I. Integrating Specialists into Teaching

Subject matter experts enrich the classroom learning experience by sharing current information and meaningful real-world experiences directly with students. Classroom speakers are generally limited to the pool of experts in close geographic proximity. However, technology can step in as a substitute for travel and greatly expand possibilities while maintaining the seamless interaction and rich experience for students. In this session, Professor John Boyer and his technical assistant Katie Pritchard will describe techniques to successfully garner the top experts – the ones most likely to make the largest impact. They will demonstrate a variety of technology options and share the advantages and challenges of each. Finally, they describe how to incorporate invited speakers within the pedagogy of a case-study approach to foster optimal learning benefits.
Integrating Specialists into Teaching

A fantastic way to enrich the classroom experience.... but why, who, and how?
Greetings from Virginia Tech!
Technology in the classroom talks

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Integrating Specialists into Teaching

1. But WHY is it important? WHY bother?

- With the increases in communications and classroom technologies, it has become easier than ever before to interact with anybody, anywhere, anytime
- Brings a diversity of experiences and insights that no single instructor anywhere in the world could possess themselves
- Offers opportunity for the instructor to work with the students to critique critical thought and opinion from other perspectives....you are on ‘their’ side of the podium
- Brings a level of interactivity and excitement to the classroom, even if the speaker is boring; students should be an active part in planning and participating
- Builds real world network of connection

-I’m lazy
2) But WHO to bring into my classroom?

Traditionally, follows geography: fellow academics in your department, then at your university, then at other universities...etc.

But we are no longer limited by geographic scope, so think outside of the box: WHO would you REALLY like the students to interact with?
2) But WHO to bring into my classroom?

Personally, I want to incorporate the real world as much as possible...

- Book authors
  - Businesses leaders, small and large
    - Film makers, artists
    - Religious leaders
      - Politicians and policy makers
        - Researchers, scientists
          - Specialist in your field, in academia, and in private sector

- Really, anyone trying to spread a message or a product or who has unique insight into a topic...
  ...and isn’t that virtually everybody?
2) But WHO to bring into my classroom?

But don’t forget to be pragmatic!!!
Utilize “real” people in other places:

- Chat with architect in Japan versus an architect in Morocco
- Business practices in Germany versus Ghana via small business leaders in both
- Singapore students studying ethics chatting with South African students studying the same
2) But WHO to bring into my classroom?
And of course there are alternatives to live, interactive sessions which now proliferate...
3) But HOW do you do it?
   some technologies we have found useful....

3A) The Tools
   Skype in the classroom
Teachers on Skype in the classroom

This directory is filled with teachers who want to connect with other teachers using Skype. You can search by keyword, or you can filter teachers by language, ages taught and what you’re looking for (classroom exchange, inspiration, subjects).
Skype in the classroom (http://education.skype.com)

Connect your students to the world

Skype is a free and easy way for teachers to open up their classroom. Using this site, you can meet new people, talk to experts, share ideas and create amazing learning experiences with teachers from around the world.

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Discover inspiring projects

I am [teacher] looking for an expert in [Subject]
The Tools

Skype in the classroom

Twitter search
Twitter search

search for subjects and interact with specialists
The Tools

Skype in the classroom

Twitter search

Twitter hashtags
Find specialists via twitter hashtags

http://hashtags.org

Hashtags

Type a hashtag and hit Enter:

Or, select a hashtag from the list below:

Business: #jobs, #business, #networking, #retail, #shoppers, #consumer, #sales, #economy, #technology, #luxury, #news, #internet, #mktg, #marketing, #webmarketing

Celebrities: #50cent, #aplusk, #bieber, #britneyspears, #charliesheen, #ladygaga, #obama, #oprah, #osama, #perezhilton, #ryanseacrest, #the_real_shag, #thelenshow

Education: #edapp, #edtech, #education, #elearning, #lrnchat, #mlearning, #teachers

Environment / Justice: #humanrights, #poverty, #hunger, #aid, #sustainability, #health, #green, #eco, #earthtweet, #humantrafficking, #climate, #solar, #fairtrade

Social Change: #socialgood, #cause, #volunteer, #4change, #giveback, #dogood, #crisiscommons

TV Entertainment: #bones, #dwts, #glee, #gossipgirl, #graysanatomy, #idol, #lrnchat, #mlearning, #sharktank, #survivor, #teachers, #theoffice, #thelvoice, #xfactor
And some other communication tools for other types of classroom/on-line interaction
John Boyer
officehours

Wednesday May 30 9:30pm EDT | John Boyer's Channel | 272 views | Public

Social on

John Boyer

34:19 1:21:11

Katie Pritchard
itunes university, our website: www.plaidavenger.com, our textbook, twitter, facebook, and here on spreecast - 26:24

Neeraj
Your website is really cool! - 26:47

Katie Pritchard
thanks! - 27:30

Katie Pritchard
how did you stumble across this spreecast, Neeraj? - 29:24

Neeraj
Yea, it was Live & Upcoming. - 29:41

Neeraj
I came via Spreecast Home Page! - 30:10

Katie Pritchard
cool, thanks for joining us! - 31:37

Stewart Butterfield
you can make the spreecast unlisted, so that people need a link to join if you don't want it publicly shown - 31:45

Katie Pritchard
Thanks, but we're all about having everything out there and public - 32:48

Katie Pritchard
makes it more fun :) - 33:06

Recorded May 30, 2012 at 9:30pm
Free video conferencing for up to 10 people

Team collaboration gets better when you’re face to face. Hangouts offers a suite of productivity apps that let you share what’s on your screen, collaborate in Google Docs, view presentations and diagram together. To access these, simply click the “Add app” button inside your hangout to browse and add new apps. If a team member can’t join the hangout, you can also dial the person in by clicking on the “Invite” button and then the “+telephone” link. Calls to the US and Canada are free, and international calling rates are very low.

Start a Hangout

Google Hangouts
3) But HOW do you do it?

3B) Getting the students involved

Think outside the box

- Given the topic and course content, who do they want to talk to, and is it worthy of your the investment?

Students part of invitation process

- Group debate?
  - Individual contact?
    - Group letter?
    - Video shout-out?
4) Our Examples

Gary Vaynerchuk - a video blogger, co-owner and director of operations of a wine retail store, and an author and public speaker on the subjects of social media, brand building and e-commerce.
Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez

- Social media campaign to have them show their indie movie “The Way” at Virginia Tech

- Shout out video

Emilio Estevez
@EMILOTHEWAY

THANK U VIRGINIA TECH!!!! THE BEST STOP ON OUR "THE WAY" TOUR! YOU WERE OFF THE CHARTS AWESOME! LOVE U ALL! GO HOKIES!!!
Invisible Children

- non-profit raising money to rebuild war-torn schools in northern Uganda and provide scholarships to African youth.
- local chapter reached out to us
- Founder of the organization showed their movie and gave an impassioned talk at the end.
Bouncing Cats

- film about one man's attempt to create a better life for the children of Uganda using b-boy culture and breakdance.

- produced by Red Bull Media House (they approached us)
Aung San Suu Kyi
Noble Peace Prize Winner and chairperson of the National League for Democracy in Burma
Initial interest from Burmese student
Skype shout out & social networking by students
Led to Skype session with her

Aung San Suu Kyi Skypes US students

Published 04.26 on 2nd December 2011 Updated 02.13 on 6th December 2011

@plaidavenger Plaid Avenger

Aung San Suu Kyi, live via skype, Burrus Auditorium, 7PM, in World Regions. #wrvt #averagecollegeclass #skype #surreal

@hokie-love Taylor Lynne

What an amazing woman! Aung San Suu Kyi answering VT students questions via Skype. #wrvt
http://twitter.com/hokie-love/status/14386406847512577/p
Meeting you and your student by skype was one of the most enjoyable experiences I have had. It is a pity all politics cannot be that fun. Please convey my heartfelt thanks to all the participants. I do hope I will be able to meet you and your wonderful students in person soon.

Yours truly,
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
4) Student Testimonials

I just wanted to say thank you for the passion you show in class. You have made me want to embrace the world and experience as much of it as possible. Your class has encouraged me to travel, form connections, and be a life long learner as well as share knowledge with others as you have shared it with me. You have shown me that a group as small as 3,000 people can make a difference and that anything can happen if you put your mind to it. Lastly you have reinforced the childhood idea that the stars are the limit. So once again thank you for inspiring me to be an active global citizen.
My name is Rushabh Kenia. I took your World Regions course, I reckon, in 2003.

I just wanted to write you to say that having connected with you on Facebook, I was reminded of the energy and the motivation of your class. You recently managed to get Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez to Tech - I read about that and saw the trailer of The Way, right about when you began talking about it, and was happy (even amazed) to see that you managed to pull it off. It was a brilliant idea and excellent execution.

Bottom line, I get reminded of motivation, execution and the passion to do a good thing - even in the absence of a deeper purpose. Without being sentimental, it's just 'effin brilliant that you can do cool stuff like that - whether it's the International movies or Gary or the Sheens...and that's not even talking about how cool the Plaid Avenger is!
I do not know how to thank you for organizing such a great Skype event with Aung San Suu Kyi, and letting Myanmar students who are in United States, or other parts of the world, to hear the voice of our Leader. I have been watching the interview again and again, and also encouraging more and more people to watch it. And I am encouraging people to watch this videos mainly because I learned a lot of new knowledge from this interview.

Dear Plaid Avenger,

My son, Patrick Georgi, took your class freshman year and turned us into plaidfans. I teach social studies to 6th and 7th graders at Urbana Middle School, I can't quite use all of your podcasts in the middle school classroom, but we do current events. Your interview with Aung San Suu Kyi was a brilliant use of technology. Could my students Skype you and ask you questions about the world and the Hokie Nation?
“Our team would just like to thank you for letting us perform for the class. The Bhangra Team at Virginia Tech had a great time performing at World Regions and we really appreciate everyone's support. For those wanting to know, Bhangra is a traditional Indian dance form (native to Punjabi culture in north India) and our team hopes to keep the tradition alive. Luckily, our team gets to perform at many competitions at different universities across the country, but nothing beats performing in front of our beloved Hokies.”
After this evening's premiere of "The Way" I knew I had to email you in thanks! I am currently NOT a student in your class but I one day hope to be. I was so thankful to have one of your students put my VT account in to obtain a ticket. Needless to say I was honored to be there. I wanted to thank you though, because I realize now that I am a part of something much more incredible than I realized. My first few days here at Virginia Tech were very difficult and I have since been wrestling with whether this was where I was supposed to be. But after tonight I know I am a Hokie! I am so proud to have witnessed the events that took place, because it was more than I could imagine. I was so moved by the love and pure excitement of the students that were around me. Your class is truly spectacular, and the fact that you all succeeded in getting Mr. Sheen and Mr. Estevez to our campus was a miracle. I thank you and your class for cementing my love for Virginia Tech and I am so lucky, really this is something I do not deserve. I cannot wait to travel and perhaps create my own "way" in this world. I know now I have nothing to fear, that all my insecurities and fears of college were minor.
“I know that it is the end of the semester and you are probably getting a flood of emails from the 3000 students in the world regions geography class this fall, but I wanted to personally thank you for a semester that I will remember forever. From The Way, a movie that impacted my life on so many levels in its own Way, to Invisible Children which once again took my breath away and is really hitting me to get involved in the world in any way that I can, to most recently in tonight’s class skyping with hopefully the future leader of Burma...WOW. I cannot believe what I experienced in just this one class. I never expected half of this when signing up for the 3000 person class that I thought would just be a good time. In all of my life not one single event has changed my life the way yourself and this class have. I knew coming to college I would experience many things but wow, this was just incredible. You have truly touched my life and I thank you.”
“...there have been a lot of things that have caused me to lose faith in the American system of higher education, but people like you give me faith that we will continue to do right by our young people. People like you give me faith that we can find ways to spark new, complex interests in young people and foster appreciations for broader concepts, rather than relying on memorization and calculation as "effective" and accepted methods of teaching.”