Title of Session: Online Teaching and Learning
Moderator: Roger Goodson
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Room: Online Teaching and Learning Group

BJ: Did you have a specific topic today, Roger?

RogerMG: Sue. I have another discussion (second show) coming up right after this one. FROL = Faculty Resistance to Online Learning.

SueE: I noticed that, Roger. Have it on my calendar.

RogerMG: What do you teach at Texas A&M Sue?

SueE: I'm the program coordinator for our educational technology program, but also teach the first research course in our higher doctoral program and am director of our school librarian certification program.

RogerMG: Wow! Busy!!!!!

SueE: This semester I'm teaching a graduate online course Technologies for Instructional Delivery, which is probably why I'm here.

RogerMG: Do you have a primary focus in that course Sue?

SueE: This summer I'm teaching a Distance Ed Design and Implementation course, about teaching online, and may have access to Moodle, where each student can be set up as an instructor.

RogerMG: I've just started using Moodle. I like it.

RogerMG: Have been using WebCT.

SueE: This semester's course is basically the old CAI course -- but we are going from there into the distance ed (online and interactive video) and web 2.0. This is the first time I've included that last.

SueE: Have never used WebCT. We had been using Educator, but after last spring we switched to eCollege, and our students seem to like it.

BJ: Lynne Wolters leads a monthly discussion on Web 2.0 that is excellent

RogerMG: I should get into that one. I know little about Web. 2.0

SueE: I went to Lynne's session last week and really enjoyed and appreciated it -- and have many bookmarks as a result.

BJ: sessions are in the archives, Roger. www.tappedin.org/transcripts

RogerMG: What do you see as a couple of the major advantages of Web. 2.0?

SueE: Roger, that's one reason I put Web 2.0 into my course -- I didn't know anything about it, and figured this would be a way.

RogerMG: <---thinks teaching anything is a good way to learn it:-)

BJ agrees. Web 2.0 involves interaction and collaboration

RogerMG: IC

BJ: wikis are a good example of web 2.0

SueE: I like the participatory aspect -- and it's interesting to see what people consider Web 2.0   That will be a question that I will enjoy asking my class. In their pre-course survey, several indicated never having heard of it, and others are quite active.

RogerMG: How is it different from an LMS?

SueE: **BJ**, that's why I had hoped to be there last night, and I appreciate your attachment.

RogerMG: Thanks for that BJ.

RogerMG: Hummm . . .not getting a tremendous amount of people here. My focus was going to be on using SL (virtual reality) as an ed. tool.

SueE: Have you used Second Life with your students, Roger?

BJ: I'd be interested in hearing what you have to say about SL, Roger

BJ . o O (I have an account but can't remember my avatar name so can't log in)

SueE: I haven't been there, but another of our faculty will be having her students go there.

RogerMG: Not yet. I am still exploring possibilities . . .and I think their are many . . .along with a few liabilities.

BJ agrees with Roger

BJ: reminds me of the old Tapped In where you could create objects...

BJ: learning curve is a bit steep and focus is on the task, not on the objective

RogerMG: For one thing, a person needs a computer with lots of MGs so it doesn't crash repeatedly. It is also a 'hot' program . ..must have a good cooling (fan) system.

SueE: The challenge, then is how to make sure that the emphasis is on the learning of the course content/objectives, without taking too much time to learn/play with the technology?

RogerMG: Yes.

BJ nods

RogerMG: One really has to have a VERY good plan. Distractions are everywhere.

SueE: Many of our students live in the country, with old computers and dial-up connections, and that has been a limiting factor in what we can use.

SueE: Do you think it would be better to use SL in a lab setting, where everyone could focus and share, at least at first while learning?

RogerMG: One of our profs. (grad course) has a team of students in there. But the only o**BJ**ective is 'Buy land and develop it.' They have to figure the rest out on their own.

RogerMG: A lab session might work.

RogerMG: At least everyone would be in there at the same time.

RogerMG: Have you visited SL Sue?

SueE: -- and it would be easier to see what the challenges are and to address the.

SueE: I got as far at the main page -- never created an avatar -- figured I have my plate full learning about blogs and podcasts and wikis -- so SL may have to wait.

RogerMG: There are educators working in there . . .and librarians. Actually one of our research librarians is becoming quite the adept.

SueE: Of course, I'm hoping that some of my student would like to work with SL for their online workshop/presentation, and then we could all learn.

SueE: I heard the same thing about librarians, Roger, and one of my students is one. Another is the head of instructional technology in one of our school districts, and I have a feeling she might also be interested.

SueE: Roger, what do you teach?

RogerMG: I see SL as an early attempt at SL. But would predict that in a decade VR will become far more refined and omnipresent . . .sort of like, gambling online:-)

RogerMG: My background is primarily in Social Psychology and Ed. My application areas are in business studies . . .management, organizational behavior and development, HR, research, etc.

SueE: The question will be how it is accepted by educators and others as a valid component of educational programs, maybe?

RogerMG: Actually, with the tech. advancement of VR, we may not have much choice as the students will be there ahead of many of the teachers . . .like with gaming.

RogerMG: There is already a 'Teen SL' out there.

BJ: gaming seems to be taking a new direction now...

BJ: with more educational value

RogerMG: Agreed . . .and it started with students as the next 'revolution' of this sort will . . .I suspect.

SueE: So will they focus on the course objectives, or will they be playing around? In my f2f class, some students had been bringing computers to "take notes" but I did notice some e-mail checking going on during class, when they were supposed to be paying attention.

BJ nods

RogerMG: Turning student interests into motivation for study is not new:-)

ToniMG joined the room.

BJ chuckles. True

RogerMG: Hello Toni Welcome.

ToniMG: Hello

RogerMG: We are discussing SL, virtual reality as an educational tool.

JuanE joined the room.

RogerMG: Welcome Juan.

JuanE: hello I thought it started at 7pm

RogerMG: We've got Texas folks here:-)

SueE: Time zones get so confusing.

SueE: Who else is from Texas?

RogerMG: Juan.

BJ . o O (which is one reason that it's important to make sure your Tapped In calendar is set to your time zone)

RogerMG: Toni is from Maryland.

RogerMG: U. Md. is one of the leading online universities in the world.

SueE: That was the first thing I told my students to do when they go to the calendar page, **BJ**.

BJ: new members have their calendars set automatically when they fill out the membership form

RogerMG: What do you teach Toni?

BJ: Juan and Toni, do you have experience with Second Life?

ToniMG: I teach Business at the high school level

ToniMG: No

RogerMG: Has teaching business changed much . . .still shorthand, bookkeeping, keyboarding . . .:-)

ToniMG: No Business Law, Business Principles and Software Applications and Accounting (no shorthand)

ToniMG: What is Second Life

RogerMG: Second life is a virtual reality app. http://secondlife.com/

ToniMG: Is it more for the university level?

RogerMG: No. There is a 'teen SL.'

ToniMG: How would you use it?

RogerMG: A professor where I teach, has grad. business students going in, buying land, and developing it.

ToniMG: I'll check it out and see if there is a high school application.

RogerMG: It would be possible to set up businesses, deal with transactions, etc.

ToniMG: That would fit.........

RogerMG: However . . .when you first 'look' at it it can be daunting and confusing. Whatever is done there would have to be highly structured.

ToniMG: Thanks, I'll check it out.

RogerMG: Juan. You are a Pre-service teacher. What are your interests.

RogerMG: ?

JuanE: elementary education generalist

RogerMG: Do you use tech. in teaching?

JuanE: class assignment on teaching and technology

RogerMG: Try that again. Any particular apps. or tech. programs you like?

RogerMG: Juan?

GeorgeK joined the room.

RogerMG: Hi George. Welcome.

GeorgeK: Hi. I went home and got in from there.

RogerMG: Have a problem at the U.?

GeorgeK: Yes, I'll do from home from now on.

GeorgeK: Pretty well done with this one?

BJ nods to George

BJ: the next OTL discussion will be February 22

GeorgeK: Ok, I'll move over to Faculty Resistance. See you there.

GeorgeK left the room.

BJ: ready to move to the frol room, Roger?

RogerMG: OK . . .next time, same place, same station. . .I will be doing FROL in about 5 minutes if anyone here would like to attend that one. Need about five mins. and will be ready.

BJ nods

SueE: BJ, how do people signoff -- and get the signoff designation?

BJ: they go to the orange LOGOUT button in the top right of the screen

BJ . o O (if you're detached the logout button is on the screen behind the chat window)

SueE: Thanks. Found it.

SueE: See you...

SueE left the room (signed off).