Technically Speaking 4-17-14

Faculty friends,

**Room 321 Podium Computer System**

Since the only “smart" podium in the building is one in room 321, there seems to be some continuing frustration related to its use. For this computer/projector/screen, please only use the touchpad on the podium both to turn it on and off (I recommend using the Start Rooms Separately option).

Turning on/off the projector with a remote or lowering/raising the screen using the wall switch usually results in confusing the system causing audio to become lost.

I have locked the 321 projector remote in the podium and labelled the 320 remote to not be used in 321.

Soon I will produce a tutorial video and may model the use during an upcoming faculty/staculty meeting.

**Software Available**

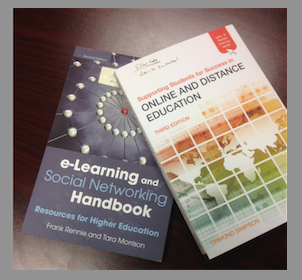
If you were unaware, Baylor lists available software for faculty, staff, and students in the software directory <http://www.baylor.edu/its/index.php?id=44648>.

There is also an easy installer site <https://www7.baylor.edu/appcenter/bin/core.asp?path=appcenter&cat=home>.

**Instructional Design**

Please remember that I am available to work with you individually or in small groups to assist in helping refresh or redesign instructional content for not only virtual classes but also traditional or hybrid classes.

I also have few books such as Supporting Students for Success in Online Distance Education (<http://www.amazon.com/Supporting-Students-Success-Distance-Education/dp/0415509106/ref=tmm_pap_title_0?ie=UTF8&qid=1397770003&sr=8-1>) and e-Learning and Social Networking Handbook: Resources for Higher Education (<http://www.amazon.com/Learning-Social-Networking-Handbook-Resources/dp/0415503752/ref=tmm_pap_title_0?ie=UTF8&qid=1397770099&sr=1-1>) for checkout.



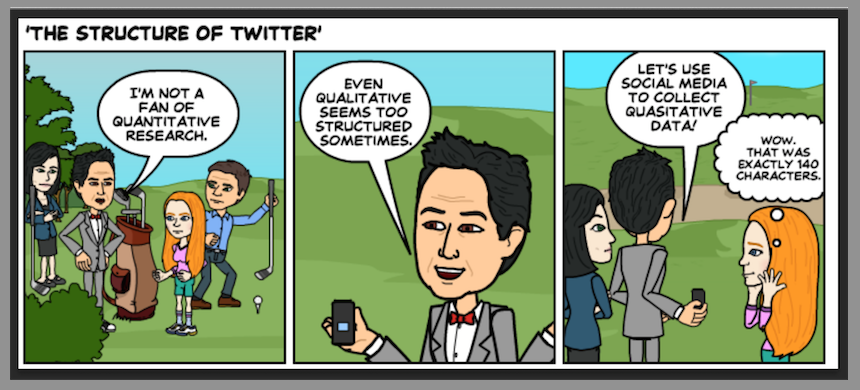
**Avatars**

After including a cartoon in this newsletter last week, Becky emailed me that she wished she had a job that included making cartoons.

I responded that she could use them to introduce modules on BlackBoard and quickly sent her a single cartoon panel of herself and posted some content from her syllabus in the word balloon.

I use [http://bitstrips.com](http://bitstrips.com/) (no drawing skills needed). There are quite a few ideas floating around about how to use avatars in the classroom (and virtual classroom) including this one: <http://www.guide2digitallearning.com/teaching_learning/10_ways_use_avatars_education>.

Angela Pool-Funai and I have been talking about a way to demonstrate Second Life ([http://secondlife.com](http://secondlife.com/)) as an instructional tool.



Until next week,

Jim Heston

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