

Taming Technology for Innovative Learning

June 19-21, 2017

Session Descriptions and Speaker Credentials

* PDs available

Pre-Conference (3 hour sessions)

***M1: Personal Development: Gaining Confidence**

This session will provide beginners to the technology world with the basics that they need to get started using technology. During this three-hour session, training will be based on the skill levels and interests of the participants. The registrants will be contacted to provide this information, which will be used to determine the topics to be covered. Possibilities are: introduction to the machine, basics of email, surfing the internet, a basic understanding of word processing, Facebook, attachments, and which gadgets to buy.

Presenters: Jean Tulin and Mary Jane Sterling

Jean Tulin is a retired secondary mathematics and computer science teacher. She serves as the Lambda State webmaster. She is a SMART Certified Trainer since 2004, working for Bradfield's Computer Supply as a SMART Trainer for schools and businesses since she retired in 2011. She loves figuring out how technology can help with life's tasks!

Mary Jane Sterling retired from teaching after over forty years. She is a regular participant in the Taming Technology seminars.

***M2: Project Discovery: a Student Symposium**

Project Discovery is a PBL centered around student generated websites. Using Project Discovery, students get to pursue a project of their own interest, learn about web design, blogging to an authentic audience, and learn through the experience of presenting their website to the public. Several student examples will be shown, including testimony, and video. The project includes the blending of Google Classroom, Google Docs, Weebly Webdesigner, PowToons, Animoto, and gets students involved in community services, personal interests, and personal wellness goals. If you're looking for a project that helps students take the lead and learn through experience, this is a workshop for you. Participants will get started with your own website, set up their Google docs and classroom, and create a hot list of student examples.

Presenter: Ben VandenBerg

Ben VandenBerg is a language arts teacher of 14 years, small business owner, and a rental property investor. He uses technology teaching tools both in the classroom and in his business. Getting students to learn through their experiences is important to him.

Instructional Classroom Usage (90 minute sessions)

***T1: Google Drive for Teachers**

(Beginner)

This session is designed for those teachers new to using Google Drive. A background in Microsoft Office products will be useful, but not necessary. Participants will be introduced to Google Drive, along with Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Forms. These Google products allow users to access their files through virtually any device. Attendees will learn the basics of using Google Drive to manage their electronic files, as well as the basics to Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Attendees will leave with the knowledge and ability to start using Google Drive in their professional lives. Participants should plan to bring a device(s) of their choice, and must have an active Google account and email address.

Presenter: DJ Rudd

DJ Rudd is an elementary school teacher in Morton, IL. DJ loves all things technology, reading, woodworking, and coffee.

***T2: Tapping into Excel Formulas**

(Advanced)

Every mathematics teacher has been in the situation where they have struggled to find problems that “work nicely”. You want the triangle to have an integral area. The coordinates of the intersection of curves should be integers. The number of quarts in a solution isn’t a repeating decimal. But, once you find a nice problem, you can’t use it on every test – the tests get passed around! A quick and easy and very handy resource is an Excel spreadsheet (or its counterpart). Excel is extremely versatile when handling these problem-writing situations. Learn how to put a formula into Excel that will create new problems – for as long as you’ll be teaching!

Presenter: Mary Jane Sterling

Mary Jane Sterling retired from teaching after over forty years. She is a regular participant in the Taming Technology seminars. She started using formulas to create “pretty” problems for her algebra and calculus classes.

***T5: Vocabulary.com for the Classroom**

(Beginner)

Vocabulary.com is a gamified practice to expand student vocabulary. It’s a powerful, highly engaging, practice that encourages students to practice vocabulary in a variety of ways. Not only for LA teachers, vocabulary.com is a complete school resource that can be used in all classrooms. Organized like a Google Classroom, the teacher can make his/her own lists, make lists from reading passages, and create classroom assignments shipped to students. It works across multiple platforms and makes for very easy, accurate, assessment.

Presenter: Ben Vandenberg

Ben Vandenberg is a Language Arts teacher of 14 years, small business owner, and a rental property investor. He uses technology teaching tools both in the classroom and in his business. Getting students to learn through their experiences is important to him.

***T6: Collaborate and Communicate with Google Apps**

(Advanced)

Collaboration, Cooperation, and Communication. Google Apps provide us with a variety of opportunities to share and build our ideas with students and colleagues. Spreadsheets, forms, documents, and presentations, can all be created and edited online. Learn how you and your students can build an online learning environment by creating, storing, and sharing instantly and securely online in real time or any time.

Presenter: Heidi Kay

Heidi Kay is a Library Media Specialist in Schaumburg, IL where she has been integrating technology for over 15 years. She helps staff and students to develop technology strategies for multimedia, Web2.0, and Google tools. Heidi is a Google Certified Educator and Workshop Co-Chair for the Illinois Computing Educators Conference.

***T9: Create your own podcast and learn ToonDoo.com**

(Beginner)

This session will demonstrate how to record a podcast and give participants a chance to try creating their own (providing there are microphones on the lab computers). There will be a demonstration of online software from ToonDoo.com that lets students and teachers create their own cartoons. These can be used to liven up lecture notes and presentations and as a way for students to demonstrate material they have learned. If time allows participants may create their own cartoons. Participants should have basic level computer skills. The presenter will be off-site.

Presenter: Dr. Beth Hirose

Dr. Beth Hirose taught family consumer sciences for 10 years in Illinois. She recently earned her Master's in Library and Information Sciences and became Google certified. This year she is a library assistant at Lake Forest High School. She loves helping others to use computers.

***T10: Things Are Changing: Using Google Classroom Minimum to Maximum**

(Advanced)

The level of expertise should be that confident. Specifically, a teacher should be confident with cloud-based storage, know how to download and upload documents, and understand url links. Most schools are now using Google Classroom to share and edit documents back and forth between teachers and students and even give quizzes and create presentations. The possibilities are endless. Learn about the basics of using Google Classroom and some of the more advanced possibilities.

Presenter: Ben Vandenberg

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***T11: Smart Learning Suite – Collaboration, Assessment, and Fun Games**

(Advanced)

A SMART Board can be used for presentation of materials but the SMART Learning Suite software allows for so much more. SMART Notebook continues to be the premier software allowing maximum student interaction with content. With SMART lab (Lesson Activity Builder) teachers can create interactive games and activities in less than 5 minutes. Those activities can be played at the Board or on a student's Internet enabled device. SMART Response 2 works from within SMART Notebook as an easy online assessment tool working through any Internet enabled device. SMART amp partners with Google Drive to offer an online workspace for students to work collaboratively on projects designed by the teacher or by the student. SMART Math Tools offer easy manipulation of fractions, math symbols and Geogebra. During this session you will see all the possible options in SMART Learning Suite.

Presenter: Jean Tulin

Jean Tulin is a retired secondary Math and Computer teacher. She serves as the Lambda State webmaster. She is a SMART Certified Trainer since 2004, working for Bradfield's Computer Supply as a SMART Trainer for schools and businesses since she retired in 2011.

***W1: Smart Notebook – Engaging Students**

(Beginner)

Whether you want to adapt a SMART Notebook lesson from SMART Exchange or you want to build your own, bringing in opportunities to engage students through interactivity, color, and sound is so easy with SMART Notebook. Come see how just a few additions can motivate students.

Presenter: Jean Tulin

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***W2: Websites for Enhancing Classroom Curriculum Grades K-6**

(Advanced)

This session will offer a chance to experience several different websites which can be used to excite students, extend learning, and get up to date with Common Core and the Next Generation Science Standards. Bring a laptop or tablet to experience examples in Kahoot, Google Drive, BrainPOP, Quizlet, Create-A-Graph, and more! Participants will be added to a Google Classroom where they can keep these examples and instructions for future use as well!

Presenter: Kimberly Priller

Kimberly Priller has been an upper elementary science and social studies teacher in Morton, Illinois for the past two years. Previously, she was a middle school math teacher for 6 years in Springfield, Illinois. She earned a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 2011, and uses technology daily with students to extend learning!

***W5: Creating and Using QR Codes and an Introduction to Augmented Reality (technology for the future)**

(Beginner and Advanced)

Augmented Reality has finally come to the U.S. and this technology is amazing! Come learn about Google Glasses and the way we will read magazines in the future! Augmented reality apps are changing the way educational content is offered which helps to improve classroom learning through interaction. We will look at the 5 best augmented reality apps for education that you can try out. IT'S AMAZING! You won't believe your eyes.

Whether you are in the classroom or not, in this workshop we will learn how to create a QR Code and give tips and ideas on how to use them for education. Instead of asking students to type in a long web address where they could easily make mistakes, a QR code will take them straight to a website. QR codes also all around us in stores, on the street and in magazines. QR Codes "Quick Response" are fun to integrate in the classroom. Quick Response codes are bar codes with information. QR Codes can include contact information, websites, text, SMS, pictures and so much more. My students absolutely love using these in their activities. Come and learn how to create them and some ways to Integrate QR Codes in Your Lessons!

Presenter: Angela Tagaris

Angela has been a middle school Science Teacher for 28 years. She is currently an Associate Professor at Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois. She has taught traditional and online courses for the College of Education Graduate and MAT program and the Educational Tech Department since 2003.

***W6: Websites for Enhancing Classroom Curriculum Grades 7-12**

(Advanced)

As an experienced educator, Jenn will share use of various websites (both free and paid) that are used in her classroom, and other sites that teachers in her district use for Math, Social Studies, and Science. Finding useful web sites and resources that work for the average teacher has become so essential when planning. As education continues to change, the need to find resources that keep students engaged from year to year is important. Many of the websites can be used in multiple subjects. If you have a favorite website, please be prepared to share.

Presenter: Jennifer Sprecher

Jennifer Sprecher studied English Education at Eastern Illinois University. She has taught high school English for 14 years.

Personal Usage (90 minute sessions)

T3: Need to DeClutter—Too Much Stuff? Utilizing Technology to DeClutter (Beginner)

This session will provide simple strategies to help you declutter your house and/or your classroom through the use of technology. There are many easy ways you can use simple technology tools to help you get rid of lots of paper and other items you might have around the house or in your classroom. Technology can be a great tool to better organize your life so come and learn some strategies that can save you a lot of space and hassle.

Presenter: Bev Johns

Bev Johns is the Chair of the Leadership Development Committee in Lambda State and is a Professional Fellow at MacMurray College. She is the author or co-author of 18 non-fiction books in the area of special education and is the author of 2 books of fiction. She is also the Past President of the Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois and the recipient of the Outstanding Leadership Award of the International Council for Exceptional Children.

***T4: Microsoft Word for Communication and Publicity** (Advanced)

Microsoft Word is more than just a word processor. This session will focus on using the special features in Word to form newsletters and brochures. Sending personalized postal mailings using mail merge and working with graphics will be highlighted. The use of graphics with Creative Commons Licenses will be discussed.

Presenter: Jean Tulin

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***T7: Google Drive** (Beginner)

This session is designed for those new to using Google Drive. A background in Microsoft Office products will be useful, but not necessary. Participants will be introduced to Google Drive, along with Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Forms. These Google products allow users to access their files through virtually any device. I will teach attendees the basics of using Google Drive to manage their electronic files, as well as the basics to Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Attendees will leave with the knowledge and ability to start using Google Drive in their personal and professional lives. Participants should plan to bring a device(s) of their choice, and must have an active Google account and email address.

Presenter: DJ Rudd

DJ Rudd is an elementary school teacher in Morton, IL. DJ loves all things technology, reading, woodworking, and coffee.

***T8: Make your own video with Screencast-o-matic**

(Advanced)

This session will demonstrate how to create a video of one's movements on the computer. This could be a how to video or a presentation video where you are adding sound to a premade power point. Participants will be shown how to download the software and use it and then have them create their own short movie clip. Participants should have experience with power point and may use one of their own file or may use a premade power point from the Web. The presenter will be off-site.

Presenter: Dr. Beth Hirose

Dr. Beth Hirose taught family consumer sciences for 10 years in Illinois. She recently earned her Master's in Library and Information Sciences and became Google certified. This year she is a library assistant at Lake Forest High School. She loves helping others to use computers.

***T11: Budgeting with Google Sheets**

(Beginner)

This session is designed for those new to using Google Sheets. A background in Microsoft Excel will be useful, but not necessary. Participants will be introduced to Google Sheets, which is a spreadsheet service that allows users to access their files through virtually any device. I will provide a budgeting template for participants and teach them how to adapt it to fit their own needs. Attendees will leave with the ability to budget and track their expenses from their device of choice. Participants should plan to bring a device(s) of their choice, and must have an active Google account and email address.

Presenter: DJ Rudd

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T12: Genealogy Searching

(Advanced)

Research your family history using some of the many resources available. Explore free databases, online research tools, charts and forms. Come to the session prepared with as much as you already know about names, dates, and places of birth.

Presenter: Mary Jane Sterling

Mary Jane Sterling retired from teaching after over forty years. She is a regular participant in the Taming Technology seminars. She has researched her own ancestors, from the Ingersolls who came to America shortly after the Pilgrims to the Mackies who came by way of Canada.

***W3: PowerPoint**

(Advanced)

PowerPoint presentations are fun and easy to produce. Prepare one for a meeting, for an anniversary, or to communicate some process or information. Participants need to have PowerPoint on their computers. Bring your own materials to create a presentation, or use the materials provided.

Presenter: Mary Jane Sterling

Mary Jane Sterling retired from teaching after over forty years. She is a regular participant in the Taming Technology seminars. She has created dozens of PowerPoint presentations featuring birthday celebrations, mathematics seminars, historical programs, and so on.

***W4: Creating and Using QR Codes and an Introduction to Augmented Reality (technology for the future)**

(Advanced)

Augmented Reality has finally come to the U.S. and this technology is amazing! Come learn about Google Glasses and the way we will read magazines in the future! Augmented reality apps are changing the way educational content is offered which helps to improve classroom learning through interaction. We will look at the 5 best augmented reality apps for education that you can try out. IT'S AMAZING! You won't believe your eyes.

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Presenter: Angela Tagaris

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W7: Android/iPhone Cell Phone Apps Make Life Easier

(Beginner)

More than a phone, the Calendar and Contact List will help with your personal organization. Photos of everyday situations can help track information. Texting and other communication apps help you stay connected. Come learn about them all.

For the more advanced, there are many apps to investigate. Choices include: Instagram, Facebook, "the grocery store", Amazon, Voxer, maps, GroupMe, weather, Google.

Presenter: Jean Tulin

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W8: Gotcha! Your Friendly Computer Hacker

(Beginner)

Both beginners and advanced users will be able to understand how hacking works and what really is safe in our digital world. You will be directed on how to hack.

Presenters: Dr. Kubistal and Nancietta Stocking

Dr. Kubistal and Nancietta Stocking are retired Chicago Public School employees with a century of experience. They reflect on how the digital world affects all of us.