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TSSA 2012 Report

Name, Department, and Email address:
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Name and Date of conference attended:
International Communication Association (ICA) convention, Phoenix, AZ, May 23-28, 2012

Teaching Skill(s) Studied:

I was interested to find out how to use online technologies to improve learning, in particular what instructional "good practices" would lead to improved levels of classroom performance in online settings. Several presentations addressed this topic. For example, Kevin Bowers' research, "Student Perceptions of Constructivist Concepts in Classes Using Life," found that students learn more if the instructor improves the authenticity of the learning context, for example by tying up classroom problems in online setting to "real life" situations. Christen, Fall & Kelly's presentation "Social Presence Revelations: Determining how Students Perceive 'Real' Professors in the Online Classroom" indicated that online students perceive male and female instructors differently, and that better learning for courses taught by female instructors was associated with the instructor's stronger online presence (for example through high interaction and computer-mediated immediacy cues). Finally, I learned how to use Covertlive (http://www.coveritlive.com/solutions/liveblogging) to engage in live blogging for a live event, post live links in HTML and view all commentary.

Impact on Current Teaching (How was this info applied)?

I used what I learned at the ICA convention to design a new version of COMM 400 Communication Research Methods online which uses various ways to strengthen students' online presence such as a classroom blog, a live Flickr feed, and voice-over presentations.

Date Submitted: February 5, 2013