Favorite Tech Tools (April 16, 2010)
A sharing session on "favorite technology tools" and ideas for using them in instruction. Focus is on "low barrier" tools that are free (or cheap) and easy to try out and use. This handout is available on the Instructional Technologies wiki (under Online Tools):
http://courses.durhamtech.edu/wiki/index.php/Handouts

Flip Video Camera
http://www.theflip.com/
The Flip is a popular, pocket-sized video camera that is very easy to use. Videos recorded using Flip can be uploaded to YouTube and embedded in Blackboard. Several Flip cameras are available for checkout through Media Services.

> **Greg Gassaway** in the Respiratory Therapy program uses Flip cameras to record and assess student performance of clinical procedures. He connects the camera to a TV to provide immediate visual feedback to students.
> **Sue Cheng** and other Occupational Therapy Assistant instructors used Flip cameras to create videos that demonstrate proper assistive techniques. Students are shown the techniques in class, and use the videos to review correct procedures as they practice on their own.

Marianela Manana
Below is a list of online tools used in the Spanish Certificates programs.
Loudblog
http://www.loudblog.com/
LoudBlog is a free tool used for publishing media content on the web. It automatically generates a skinnable website and an RSS-Feed for Podcasting. Just upload your audio/video files, add some notes and links, and you're done.

> **Community Spanish Facilitator Podcast**
> http://courses.durhamtech.edu/podcasts/spi/
> Marianela set up this site to post podcasts for for the Community Spanish Facilitator Certificate program.

Audacity/Audacity Portable
http://audacity.sourceforge.net/
Audacity is free, open source software for recording and editing sounds. It is available for PCs and Mac.

Wetpaint
http://www.wetpaint.com
Wetpaint is a free tool that allows users to develop web sites collaboratively.

> **Medical Glossary Wetpaint Wiki**
> http://glosarioelectronico.wetpaint.com/
> Wetpaint was used to create a wiki for SPI 221 Consecutive Interpretation classes.

Oxford Language Dictionary Online
http://www.oxfordlanguagedictionaries.com/
The innovative *Oxford Language Dictionaries Online* site offers essential language resources never before available online: fully searchable, completely comprehensive bilingual dictionaries, and unique study materials that provide extra help with learning and using an expanding range of languages.

Foreign Exchange Translations
http://blog.fxtrans.com/
Foreign Exchange Translations is the leader in medical translations. The link is to a medical translation blog that is posted on their site.

Brent McCardle

Below is a list of tools that Brent has used with his students.

Livestream

http://www.livestream.com

Brent uses Livestream for broadcasting his screen live for students. He uses the Procaster download feature to save the file after the live session. He then is able to post the file on his site for students to review.

> **Livestream (recorded version of a review session)**
>
> http://www.opticaled.com/review/review.html
>
> Brent's recorded online review sessions so you can see what it looks like.
>
> **Livestream (embedded player)**
>
> http://www.livestream.com/opticaled/
>
> Embedded the Livestream player provides a more Youtube like feel and the ability to download the video.

Twiddla

http://www.twiddla.com

Twiddla is a real-time online collaboration tool. It is simple and accessible: no plug-ins or downloads. Students visit the web address provided by the instructor and will see the instructor's screen. It has audio, the ability to upload docs, Power Points images and drawing tools. Tip: Get a free upgrade with an .edu address. Sign up and send an email from your .edu address to get the upgrade.

Flockdraw

http://flockdraw.com

Flockdraw is a browser based drawing app that allows you to see what someone else is drawing in real time. It is great for instructors who want to show a student something while they are on the phone.

TimeBridge

http://www.timebridge.com/

TimeBridge is a web application that makes it incredibly easy to schedule and lead great meetings - and follow up after you meet. Think of us as your calendar-wrangling, agenda-making, note-taking, team-motivating, secret weapon in the battle against workplace inefficiency. Basic features are free.

> **Brent's TimeBridge Calendar**
>
> http://meetwith.me/brent_mccardle

Pirate Pad

http://piratepad.net/

Pirate Pad text is synchronized as you type, so that everyone viewing this page sees the same text. This allows you to collaborate seamlessly on documents. Formerly called Etherpad, this tool was purchased by Google.

Screenr

http://screenr.com/

Screenr is a web-based recorder with nothing to download. Create screencasts on PCs or Mac. Video length is a 5 minute maxium.

Jing (update)
http://jingproject.com/
Jing is a still a free tool that allows you to capture images or make short videos to demonstrate how to do tasks on your computer. Embed these videos in Blackboard to share with your students. Can also be used to provide individualized video feedback to students on their work (such as papers). For use on PCs or Mac. Video length is a 5 minute maximum with free version of the product. Use an external mic for best results recording audio.

> **Charlene West** used Jing to create several short videos for her CIS110 online class. In addition to providing detailed written instructions, Charlene used the videos to orient her online students about her course specific policies. She has gotten good feedback from her students that they like her videos.
>
> **Tom Jaynes** used Jing to create a series of videos to assist students with logging in and registering for classes using WebAdvisor. Video: How to search for sections and use WebAdvisor to register for classes:
> http://www.durhamtech.edu/connect/Registering_on_WebAdvisor.swf

Online Tools and Resources

Instructional Technologies wiki
http://courses.durhamtech.edu/wiki/
The Instructional Technologies wiki provides resources for instructors and students who are using instructional technology at Durham Technical Community College.

Aviary
http://aviary.com/
Aviary is a suite of online applications for creating and editing images and audio. All of the applications are written in Flash and entirely browser-based. The application suite is designed to provide the same functionality as the suite of design applications available from Adobe, but at a much lower cost. Basic features are free.

Future of Education
http://www.futureofeducation.com/
The Future of Education site lists a series of webinars on educational technology topics. Webinars generally take place in the evenings but recordings of all sessions are available. Visit the link above for a list of upcoming sessions and scroll down to the bottom of the page for a list of previously-recorded sessions.

Google Docs
http://courses.durhamtech.edu/opticianry/tlc.html
Brent McCardle used Screenium to create two screencasts on Google Docs. He presented this info at the TLC's session on Teaching and Learning with Google Docs. These screencasts should help those who want to start using Google Docs. The first is on using the document editor in Google Docs and posting to Blackboard, sharing with colleagues, and sharing with students. The second is about Google Calendar and how to post your calendar to Blackboard.

Google Docs Update - new features added April 2010!
Article & Video: http://blogs.computerworld.com/15914/upgrades_to_google_docs
Google Docs announced the addition of some new features in April 2010. Features include real time collaboration of documents, spreadsheets and drawings. See what shared users are typing in real time with no need to refresh the page. Addition of a ruler for alignment of text. The ability to chat with users while collaborating on documents.

Google Search Stories
Article & Video: http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2010/04/make-your-own-search-story-video-in.html
During the Super Bowl Google ran an ad made simply with a few Google searches and a little music. With the Google Search Stories tool all you need to do is type in your Google searches, pick some music and - presto! - you've got your very own Search Story to share with your friends or showcase on our YouTube channel.

Screenium
http://www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/video/screenium.html
Screenium is a screencasting product for Mac users.

Glogster
http://www.glogster.com/
Glogster is a social site centered on self-expression, GLOGSTER allows users to create "glogs" -- online posters that contain text, images, and multimedia elements. Visually appealing and easy to use, Glogster is a fun mash-up of blogging, social networking, and publishing.

Jog the Web
http://www.jogtheweb.com/
Jog the Web is a web-based tool that allows anyone to create a synchronous guide to a series of web sites. Its step by step approach of taking viewers through web sites allowing the author to annotate and ask guiding questions for each page is unique.

PDF Online
http://www.pdfonline.com/pdf2word/index.asp
PDF Online is a file conversion tool that converts PDFs to Word documents.

Prezi
http://prezi.com/
Prezi is a Flash-based presentation system that allows users to create dynamic presentations live and on the web. Features include: zooming in and out across a large area (using no slides), create motion paths, embed images and video.

Readability Bookmarklet
http://lab.arc90.com/experiments/readability/
Readability is a simple tool that makes reading on the Web more enjoyable by removing the clutter around what you're reading. Readability installs directly in your web browser.

VoiceThread
http://voicethread.com/
With VoiceThread, group conversations are collected and shared in one place from anywhere in the world. All with no software to install. A VoiceThread is a collaborative, multimedia slide show that holds images, documents, and videos and allows people to navigate pages and leave comments by using voice (with a mic or telephone), text, audio file, or video (via a webcam). Share a VoiceThread with friends, students, and colleagues for them to record comments too.

Wordle
http://www.wordle.net/
Wordle is a toy for generating "word clouds" from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and color schemes. The images you create with Wordle are yours to use however you like. You can print them out, or save them to the Wordle gallery to share with your friends.

Zamzar
http://www.zamzar.com/
Zamzar is a file conversion tool. Convert image, document, music and video files without the need to download software.

Other Compiled Lists of Tech Tools
Many others have made lists of favorite free, cheap or low-barrier tools. Here are some compilations we've found, along with our own list from May 2009.

Best Web Sites for Teaching and Learning
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/guidelinesandstandards/bestlist/bestwebsitestop25.cfm
American Association of Librarians web site compiled The "Top 25" Web sites that foster the qualities of innovation, creativity, active participation, and collaboration. They are free, Web-based sites that are user friendly and encourage a community of learners to explore and discover.

Cool Tools for Teaching Online New Media/Web 2.0
SREB/AT&T Online Teachers Initiative
http://www.srebonlineteachers.org/Cool_Tools_For_Teaching_Online.pdf
This 30 page PDF was updated in January 2009. It is a resource bank that provides practical explanations and examples of numerous new media tools that have direct applicability for teachers. Most resources are intended to be used by in an online environment.

Free Tips, Tricks & Technology Tools for Teachers
http://www.tropicalteachers.com/
This site is maintained by DI vonBriesen an instructor at CPCC. He presented this info at the NC3ADL conference held in Durham in March.

If it's Free, It's for ME!
http://kellykirk.wordpress.com/
This blog is maintained by Kelly Kirk. He presented this info at the NC3ADL conference held in Durham in March.

SUNY at New Paltz Teaching and Learning Center Cool Tools
http://www2.newpaltz.edu/teachingandlearning/?page_id=8
Cool Tools resources developed by the Teaching and Learning Center at State University of New York at New Paltz.

Our Favorite Tech Things (May 2009)
http://courses.durhamtech.edu/wiki/images/2/27/Tech_things.pdf
This handout contains a list of "favorite tools" discussed at a TLC sharing session on 5/21/2009.

Our Favorite Tech Things (April 2010)
http://courses.durhamtech.edu/wiki/images/6/63/TechThingsApr10.pdf
This handout contains a list of "favorite tools" discussed at a TLC sharing session on 4/16/2010.