Teaching with Clickers

Tom Harmon, Professor of Engineering, commenced the Center's new seminar series, "Teaching and Technology," by discussing what's involved in setting up an audience response system (clickers) and how it can be used to build interactivity into presentations. He provided seminar participants with actual clickers for a hands-on experience. Professor Harmon has been using clickers for a few years now, and he has found them to help his students better engage in his classes. Video podcast of Professor Harmon's presentation is available on the Center's website.

Information Technology (IT) has chosen to go with TurningPoint clicker system (http://www.turningtechnologies.com/). They hope to make the system widely available throughout the campus. Here are some related articles about clickers:

- *Science* magazine discussing the effectiveness of clickers: http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/323/5910/122 (need VPN connection)
- *Inside Higher Ed* magazine exploring the pros and cons of clickers: http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/11/03/clicker
- *Vanderbilt Center for Teaching* has compiled a bibliography of articles on clickers: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cft/resources/teaching_resources/technology/crs_biblio.htm

Interested in Enhancing Student Learning? SATAL Can Help!

SATAL (Student Assessment of Teaching and Learning) is a program designed to provide feedback to professors interested in enhancing student learning. Beginning in Fall 2009, carefully selected and trained UC Merced students will respond to professors' invitations to gather data on classroom activities and give them confidential feedback. The program is open to all instructors and can serve as a resource 1) to provide faculty members with feedback that helps them gain a better sense of the student experience in their classes; 2) to foster closer relationships between faculty and students; 3) to allow students to reflect on teaching and learning; and 4) to improve the quality of education at UC Merced. There are different options for faculty to participate in the program. Instructors may require the student consultant to be a recorder/ observer, filmmaker, faux student, class interviewer, primed student, or another role, depending on the evaluative feedback on the classroom activities or particular learning issues instructors envision to obtain. SATAL at UC Merced values the voice of the students in their educational development while providing instructors with valuable insights to supplement student evaluations and peer reviews. For more information or to sign up for the program, contact Adriana Signorini in COB 214, or asignorini@ucmerced.edu.

Upcoming CRTE Faculty Workshops

Non-Techies can Benefit from Technology Incorporation: A Hybrid Classroom (March 17, 10:30am, COB 267)

Creating Electronic Portfolios for Learning and Teaching (March 31, 10:30, COB 267)

If you've missed any of the workshops held previously or will be unable to attend future workshops, Center staff will be happy to provide the information through individual consultations.

Teaching and Technology Series

The goal of the Teaching and Technology Series is not only to introduce new tools and pedagogies related to technology but also to foster discussions about the intersection between teaching and technology. This series is open to both faculty and graduate students. To the right is the schedule of the remaining presentations (see website for more details). We hope you can join us! If you have any questions, please contact Mike Truong (mtruong@ucmerced.edu). Podcasts of the workshops are at http://crte.ucmerced.edu/node/57.