

## **Project Year**

2010-2011

## **Project Title**

Raise Your Hand

## **Project Team**

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## **Audience**

Students in the Introductory Biology course

## **Pedagogical Issue**

The pedagogical issue that will be explored through the Technology Fellowship is how the students learn in the classroom, especially those too shy to ask questions during a lecture. Currently, there is little time after the presentation of class materials for questions or discussion, yet students need an easily accessible place where they can post questions and have them answered by peers or the instructor.

## **Solution**

By creating a Blackboard extension using the Building Blocks tools for a blog-twitter-forum hybrid system, students will have the advantage of immediately asking questions that may arise during lecture; the instructor and other students can reply either immediately or after class. A system of approved answers and ranking for the questions will be implemented to ensure the professor addresses questions that are asked by more than one student.

## **Technologies Used**

Blackboard, Flash Animation, C++, HTML, JAVA, Graphic/Information Design, Javascript

## **Project Abstract**

The issues that will be addressed by the Technology Fellowship are how students understand what is taught to them in the classroom, and how questions that arise during formal class presentations can be answered. By creating a Blackboard extension using the Building Blocks tools for a blog-twitter-forum hybrid system, students will have the advantage of immediately asking questions that may arise during lecture; the professor and other students can reply either immediately or after class. A system of approved answers and ranking for the questions will also be implemented to ensure the professor first addresses the questions many students have. This adds a discussion approach to lectures, which is helpful for many students by allowing them to be more involved and thus better understand the concepts being taught. It may be particularly helpful for students who do not feel brave enough to risk asking a question during class to be able to have an easy means of communication with their peers and professor to get the answers they need. This has the potential to reform the current education model,

where students simply listen to the instructor, to one that better fits the needs of the today's student by allow them to interact with others about the subject material. This is especially important in large lecture courses.