Our Google Apps - Making Them Effective Tools in Your Teaching

A workshop on using the collaborative nature of the Google App toolkit with Google Docs, vSpreadsheets and Presentations.

NCSU uses the Google suite of tools across the university. It makes sense to learn to incorporate the tools into teaching both for personal use in preparing classwork and for presenting and archiving for the students. All of the email address on campus are provided and maintained as through Google's application Gmail.

The presenters went over the very basics of Google Apps including opening attachments, email, searching, sorting, and incorporating new directions for collaborating and sharing information. We quickly set up a Google Sites and created own websites using preset parameters for a restaurant and menu. Participants choose clip art and photos from google images and we discussed copyright use for education. Security issues were explained and practiced.

The most important elements of the workshop, for me, were the ideas for working with students on projects using the cloud-based applications. The ability to share calendars and schedules, word on group documents, and know which student is doing what work and when. The ability to note when and for how long each student is online and their degree of participate is invaluable. No more “three of four” doing a group project. This will lead to each student’s grade reflecting the amount of work they actually put into a project.

The workshop was fast-paced and very informative. There were four or five people circulating around the room to help anyone when they ‘crashed’ or were confused. I like the classes DELTA teaches. They are clear and well organized and the titles always reflect the nature of the workshop.