc.edu) by April 11, 2012. Cristina will be in touch to schedule an initial consultation to determine if your project qualifies for the pilot.

Up to five projects will be funded. A summer stipend is available.

Tablet Pilot

The Office of the Executive Director of Academic Technology and the Academic Technology Advisory Board are sponsoring a tablet pilot for faculty members during the 2012 spring semester. Participating faculty have agreed to use a tablet in their teaching, as well as experiment with apps for instruction, share experiences on a blog, attend a monthly user-group clinics, and summarize findings in an informal report. More than 20 faculty have received tablets and are proceeding with their fascinating projects. Here are some examples: • Solving math problems on the classroom screen using the tablet as a portable whiteboard, • Instruction in using existing legal research applications on tablets, and • Using tablets as cameras with zoom-in capabilities to examine images.



Over spring break, Boston College hosted the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Conference of Information Technology Management and Library Deans.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Need help with Research Computing?

[Research Services](#) provides consultation, training, and tutorials to support computing and research at Boston College. The Research Services staff has expertise in statistics, statistical software such as Stata, SAS and SPSS, qualitative research, Matlab, Mathematica, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), scientific computation, visualization and analysis of data. The staff can also provide assistance with codes (writing, porting, debugging, tuning, optimizing, and parallelizing codes), databases, Web technologies, in integrating computer technologies and statistical support into grant applications, and with setting up and managing surveys through the Internet.

What Tech is in my Classroom?

ITS maintains an easy to navigate [summary](#) of what classrooms have which technologies.