IPRO 320
Developing a Professional Networking Website for Teachers

Presented By: Marijke Bochantin, Dmitriy Pindrik, Michael Tilatti
The Problem

• Time Pressures
  • Preparing for class
  • Finding class materials

• Performance Pressures
  • Standardized Tests
  • No Child Left Behind

• Additional Roles
  • Discipline and Counseling
  • Watching for drugs and signs of abuse
Project Goals

• To create a functional professional networking website for teachers that meets the needs specified in our research
  • User-friendly
  • Time-efficient
  • Content-rich
• Easy to update and maintain
• To generate interest within the educational community to use this site
Team Organization

Marijke Bochantin
Team Leader

Ian McCall
Sub-team Leader

Julian Hartline
Team Member
Michael Quinn
Team Member
David Bern
Team Member
Andrew Peake
Team Member
Dmitriy Pindrik
Team Member

Michael Tilatti
Sub-team Leader

Carly Stanford
Team Member
Emily Mick
Team Member
Alison Pierce
Team Member

Development Sub-Team: design and develop the website and the broad interactive survey

Research Sub-Team: conduct focus groups and surveys of teachers to obtain feedback on the website
Work Breakdown Structure

1.0 Professional networking website for teachers

1.1 Research phase
- 1.1.1 Online research
- 1.1.2 Focus group #1
- 1.1.3 Presentation and paper survey
- 1.1.4 Paper survey
- 1.1.5 Broad multimedia-based survey

1.2 Development phase
- 1.2.1 Analyze focus group #1 requirements
- 1.2.2 Create design document
- 1.2.3 Build functional mock-up
- 1.2.4 Build alpha site

1.3 PRO deliverables
- 1.3.1 Project Plan
- 1.3.2 Ethics Statement
- 1.3.3 Midterm Review
- 1.3.4 Abstract/Brochure
- 1.3.5 Poster
- 1.3.6 Final Oral Presentation
- 1.3.7 Final Report
Gantt Chart
Our Timeline

- Development Timeline
- Initial Website Design Document
- Updated Website Design Document
- Begin Website Construction
- Create Alpha Site
- Look over previous semester materials
- Research Timeline
- Deerfield High School Focus Group
- Queen of Peace Focus Group
- RTAC Luncheon Survey
- Broad Interactive Survey
Research

- Deerfield High School focus group
- Queen of Peace presentation/paper survey
- Retired Teachers Association of Chicago (RTAC) Luncheon with paper survey
- Broad web-based multimedia survey
Deerfield Results

• Lesson plans
  • Teachers own their lesson plans
  • Others can add comments, but not modify existing lesson plans
• Inclusion of news feed
• Interested in quick communication tool
Queen of Peace Results

Likelihood to look at other lesson plans

Importance of a place to receive feedback
Challenges Encountered

• Research Team
  • Difficulty finding research participants; impacted timeline
  • IIT IRB Approval

• Development Team
  • Needed to get permission for the RSS Feeds
  • Development of copyright and privacy policies
Our Product: the Alpha Site

- Incorporated features requested by teachers
  - Public section
  - Inclusion of CNN and NY Times news articles
  - Professional profiles
  - Discussion forums sorted by grade
  - Ability to post and view lesson plans
  - Tagging system makes searching easier
  - Live chat along side for quick responses
Teacher Knowledge Share is a website dedicated to increasing communication and the flow of resources between teachers of all grades and all subjects. The site focuses on providing teachers with the ability to post, share, review and trade lesson plans; have ongoing communication with coworkers about important issues — whether they are from the same school, same school district or miles away; and manage their time by using the calendar to find out about workshops, conferences and other relevant events to attend.

The project began in the Fall of 2008 at the Illinois Institute of Technology. The group consisted of eleven students with a large variety of majors. After speaking with over one hundred teachers from various areas around Chicago, a set of features for the site was developed and implemented. The site is open to all teachers to come and share their ideas, lessons and questions with the rest of the teaching community.
## Forums

Post new Forum topic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forum</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Posts</th>
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Lesson Plans

My Lesson Plans | Create Lesson Plan

All Lesson Plans:

Elements, Atoms, and the Periodic Table posted by inter on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 13:21
Mitosis: Chromosome Replication & Division posted by inter on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 13:12
The Properties of Water posted by inter on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 13:11
Constitution Review posted by love2teach on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 02:57
Multiplication Bingo posted by apierce on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 01:25
Lady bug math posted by apierce on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 01:17
Subtraction game posted by apierce on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 01:15
Salute posted by apierce on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 01:14
Calculus Integration Theory posted by love2teach on Mon, 11/10/2008 - 22:15
TESSELLATIONS: An Application Of Simple Regular Polygons by Mary Racky - Kenwood posted by mgrilley on Mon, 11/10/2008 - 19:49
Use A Chair To Teach Math by Laura B. Reed - Rosa L. Parks posted by mgrilley on Mon, 11/10/2008 - 19:48
An Introduction to Pi and the Area of a Circle by Edwina R. Justice - Gunsaulus Scholastic Academy posted by mgrilley on Mon, 11/10/2008 - 19:47
The Pythagorean Puzzle by Earl Zwicker - Illinois Institute of Technology -
### CNN: Latest
- Gunmen attack targets in Indian city
- Police say teacher hit boy over a broken crayon
- 18 teams confirmed for 2009 ProTour series
- Board rules against Franken in Minnesota Senate recount
- Iraqi woman puts troubles aside to enjoy first taste of Thanksgiving

### New York Times
- Thai Army Chief Advises Prime Minister to Quit
- City Room: Strike Threat at Gray Line
- Motherlode: Holiday Table, Full of Stories
- Iraq Delays Vote on Security Pact
- Fresh Signs of October's Slowdown

### Calendar
#### Create new event
- Year
- Month
- Week
- Day

December

#### Create new event

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## All Posts

**david**: Hey, anyone have a few tips for teaching 4th graders fractions?

**apierce**: I am having trouble with the children shouting out in class instead of raising their hands. Does anyone have a solution?

**mgrilley**: I have found that separating kids who are unruly without upsetting them is often the best way to deal with that.

**hartline**: In my classroom, I give students on their best behavior small treats in the form of points that they can use to earn snacks and pencils from my stash. The misbehaving children quickly realize that good behavior is worth something to them.

**mgrilley**: I really like the idea of pencils, kids seem to love the fun colors, and characters like Batman are a huge hit with the boys.

**bochantin**: That sounds great! By the way, has anyone heard about the group out there, How Many Earths?

**mgrilley**: the ecological footprint group? Yea, I had them in to talk to my kids, they were amazing!!!

**mgrilley**: Yea I read your post on the forum, I am pretty excited myself!

**bochantin**: yea I am thinking of having them in after reading the forum on it.

**apierce**: Thank you for your input. I bought some goodies so I hope that works.

**apierce**: does anyone use the gold star technique anymore?

**quinn**: Yeah, but typically just for the young students (K-2).

**inter**: I am having trouble teaching my twelfth graders calculus. Does anybody have any ideas?
Accomplishments

• Rebuilt the website from scratch, basing the functionality on results from our research
• Created a multimedia tutorial and survey instrument
• Completed significant market research
  • Two focus groups
  • 1200 survey invitations
• Made available multiple data sets for future teams to reference
Next Semester

• Focus on marketing the site to teachers and gaining a large user base
• Add more lesson plans to the database to make it more useful to initial users
• Include expert opinions for teachers to reference on the site
• Further develop multiple sections
  • Guidance Counselors
  • Administrators
Acknowledgements

• Our advisors, James Braband and Dr. Scott Gehrs
• Eric Williams of Chicago Public Schools
• All past and present members of IPRO 320
• Queen of Peace High School
• Deerfield High School
• Retired Teachers Association of Chicago
• Our guests today!
Questions?