

## Important Dates for Winter Quarter 2011!

- **Monday January 3, 2011** Winter Quarter Begins
- **Sunday January 9, 2011** Last day to add classes to Winter Quarter schedule
- **Sunday January 16, 2011** Last day to drop classes with no penalty
- **Monday January 17, 2011** Grades of "W" assigned for classes dropped on or after this day
- **Friday February 18, 2011** Last day to withdraw from Winter classes
- **Friday March 18, 2011** End of Winter Quarter

## New Online Faculty Teaching in Winter

**Kenya Grooms** received a B.S. in Child Development from Northern Illinois University and an M.A. in Psychology from National-Louis University. She received her doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology from the Adler School of Professional Psychology. She completed her clinical internship at Will County Health Department, Child and Adolescent Behavioral Services and has worked in community mental health and faith based settings. She also teaches graduate level clinical psychology courses.

**Clifton McReynolds** obtained a Bachelor of Music Education from Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, TN and a Master's of Music from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He has taught music and mathematics at private and public schools in Tennessee, Illinois, and the United Kingdom.

**Rev. Charles F. Shelby**, C.M., is a Vice Chancellor at DePaul University. His duties are university-wide and include promoting the Vincentian and Catholic mission of the university, public relations, alumni relations, fund-raising, and correspondence. He is a priest of the Congregation of the Mission of Saint Vincent de Paul, the Vincentians, who sponsor DePaul University. He has a Master of Divinity from DeAndreis Seminary in Lemont, Illinois, and a Master of Science in Physics from DePaul University.



## Desire2Learn Debuts

DePaul is moving to a new Learning Management System called Desire2Learn (D2L) in winter of 2011. Blackboard will no longer be available for new courses, although old courses will be available to finish any incomplete work.

D2L is available at: <https://D2L.depaul.edu>; use your Campus Connection credentials to log in.

### New Tools in D2L:

#### On your DePaul Home Page:

- Create your Profile, add your picture
- Set a "signature file" for your email in *Preferences*
- Access your locker
- Access DePaul University resources such as the library and writing center, university policies and academic calendar, disability services, DePaul Central, and many more
- Access your calendar with course deadlines

#### On your Course Home Page:

- Find *Events* and your *Calendar* to show upcoming assignments and deadlines.
- Monitor class activity through *Updates*.
- Read *News* items from your instructor.
- Find SNL-specific student resources such as D2L training materials, tutorials and links to buy books, technical requirements, writing help, and more.
- View the course content.
- Find and use *Checklists* to guide and

monitor your progress through the course.

- Use the *Classlist* to see your classmates and instructor, view their personal profiles, email them, and check your course progress.
- Use the synchronous *Chat* tool to communicate in real time with your classmates and instructor.
- View your grades and faculty feedback

### D2L URLs:

- D2L homepage: <https://d2l.depaul.edu/>  
*Use your Campus Connection credentials*
- D2L information and links: [http://www.snlonline.depaul.edu/StudentResources/D2L\\_Resources/index.asp](http://www.snlonline.depaul.edu/StudentResources/D2L_Resources/index.asp)
- How to use D2L: <http://www.itd.depaul.edu/website/students/trainingmaterials.asp>
- D2L online video training: <http://www.itd.depaul.edu/website/students/online-training.asp>

*More resources are being developed every week!*

# D2L User Tips

The D2L system has been pilot-tested by SNL Online students and faculty, who found it easier to use than Blackboard. However, it takes some getting used to. Here are some tips:

## Remember there are two home pages

- An all-DePaul home page where you can find all your courses and create your personal profile and signature file.
- A *Course Home* page, where you find news items from your instructor, student resources, calendar, updates, and other resources.

## Click Content to start

Click the button on the top navigation bar marked *Content* and work your way down, one element at a time. All elements you'll need in every module—assignments, discussions, etc.—are linked into a table on the main page of each module.

## Learn How to Navigate

Navigate using the table of contents, the module links, the checklists (where you will find due dates), or the arrows in the upper right of the pages.

## Know Your Way Home

If you get lost, click *Course Home* in the upper left.

## Use the Resources

Use the many links in the *Student Resources* box on the *Course Home* page to buy books, access training material, and get help for many tasks.

## Et cetera

D2L has many new features, including pictures in the discussion so you can see your classmates, automated emails so you know when work has been graded, a live chat tool, an improved gradebook for faculty, and customizable learning. If your course has different assignments for different competencies, you will only be able to access the ones you have enrolled in.

You should have access to your winter SNL course by December 16, 2010, so you can look around, buy your books, and get used to D2L. If you have technical problems, contact the DePaul Technical Support Center at 312-362-8765. If course links do not work, contact your faculty and [snlonline@depaul.edu](mailto:snlonline@depaul.edu).

## Student D2L Preferences

SNL Online conducted three sets of user tests of Desire2Learn with students and faculty. Here are some of our findings:

- Students prefer the grid to embedded assignment links\*
- Students prefer “All” and competence specific grid design\*
- Students prefer the grid at the top of the module content page\*
- Students like the online checklist tool\*
- Students like specific due dates as part of the checklist\*
- Students like introductory podcasts by the course authors\*\*
- Students prefer module specific checklists\*
- Students would like a send-to-calendar button in the checklist

\*Implemented in this release \*\*In some courses



# SNL Faculty Accomplishments

**Vera Dolan** co-authored a book chapter in Sage's *Adjunct Faculty Handbook, Second Edition*. (See <http://tinyurl.com/23vhy5q>). Her co-authors are Dr. Terry D. Anderson (Athabasca University) and Dr. Bryan A. Booth (U of Maryland University College). The chapter is called *Future Trends: Network Technologies and Adjunct Faculty*.

**Morry Fiddler** wrote a piece for the CAEL Forum and News November 2009 called *Education-at-a-Distance: Bringing a new manifesto closer to home*. It was a tribute to the former dean of SNL, David Justice, and looked at the idea that the future of distance education was not in the form of courses and under the control of institutions. Beth Rubin contributed commentary along with a few others.

**David Simpson** recently finished an article on the French novelist, essayist, and playwright Albert Camus. *Camus, Plague Literature, and the Apocalyptic Tradition* is a study of Camus' novel *The Plague* and his play *The State of Siege* and will be published later this year as part of a collection of articles honoring Camus, fifty years after his death in an automobile accident in 1960.

**Shannon Downey** is highlighted in an article in Chicago Business, powered by Crain's, regarding her, her business, and her focus. See <http://tinyurl.com/27m6yhk>

**Ruth Gannon Cook** recently published and released the book *What Motivates Faculty to Teach In Distance Education?: A Case Study and Meta-literature Review* by the University Press of America.

## Connect with SNL Resident Faculty Ann Stanford



Ann Stanford

*Tell us about your educational background and where you worked before SNL.*

I was an adult student when I returned to complete my BA degree at 30. I went to Hollins College in Virginia, where I was living at the time. I worked full time at the college, which offset my tuition expenses, and went to classes during my lunch hour. I also took independent studies when I could. My professors were so encourag-

ing and I decided to keep going for a master's and PhD in English, which I did at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Years later, I decided to pursue a Master's in Fine Arts, specializing in poetry, and completed that in 2007. It was a gift to myself.

*Besides your work, what are your other interests?*

I love writing with people who ordinarily don't have what we might call legitimized voices in our society, particularly imprisoned persons. I just joined the board of the Neighborhood Writing Alliance, which has free writing workshops throughout Chicago with the intention of bringing traditionally marginalized voices to the forefront through writing and publication of a quarterly journal aptly titled *The Journal of Ordinary Thought*.

Speaking of writing, although I'm trained as a poet, I've been writing a novel and having a great time with that project. It's challenging in very different ways than writing poetry, so I'm exercising different skills.

*What classes do you teach with SNL Online?*

I designed and teach *Talking Back to Medicine: Writers and the Politics of Health*.

*What are some of your research interests?*

I've had several foci in my research over the years: African-American writers, particularly women; literature and medicine; and literature and incarceration. My book, *Bodies in a Broken World: Women Novelists and the Politics of Medicine* was published in 2003 and I draw from it in the *Talking Back to Medicine* course. Lately, I've been focusing on creative writing, although I'm doing some research for a presentation I'm giving on the One Book/One Chicago Fall 2010 selection, Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*. It's fun to be doing literary analysis again.

*What do you like most about working at DePaul and SNL?*

DePaul is a large place with a wide range of students, faculty, staff, and programs. It is rich in resources and encourages new ideas and initiatives. And while we still have a ways to go, it is a place that takes social justice seriously. All of this goes for SNL too; diverse and engaging students, great colleagues among the staff and faculty, and a place where thinking and new ideas are encouraged.

*What advice would you give to current students taking online classes?*

Two words: pace yourselves!

## Gabriele Strohschen invited to Afghanistan

Gabriele Strohschen was invited by the UNESCO to conduct research on current literacy practices in Afghanistan with the goal of improving the quality of the UNESCO-led literacy initiative. In collaboration with her research partner, Dr. Elazier, she prepared a preliminary framework for assessing and evaluating the current literacy program coordinated by UNESCO in Afghanistan that focused on curriculum, materials, and teacher training improvements. They conducted field visits, interviews, conversations, and class observations in Kabul and remote villages of Bamyán province. With input from representatives of the Ministry of Education; NGO staffers; members of the Afghan National Police; USAID personnel; the Cetena Group; Helvetas; USAID, and NATO personnel they crafted recommendations.



Dr. Strohschen (rear, second from left) with members of the Women's Literacy Cooperative Craft Store, Kabul