



# cau•se•rie

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**Winter 2010 • Technology in the Classroom** Both faculty and students are adopting new technologies for personal and educational use. Faculty have begun implementing classroom technology such as wikis and classroom response systems including clickers, to engage and keep pace with their technologically advanced students. This issue highlights some of these technologies, students' technology preferences and a few of the resources available to assist faculty and students.

## Professors and instructors integrating technology in the classroom

In the spring of 2009 the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) surveyed 197 faculty, instructors and graduate students to assess the level of assistance needed to help them integrate technology into their classrooms.

The CTE found three challenges facing the participants in implementing technology in the classroom: time constraints, lack of experience

with the tools and limited availability of the technology. But, many faculty are making an effort to incorporate online tools, including social networking sites, blogs and streaming videos into their lessons.

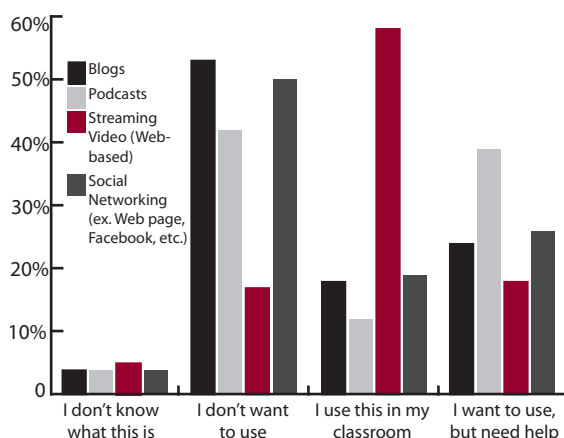
**Technology In and Out of the Classroom** seminar  
3:30 - 4:45 p.m.  
Monday, March 29  
Russell House ballroom C  
sc.edu/cte or 803.777.8322

Among respondents, 39% said that they use document cameras in their lessons, and 12% said that they use classroom response systems (clickers), such as iClicker.

"Clickers keep students engaged and have helped attendance," said statistics professor Georgie Baker, who uses iClicker in her courses.

For those who expressed a desire to use the technology, but said that they need more assistance to do so, the University offers the resources listed below and the upcoming seminar, above.

Faculty Use of Select Online Tools



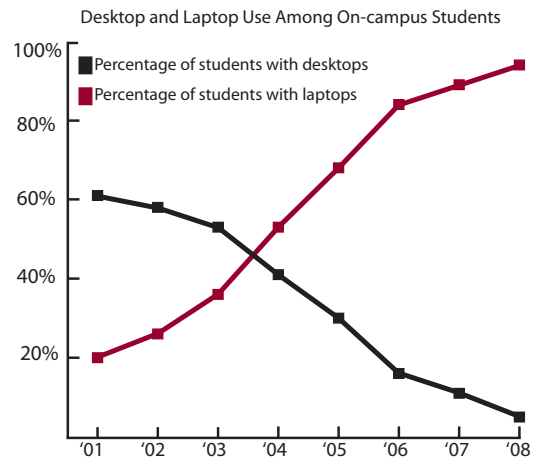
### Resources

- **Instructional technology consultations**- During these consultations, an instructional designer from Teaching and Technology Services helps determine an appropriate mix of technologies for the course. For more information, or to sign up for a consultation, please visit [www.uts.sc.edu/tts/instructional.shtml](http://www.uts.sc.edu/tts/instructional.shtml).
- **BEST Institute (Blackboard and Educational Software Technologies)**- Teaches faculty to use tools such as Blackboard, Camtasia, Wikis, podcasts, tablet PCs, Adobe Connect and Dreamweaver. More information is available at <http://uts.sc.edu/tts/>.
- **Blackboard seminars**- Held throughout the semester for faculty and staff. Registration and more information can be found at <http://uts.sc.edu/tts/>.
- **Media Services**- Information for faculty who may be interested in using video production or photography, or for assistance with Blackboard, distance education or Gamecock Cable. For more information, please visit [http://www.sc.edu/uis/media\\_tech/media\\_services/mediaservices.html](http://www.sc.edu/uis/media_tech/media_services/mediaservices.html).

Call the Help Desk at (803) 777-1800 for more information on these and other resources.

## Computer preferences of students

According to the 2008 Computer and Technology Survey by University Housing, 99% of students bring their own computers to campus. While this number has increased significantly since 1999, when only 57% of students brought computers to campus, the type of computer students bring to campus has changed as well. Over the past seven years, the percentage of students bringing laptops to campus has increased to 94% from 20%. In just the last four years the percentage of students with Macs has increased to 22% from 7%, as fewer students favor PCs.



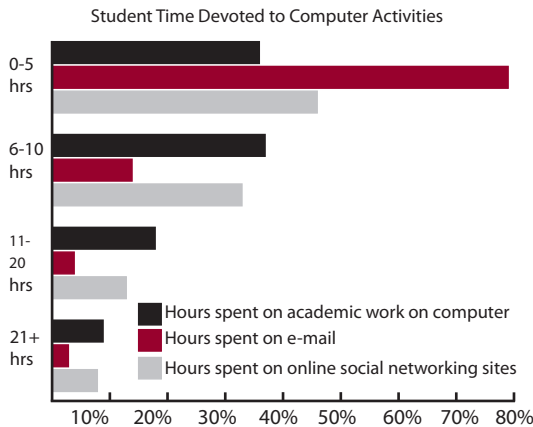
- Cited in this issue**
- The 2008 Computer and Technology Survey Executive summary is available at [www.housing.sc.edu/pdf/2008ComputerandTechExecutiveSummary.pdf](http://www.housing.sc.edu/pdf/2008ComputerandTechExecutiveSummary.pdf).
  - Center for Teaching Excellence 2009 Report

**Online issues**  
For pdf files of current and past issues of *Causerie*, go to [www.sa.sc.edu/publications.htm](http://www.sa.sc.edu/publications.htm).

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**Comments**  
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## Students' computer use for academic work, e-mail and social networking

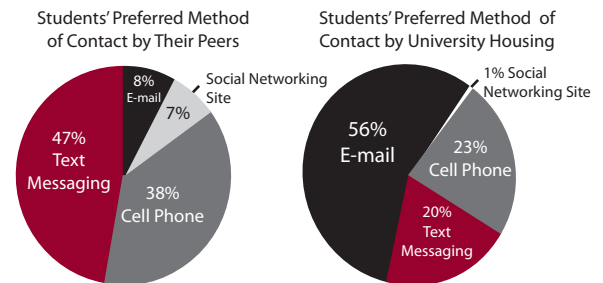


In the 2008 Computer and Technology Survey, 37% of respondents reported spending 6 to 10 hours doing academic work on the computer during the week, and 33% said that they spend 6 to 10 hours on online social networking sites. Since students are already spending time doing academic work on the computer and visiting online social networking sites, using online tools such as blogs and wikis may be good ways to engage students if appropriate to the subject and the class. Only 5% of students said that they do not participate in social networking sites.

## Communications technology preferences

The results of the 2008 survey show that students still rely on cell phones, but text messaging has become more popular. The number of students who prefer to communicate with each other by text messaging increased to 47% in 2008 from 32% in 2007.

When it comes to being contacted for University-related messages, students prefer e-mail over cell phones and text messaging.



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