

NEWS

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Faculty Partners Recognized for Teaching Excellence

New York, June 17, 2003. The Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning (CCNMTL) is proud to have partnered with Nicholas Turro, Lawrence Engel, and Amy Fairchild, three of the five recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching at the 2003 Columbia University Commencement Ceremony. All three were recognized for successfully incorporating new media technologies in their teaching.

Nicholas Turro, the William P. Schweitzer Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry, has been a long-time partner of CCNMTL. During the award presentation, Columbia University President Lee Bollinger described Turro as “an influential curricular innovator and tireless promoter of the use of new digital technologies to enhance instruction and learning.” In a discussion shortly after receiving his award, Professor Turro credited CCNMTL with “helping me ask questions of students throughout my course to gain feedback.” He further stated that he would like to contribute to a scholarly view of this method as a means “to entice other faculty to embrace new media technologies in their teaching practice.”

Larry Engel, Adjunct Professor in the School of the Arts, and CCNMTL recently completed the creation of a multimedia tool called the *Deconstructor*, which enables students to do a shot-by-shot analysis of film scenes by identifying dozens of elements related to cinematic structure. Professor Engel worked with CCNMTL to conceptualize and develop the *Deconstructor* as an integrated component of his course. “The Web tool gave me what I needed,” he stated, “to improve what my students could learn about the specific structure of film -- it’s sequence of shots that essentially convey the meaning, the mood, the actual narrative of the medium.”

Amy Fairchild, Assistant Professor of Sociomedical Sciences, has incorporated many new media technologies into her teaching of history, health, and ethics in urban environments. President Bollinger credited Fairchild by stating, “She combines the best of what teachers have always done in and out of the classroom with the imaginative use of the most advanced computer-based instructional strategies.” She has frequently consulted CCNMTL in the use of the CU Analyzer and the SlideShow Maker in her lectures, tools created and supported by CCNMTL.

CCNMTL is honored to have such exemplary partners willing to explore the use of technology and new media in the classroom. To view the awards presentation visit the URL, http://ccnmtl.columbia.edu/projects/broadcast/ramfiles/2003/teaching_awards.ram

About CCNMTL

CCNMTL (Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning) is a service of Columbia University whose goal is to enhance teaching and learning through the purposeful use of new media. We form partnerships with faculty, providing them with as much support as they need in everything from the construction of course Web sites to the development of more advanced projects. CCNMTL is committed to remaining a leader in its field, engaging with its faculty partners in the reinvention of education for the digital age.

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New Media in Education Conference at Columbia

On September 26th in Low Memorial Library, the Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning (CCNMTL) and its faculty partners presented a series of innovative teaching approaches employing new media tools to an enthusiastic audience. Over two hundred people attended this year's conference, representing a cross-disciplinary array of faculty, technical specialists, and librarians both inside and outside the University.

The conference highlighted faculty panels constructed around approaches to teaching with new media, including "Third Spaces for Learning," "Using Multimedia Case Studies to Promote Focused Learning," and "Simulations as an Educational Tactic." These approaches have been applied across disciplines and have initiated new conversations between faculty regarding strategies for applying the distinctive properties of electronic spaces and instruments to particular challenges in teaching. Kiosks throughout the Rotunda gave attendees the opportunity to spend time with CCNMTL's Educational Technologists and experiment with a variety of new media projects. The workshops focused on scientific computing and visualization, the Courseworks course management system, and the use of digital video in the classroom.

Opening with remarks from Provost Alan Brinkley and University Librarian James Neal, this full-day conference incorporated faculty presentations, project kiosks, and hands-on workshops. Dr. Neal placed the conference in the context of several pressing issues facing academic policy makers nationwide. "This transformation in higher education and response to perceived expansive markets for networked learning," he stated, "challenges the academy to rethink its nature and role. The electronic campus demands rampant digital content creation, new strategies for information storage and management, more sophisticated search and query techniques, dependable and secure distribution and access systems, and new approaches in rights management."

The goal of this conference was to share various strategies for incorporating new media technologies into teaching practices throughout the University. In the two years since CCNMTL's last conference there have been an increase in the number of its faculty partnerships and further advances in the application of new media.

For streaming video of the conference presentations, see <http://ccnmtl.columbia.edu/conference2003/>

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