

Intro by Jamie Oberdick:

“For the TLT Daily Buzz, this is editor Jamie Oberdick.

Last November, educators gathered for the annual Media Commons Tailgate. This event is a showcase of multimedia and its uses in teaching and learning at Penn State, attracting professions like media developers, librarians, instructional designers, and faculty. While at the event, I spoke with several faculty and staff members about how they incorporate multimedia in their classes. What results is a snapshot of innovative technology use at Penn State.”

Ellen Taricani:

“My name Ellen Taricani, and I teach communication arts and sciences at University Park. One of the uses was in a social media and cyberspace class, where we used the iPod to have the students go out and capture video clips of examples of the different communication theories we were talking about. So it worked very well in integrating ideas that they had with what they were seeing, trying to figure out what it really meant when they talked about a certain theory. Rather than just being able to talk about the theory, but to be able to integrate the theory into what they are doing in their life and also interview others and ask questions about it.”

Zohra Guisse:

“My name is Zohra Guisse'. I teach French and Arabic at Penn State Berks.

I have been using the Flip camera last year, and it was working wonderfully in the classroom because students could record themselves speaking the language. I teach French. They can do their report and then we could plug the flash drive with the saved video to the computer and could see them right away.

This year, with the iPod Touch, we've adopted and have been using it because not only can they record the dialogues, also they can edit their work with iMovie. Then upload it to YouTube within one class session. This is a really wonderful tool for my foreign language classes.”

Shivaani Selvaraj:

“My name is Shivaani Selvaraj, and I'm an instructional designer on the Penn State Harrisburg campus. It's not exactly a classroom but right now I am in charge of working collaboratively with two other faculty and my co-worker Carol McQuiggan on the Penn State Harrisburg campus to create a campus-wide digital storytelling project, and we're calling it Worldwide Narratives. The intent of it was to try some new, innovative, experimental approaches to starting conversations regarding diversity, race, gender, sexuality, etc. on the campus.

“What we're asking students to do is, we gave 20 iPod Touches to them. There was actually one faculty and one staff involved as well in this pilot. They had iPod Touches and they were instructed to tell their own story and to interview two other people around a critical instance that affected their daily lives on the Penn State campus. It was very open ended. They could tell a positive story or a negative story. People could tell amazing stories about what different factors affect their daily lives on the Penn State Harrisburg campus. After they recorded their stories, I created these VoiceThreads out of them, and so now the students are in a phase of recruiting their friends and colleagues to get them to listen to the stories and comment on them.

“So, in that way, we are using the media to figure out how to tell those untold stories and how can we amplify the facts and create empathy on the campus.”

Deborah Sillman:

“My name’s Deborah Sillman, and I am from the New Kensington campus. I have a double appointment as a biology faculty and I’m also the campus IDS. The way I am using digital media in my biology class particularly is in my Biology 129. I actually video dissection of specimens and I show them to my group at the beginning of the class session. That way everybody in the class, and I often have 40 kids in a section, everybody sees the same thing, they hear the same thing. They all get a good view, instead of having a group crowd around a specimen, so that has worked really well to improve anatomy and I am thinking about having another lab demo techniques.

“And then as an IDS I work with my faculty and encourage them constantly to use the facility, use the other alternative form for their assignments.”

Jamie Oberdick:

“To learn how you can incorporate digital media into your courses, go to <http://www.mediacommons.psu.edu>. That’s mediacommons.psu.edu. For the TLT Daily Buzz, this is editor Jamie Oberdick. Thanks for listening.”