

Geddes@BU Winter Newsletter 2015-16



Alison Carberry conducts a workshop on the Basics of Communicative Teaching and Student-centered Learning during Faculty Development Week

***** Announcing: Geddes Mini-Grant Recipients for 2015-16!! ***
See page 2 for more.**

Welcome!! Fall 2015 has seen some unseasonably warm temperatures, giving us all a boost. Although winter has not officially begun, we have numerous updates to share in this edition of the Geddes newsletter.

A variety of innovations have been piloted and integrated this fall involving language teaching with technology. These range from the uses of social media, to creating instructional videos and Blackboard assessments, to trying out virtual classroom set-ups, and more. In this edition, you will read about these projects and also find out what's in store for the coming semester.

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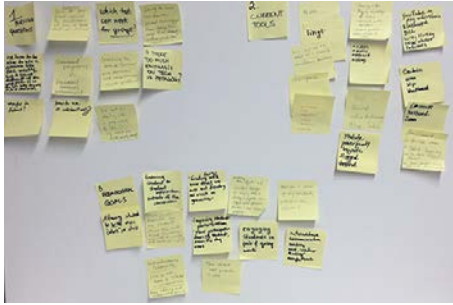
Student Employee Profiles

Many different faculty, students, and staff use the resources of the Geddes Center each semester. But few people know how integral and helpful our staff of student workers truly is – they are every bit a part of our daily operation. Student staff supervisor Joshua Colón, who manages the services of the Center, has put much effort into building a strong and reliable, and very talented team this year.



Two of our senior student employees El Nevers (above center, with Alex Fedurina) and Robert Lauto (above right), will be graduating in January. El plans to attend graduate school in the fall, and Robert will pursue a career in biology quality control and assurance. We are especially proud and happy for our graduating students as they explore their work life beyond Boston University.

Recap of Fall Faculty Development Week



We had over 60 faculty and graduate student registrations for the 10 events comprising our Fall Faculty Development Week (Sept. 28 – Oct. 2). A great time was had by all! Highlights included a workshop led by Alison Carberry on the Basics of Communicative Teaching and Student-centered Learning, a review of technology-assisted placement testing options by Mary Beth Raycraft, and “the experience of teaching online” (CARLA One Year Later) by Etsuko Okita Snyder, Zoli

Mali, and Esra Ozedemir. If you missed out, recordings and/or slideshare presentations can be viewed on the Geddes Resources page at: <http://www.bu.edu/geddes/?p=3986>

Mini-Grant Recipients for Course Redesign Projects

Congratulations to faculty and graduate students who received Geddes Mini-Grants for technology projects involving course redesign! The recipients for 2015-16 are:

- Carolina Blázquez Gandara, Paloma Pueyo, Laurie Garriga, and Sue Griffin: “Creating Effective, Engaging Videos for Flipped Instruction in LS111”
- Laurie Garriga and Christopher Maurer: “Dalí, Lorca, Buñuel in Dialogue: Painting the Word, Hearing the Image”
- Mira Angrist: “Flipping the Basic of Hebrew Reading and Writing”
- Emi Yamanaka and Hiromi Miyagi-Lusthaus: “Tailored Pronunciation Practice for Students of Japanese”
- Giselle Khoury: “A Wiki for the Middle East”

The Geddes Center staff look forward to working with these individuals during the remainder of this academic year and beyond.

*** SAVE THE DATE***

As these five course redesign projects take shape, awardees will be part of a **Spring Faculty Showcase** to be held on **Wednesday, April 13, 2016 from 12:00 – 3:00 PM** in the Geddes Language Center.

This event is open to all members of the BU community—we hope you can attend!



Wikis, Blogs and Journals – oh MY!



Filling a need for text-centric and rich media websites that permit students and faculty to increase their level of online discussion and collaboration outside of class, **Wikispaces** has undergone a successful Fall 2015 pilot involving two classes and one administrative department. These are LS308 (taught by Marta Villar), LJ250 (taught by Keith Vincent), and the MLCL Wiki. Two more classes are in development for Spring 2016 delivery, with hopes to expand in AY 2016-17.



Blogs are the most dynamic and versatile resources for engaging students in asynchronous online discussion. In French, Arabic, Chinese, and other languages, we have heard about the use of blogs mainly in two platforms: **Blogger** and **Wordpress**. The former is part of the Google suite of applications, and the latter is how we publish departmental web content. Meanwhile, **Blackboard's** own blog has limited functionality but has the advantage of being built into the course management system—a plus especially for assessment using the Blackboard Grade Center.



Blackboard Journals can give you an ongoing and actionable feed of information from your students about their learning as it develops. Here too, you can provide personalized feedback to complete the communications loop and offer just-in-time coaching and/or a personalized assessment of student learning.

If you are interested in learning more about blogs, contact geddes@bu.edu or any of the staff in the Geddes Center for a quick overview of these tools.

Update on Hybrid-Online Instructional Development

Turkish Lecturer Esra Ozdemir and African Languages Lecturer Zoli Mali are the first CAS faculty to have developed and taught hybrid-online course in the Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTLs). Sponsored by a DLI Seed Grant, their development work involved student course builders and Geddes staff along with each of the faculty members. Blackboard, Camtasia, and Adobe Connect are the primary technologies used for the courses. During Faculty Development Week in Geddes this past fall semester, these pilot

faculty teamed up with Etsuko Okita Snyder to offer a panel discussion on the opportunities for distance teaching and learning, as well as the challenges they faced.

Going forward, we hope to continue to make this development work possible not only for continued offerings in African Languages and Turkish, but also to add additional languages based on the template developed. Creative approaches to further funding of development in this area are being proposed, relying on a variety of sources and models.

Collaborative Partnerships

As the Geddes Center has expanded its offerings to include funded projects and more digital learning development and support, there have been numerous opportunities to connect and collaborate with existing support entities at BU. So far, our most frequent and diverse partnering involves:



- The Digital Learning Initiative (DLI)
- The Education Technologies & Training Office (ETTO) in IS&T
- The Educational Resource Center (ERC), and in particular Mary Beth Raycraft as Director of Language Advising
- CAS IT, to offer support on new instructional technologies such as Adobe Connect and Wikispaces
- The Center for Teaching Excellence (CEIT)
- The Office of Distance Learning (ODE)
- Krasker Film/Video Service in Mugar Library
- The BU Summer Term Office

Much of our work in Geddes involved more than one collaborative partner at once. An example is working together to develop and offer our next online language course during the summer with Donna Shea, Dean of Summer Term and the Eric Freedman, Director of Distance Education.

Antidote Software for French Writing

Antidote 8 is a comprehensive French spelling and grammar correction tool that students can use to analyze their written work. Our Antidote license has been increased to cover the entire PC side of the lab, currently 18 stations running Antidote 8 on Windows 8. Liliane Dusévoir has spearheaded the effort to bring this software to the lab over the last few years; she welcomes inquiries directly for anyone interested in learning more about it.



****** Find us online at www.bu.edu/geddes ******