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# Distance Learning Today

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## Trading Spaces: Renovate your Courses this Summer!

By Ken Fairbanks

Have you seen the show "Trading Spaces" on The Learning Channel (TLC)? The premise is that two people trade houses and decorate a room with the help of a professional designer and a team of specialists. It is a remarkable show and a little scary for the homeowners. It involves placing considerable trust in your trading partners and the professional team. However, the payoff can be great... as an old room is given a fresh coat of paint and new functionality. Wouldn't it be great, if we did

that with our distance learning courses?

I challenge you to try "Trading Spaces" this summer. Yes, I know... it's called peer review, but trading spaces sounds like more fun! Yes, I'm also aware that we are supposed to be already doing peer review, but many of us are not... or fail to do it thoroughly!

Here's how you play:

1. Select two trading partners. One partner should be a person in your department. Preferably this partner should teach the

same subject or a related subject. Your second trading partner should be outside your department or division. They will provide a more objective view to the material since it is unfamiliar.

2. Once you gather the recommendations from your trading spaces partners... call upon the expertise of the qualified professionals in the Distance & Distributing Learning Center. From results-oriented instructional design to multimedia development and personalized training... we can help you create a highly effective course.

Pick another room... I mean course and start again. Continuous improvement and attention to quality is the name of the game.

For more information on trading spaces and access to a peer review worksheet with guidelines visit my blog at <http://breakingthechalk.blogspot.com>

## How Do I Activate My Classes in Bb?

The end of the semester is near. So it's time to gear up for summer! Classes are loaded for the summer semester and students are being loaded. Summer courses are available for students to view at this time. When ready, please activate your classes.

How do I activate or "turn on" my class?

1. You must log into BB and go to the class you plan to make active.
2. Click on the Control Panel
3. Select Setting. Setting is located in the Course Option section (First column-3 option in group) Choose Settings.

4. Select Course Availability
5. Select Yes
6. Click the submit button
7. Click the OK button

After you have finished your spring class, please make spring classes unavailable. If you have students who have incompletes, you need to leave those active until all students have completed the course.

A video tutorial on how to activate courses can be found [here](#). (This link was also emailed to faculty prior to newsletter publication from Ken Fairbanks.)



## Don't Forget to Clean Out That Mailbox!

As the semester draws to a close and summer awaits, don't forget to clean out email accounts, turn off classes in Blackboard if students have checked their grades and activate new classes before leaving. Have a great summer!



Visit [www.JonHs.net](http://www.JonHs.net) for the latest in video online.

## Website of the Month

So many videos, so little time. How can you wade through all of the video posted on the web without wasting time on things you wish you had never seen?

Now there is a site that puts the power of YouTube.com, GoogleVideo and more at your fingertips and it is free.

Visit [www.JonHs.net](http://www.JonHs.net), the latest one-stop shop for directing viewers to sites that support free movies, television shows and more.

While the site does not host any of the streaming media, it has been created to help surfers search through, "100% handpicked content

chosen to inform, shock and entertain you."

Listings include films, documentaries, animations, music, entertainment shows, television shows and more. There are even sections for 9/11 and Iraq documentaries and video.

Suggestions or comments: [lanna.lumpkins@sw.edu](mailto:lanna.lumpkins@sw.edu)

## Multimedia Club Enjoys Success at the Movies



Screenplay division fourth place winner Josh Bowman accepts his award from George Schneider, Master of Ceremonies



Pictured are members of the club (front row, left to right): Sean Blankenship, Jordan Anderson, Dave Holmes; (second row): Josh Bowman, Justin Trout, Jeremiah Owens; (third row): Zach Martin & Josh Rose

For the second year in a row, SwVCC Multimedia Club students were competitors in the Appalachian Film Festival in Huntington, WV over the weekend of April 19-22. Students entered three pieces in the festival: two short films and a screenplay that walked away with a fourth place win. The contest was open to all residents of the states that make up the Appalachian Region including West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

Multimedia Club member and the festival's fourth place winner in the screenplay division, Josh Bowman, created a storyline entitled "Perfect Parallel" in which a man's life is altered in the blink of an eye. In a single moment he becomes invisible to the world and later encounters a beautiful woman that can answer his questions and turns out to be the love of his life. "This is quite a feather in Josh's cap since he was competing against professional screenwriters from 13 states", said Multimedia Club advisor and instructor Lanna Monday Lumpkins. "From this competition, Josh is getting the type

of exposure reserved for seasoned writers and this should help jump start his media career."

Video Production students Dave Holmes, Stevie Looney, Jordan Anderson, & Joe Horne submitted a short film for competition entitled "Wrath of a Guilty Conscience," about a college student's conscience that physically stalks and eventually chases him to class. A second submission by Michael French, Bradley Addington, Sean Blankenship and Colson Dash, IV entitled "Hope & Tragedy" told the story of collegiate madman that aspires to desecrate a college campus when he doesn't get the girl of his dreams.

"Even though our short films did not make it to the finals, I feel that we all enjoyed ourselves and came away with information to help with projects in the future. I plan to submit something next year to one of the video categories putting to use the knowledge that was acquired from visiting this year's festival," said freshman Jordan Anderson. "It was a wonderful learning experience and it inspired me to create something bigger and better than what I saw on the silver screen."

Students also attended workshops and film screenings at the historical Keith Albee Theatre,

an editor's party and an awards banquet. Students had the opportunity to get to know actor / writer D.B. Sweeney and see a private screening of his film "Two Tickets to Paradise" with John C. McGinley (AKA Dr. Perry Cox of "Scrubs") and Ed Harris ("Misery"), due for release this fall. Actress Dani Englander also showcased her newly released movie "Two Fireflies" and Steve Fesenmaier, author of the screenplay for the movie "Blaze" starring Paul Newman gave attendees tips on creative writing and marketing to agents.

Competition categories included best feature film, screenplay, short film, documentary, music video and young filmmakers. Prizes included awards up to \$1,000. A complete list of awards, previous winners, events and information is included on the website at [www.appyfilmfest.com](http://www.appyfilmfest.com).



Pictured from left to right, author of "Blaze", Steve Fesenmaier; actor / writer D. B. Sweeney, & actress Dani Englander