

Evaluation of CIT Showcase 2009

The Center for Instructional Technology (CIT) ninth annual Instructional Technology Showcase was held Friday April 24, 2009. The CIT Showcase celebrates innovation in using technology in education at Duke with presentations and demonstrations by Duke faculty and staff. This year's event was held in newly-renovated spaces in Perkins Library and the Link (<http://link.duke.edu>), the new teaching facility combines flexible teaching spaces, technology services, and learning tools for the entire Duke campus. Over 226 faculty and staff from Duke and other institutions attended CIT Showcase 2009.

The 2009 Showcase featured 12 concurrent sessions during three morning time slots, 18 teaching demonstrations featuring over 20 presenters in the three afternoon time slots, and a keynote presentation. Morning sessions included topics such as innovative uses of video in teaching, explorations of 3D environments and virtual worlds, mobile device explorations, information sessions about academic tools and instructional technology initiatives at Duke, and the use of visualization tools such as multimedia mapping.

Interactive afternoon sessions featuring Duke faculty demonstrating their use of technology and innovative teaching strategies included:

- Teaching in flexible classrooms in the Link
- The use of library resources such as Library Guides, copyright assistance, and library instruction for students
- The use of CIT resources for using the new features of Blackboard 8, such as redesigning a course, making grading easier
- Using tools such as VoiceThread, GPS, Google Earth, digital storytelling, flip cameras, student-produced audio documentaries and video journals, DukeCapture/Duke Stream



Afternoon sessions for the 2009 Showcase were held in the Link in Perkins Library

The event was highlighted by a mid-day keynote speech entitled "*Fragmented Identities: A Domain of One's Own*" by James Groom, Instructional Technology Specialist and Adjunct Professor at the University of Mary Washington (UMW). His talk focused on how "UMW Blogs" has been implemented as a successful Web 2.0 educational publishing platform.



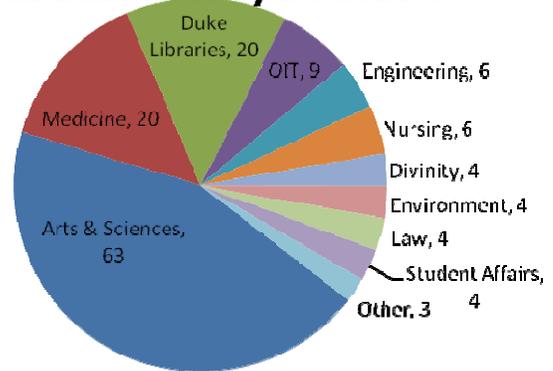
Jim Groom, University of Mary Washington

Throughout the day, CIT staff and librarians were also available to consult with faculty and answer questions about resources and support across campus.

Characteristics of Showcase Attendees

The majority of attendees were from Duke (86%), then faculty and staff from other higher education institutions (12%), and a small number of attendees representing K-12 schools and business. Faculty and staff from Arts & Sciences made up one quarter of all attendees, with 20 departments being represented by at least one person. Nearly all of Duke's schools were represented. 62 attendees (27%) were Duke faculty; overall 30% of all attendees were faculty.

Duke attendees by affiliation



Showcase Evaluation Results

As in previous years, Showcase 2009 offered concurrent sessions during three morning time slots. Some of the most popular and highly rated sessions included:

- Exploring MUVES: Teaching foreign language & culture in Second Life (Giuliana Perco, Romance Languages)
- Communicating nuance: pros & cons of using video technologies to respond to student writing (Julie Reynolds, Biology)
- Multimedia mapping for engagement and discovery (Victoria Szabo, ISIS)
- The feasibility of using 3-D virtual environments in distance education (Constance Johnson, Nursing)

Many attendees commented positively on the Library/Link location. Reasons for liking this location included:

- Enjoyed seeing how the Link classrooms are used by faculty
- Technology seemed to go more smoothly than in previous years
- The atmosphere of the Library was more intimate and warmer and more personal and made it a bit easier to network or find a nice place to hang out between sessions.
- The rooms worked well for the individual afternoon presentations.

When asked what motivated their attendance at the Showcase, attendees most commonly said that they chose to attend:

- To get ideas for using technology in teaching
- To check out the Link
- Keep up to date on what CIT is doing

- To network / make connections with colleagues
- Specifically to see the keynote speaker

New Media Technologies used at Showcase 2009

This year's Showcase expanded on previous years' use of new media technologies to not only promote the Showcase, but to interact with users and demonstrate new technologies. The Showcase website, created with WordPress, allowed CIT staff to include several Web 2.0 features such as a live feed of event photos and videos from Flickr and YouTube. Also, a Twitter comment stream using CIT's Twitter account (<http://www.twitter.com/dukecit>) was used to promote the Showcase as well as to help answer questions from attendees, provide session information and foster discussion. This Twitter-based discussion - often called the "backchannel" - provided an alternate way for the conference to connect with attendees. Below are examples of 5 uses of Twitter that occurred during the event.

- 1) Providing summaries / key resources cited in sessions, e.g. *"ISIS 200 Used Google Site for collaboration, had staging website, then final website for public use <http://isismapping.org/>"*
- 2) Posting key points or thoughts from sessions, e.g. *"Reaggregating content from a group space back into personal spaces is the future mobility of the web."*
- 3) Fostering discussion among attendees, e.g. Audience question during a session: *"Incentives for students to blog if there's no grade?"* Answer: *"Difficult, if you don't think anyone's reading"*
- 4) Extending the reach of the Showcase beyond those who could physically attend, e.g. *"Hey Duke! I'm from Penn State. You're lucky to have such a fine individual as the Reverend (Jim Groom) speaking to you today."*
- 4) Providing a feedback channel for attendees, e.g. *"Fabulous day! Thank you, Duke CIT!"; "Have a lot of stuff to take back to Student Affairs next week. Thanks to everyone who helped to put on this year's CIT Showcase."*

Sample comments from 2009 Showcase Attendees

I appreciated having CIT and library staff available to discuss ideas for implementing video in Blackboard.

I attend these events to learn how faculty are using technology in their classroom. I especially enjoy hearing of new tools and what is working and what isn't.

I wanted a broad sense of how creative people are using technology in their teaching. I certainly achieved this goal through the sessions I was able to attend.

I found the teacher demonstrations very valuable. They were short and to the point, and this gave you the chance to attend several of your area of interest.

This is the second showcase that I've attended and now I'm convinced that it should be a regular part of my professional development for the remainder of my career regardless of where I reside.