Class Using Blogs To Teach Online

ANT347 Blog May Set Trend

By Sameer Vasta

Metropolis, a course offered through the Department of Anthropology this semester addresses the challenge of studying the global city through a critical and theoretical perspective, has brought a new dimension to online learning: the class has a blog.

Blogs as they are commonly known, are a growing phenomenon online, with Technorati reporting that 75,000 new blogs are created every day. Blogs are often considered as citizen media, differentiated from traditional media because of their fluidity, immediacy, and the ability to create and sustain discussion. The Metropolis blog provides a forum for the students and staff to engage in dialogue with the course readings and supplement theory with practical links from around the World Wide Web.

Dr. Joshua Barker, an anthropologist who has done significant research in the field of new media and emerging technologies and is the professor for Metropolis, uses the course blog to link to other blogs and news sources online, bringing contemporary relevancy to the issues surrounding global cities discussed in class. With the blog looking like a success already in its early stages, it is quite possible that other University of Toronto professors may look into using this rapidly growing forum for expression and discussion in order to complement their own classes.

The Blog can be found at metropolis347.blogspot.com.

Team U of T Competing At Olympics

Students In Torino

By Joe Zabukovec

With the Olympics underway in Torino, U of T can take pride in two of their fellow academics wearing red and white and bearing the Canadian flag. 23 year-old Jeffrey Buttle and 28 year-old Heather Moyse have both battled their way to the 2006 Winter Olympics despite their heavy academic workloads.

Buttle, the 2005 silver world medalist in men’s figure-skating, has had to divide his time between commuting to Barrie to train and back to Toronto where he is immersed in a realm of mathematics and science dictated by his program – chemical engineering. However, he decided to put his degree on hold while he set his gaze upon Torino. The arduous commute became too much and he decided that if he was to achieve the utmost success, then it was time for him to place his calculator aside and train as a professional athlete.

Moyse, a brakeman for Canada’s women’s bobsled team, is having an incredible season already. In Calgary at the World Cup, she walked away with bronze making that the first bronze ever won by Canadians during an international competition for the sport. And just last week after two consecutive silver medals, the girls pocketed a gold medal at St. Moritz, Switzerland, paving their way to future success in Torino. Moyse’s academic portfolio is on par with her athletic one. She is currently taking a year’s leave from her master’s in occupational therapy at U of T and has an undergraduate degree in

Poetry Slam Is A Reading Week Treat

By Sameer Vasta

There are those of you who, like me, will be stuck in Toronto for Reading Week, actually attempting to do some reading instead of gallivanting around Cancun or Punta Cana. It’s not all bad though: there’s always something exciting going on in the city, and this Reading Week, that something exciting is the Toronto Poetry Slam.

Slam poetry is very much a spectator sport: the audience has a large part to play in the proceedings, and the Toronto Poetry Slam attracts not only some of the best spoken word poets in the city, but quite a fun audience as well. I had the opportunity to sit down with Dave Silverberg, founder of Toronto Poetry Slam and ask him a few questions:

What is a poetry slam?
A poetry slam is the competitive art of performance poetry. Poets take the stage, deliver original pieces, and judges from the audience rate them

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