Title of Session: Preservice Teachers

Moderator: Jan Naher-Snowden and Marianne Handler

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MarianneH: Welcome and I think you will be learning a lot here. I will guess that your

teacher asked you to come to a group. Am I right, Erica, Jennifer and Melanie?

JenniferKe: yes MelanieMM: yes EricaM: yes

MarianneH: All of us like to hear how preservice candidates are using technology so why don't one of you start us out tonight?

Jan_NS: We usually start with introductions. I am Jan Naher-Snowden, part-time faculty at Univ. of Akron, (OH), teaching technology integration and science methods. Han

Jan NS: Hang on Marianne.

Jan_NS: please?! MarianneH: sure

MarianneH: forgot, sorry, Jan. go to it

Jan_NS: I'm done, Next?....

KyteriaR: my name is Katrina, I am a preservice teacher at the university of Houston

MelanieMM: Melanie Miller, University of Houston, Math 4-8 **EricaM**: I am a pre service teacher at the University of Houston

MichelleZ: My name is Michelle, I'm a preservice teacher from Univ. of Houston.

CherylDW: I am a Speech-Language Pathologist working with second and third graders. **JenniferKe**: Hi, my name is Jennifer, I am a pre-service teacher at University of Houston

Jan NS: Just curious, are all of you in the same class at the same time?

FranciscaE: I am a pre-service teacher in Houston, Texas currently working at an elementary with first grade bilingual students

MichelleZ: our computer class is over the internet.

KyteriaR: no we are all over the place

Jan_NS: ah, got it!

MelanieMM: same course I think, but it's an online kind of thing

EricaM: yes

MarianneH: And who has Dr. Pierson for a teacher?

Jan NS: Interesting.

KyteriaR: I had her last semester for cuin 3112

JenniferKe: I have Dr Pierson earlier in my schooling, right now I have Ms. Thompson

MelanieMM: same here

MichelleZ: I think Thompson is doing the PUMA classes.

FranciscaE: same here

KyteriaR: I have her now for cuin 3113

KyteriaR: I guess a lot of us are PUMAS...how neat

MarianneH: Krista, you tell her Dr. Handler says hi and that will really surprise her!!

MarianneH: I am Marianne Handler from National-Louis University and I teach teachers about technology use in schools.

MarianneH: Jan, Do you know what PUMAS is? We just might have to ask, eh?

Jan NS: No, not me!

MelanieMM: it's an acronym, sorry I can't spell it

KyteriaR: Puma means pedagogy for urban multicultural action

JenniferKe: UH has a semester before student teaching for students get out in the

classrooms and observe

MelanieMM: it's our professional development courses

MelanieMM: yeah, what Kyteria said

Jan NS giggles.

MarianneH: Like clinical field experiences before student teaching but in combination

with methods courses?

MichelleZ: yes EricaM: yes

JenniferKe: exactly

MarianneH: So where does the technology fit in?

FranciscaE joined the room.

MichelleZ: The title is pedagogy for Urban Multicultural Action

MelanieMM: it's one of our courses

MichelleZ: Technology is one of the methods courses. **JenniferKe**: we have a one hour course for 3 semesters

Jan_NS: Is there a webpage that details PUMA?

MichelleZ: Yes.

KyteriaR: yes, in each technology class at uh, we do a lot

SuzanneC: Yes we do A LOT of technology.

MelanieMM: a lot!

Jan_NS: What do you cover in those techn. classes? Specifically - i.e. software, integration strategies, etc.

AlitaF joined the room.

Jan_NS: Hi, Alita

MichelleZ: We cover implementing technology in the classrooms, as well as software and equipment.

Jan NS: Or is there a syllabus that someone could send me.

JenniferKe: integrating technology into all curriculum, how to use different applications such as front page, powerpoint, word, excel

MelanieMM: go to www.coe.uh.edu/courses/cuin3113

MichelleZ: www.coe.uh.edu/puma

SuzanneC: I have compared it with the other education programs and we do more than they do

KyteriaR: everything, microsoft word, excel, powerpoint, frontpage, creating technology lessons, and games using powerpoint, inspiration and much much more

Jan_NS: Webquests? Web-Inquiry projects? Primary source documents available on the web.

MelanieMM: well the cuin is our course in particular **JenniferKe**: we did webquests in our second semester

MelanieMM: EVERYTHING

Jan NS: Thanks everyone. I will check it all out.

Jan NS: Sure sounds like it!

Jan_NS: Now the big questions - what do you see the school teachers doing with technology in the schools were you are doing clinicals or field experiences.

JenniferKe: not a lot

MichelleZ: not much, they however do stream videos into the classroom.

SuzanneC: We are currently in schools now

MelanieMM: I haven't really seen too much to be honest **MarianneH**: Does Dr. McNeil teach the tech course?

FranciscaE: technology is not use much in the classroom I am

MichelleZ: The students also have technology classes once or twice a week. It's considered a specials class.

CherylDW: It is used by many teachers in my school

SuzanneC: I have been lucky because my school has recently competed in a district wide technology fair

MarianneH: Suzanne, do you mean the school where you are observing and working?

Jan NS: What happened in the technology fair?

ElaineR joined the room.

SuzanneC: But I know that's not the norm

KyteriaR: I see teachers using powerpoint, using the internet to support lessons. I am in a school district that is technology rich. The students have access to wireless laptops and alpha smarts

MarianneH: Were there student projects in the fair?

ElaineR: is this the presevice teachers room?

Jan NS: Yes, Elaine.

MarianneH: yes, Elaine, welcome

ElaineR: thank goodness. I have been so lost. I apologize for being tardy

SuzanneC: It was pretty awesome because the early elementary grades were using Power Point and such like pros

CheryIDW: We have an excellent technology department that offers inservices to teachers

MarianneH: Kris, do UH students have to have laptops?

FranciscaE: no

SuzanneC: And this is a lower income school district

KyteriaR: Suzanne what district are you in

JenniferKe: that's awesome Suzanne

SuzanneC: Galena Park ISD

MarianneH: It is great that you see so much in schools. Do your UH teachers use

technology in your courses other then your computer classes?

SuzanneC: I know because the norm is AR tests, right?

MichelleZ: Yes.

Jan_NS: Interesting - sometimes the more needy school districts have the best technology and the highest level of professional development for its teachers.

JenniferKe: no

ElaineR: I am a UH student and we have to integrate technology into almost all of our courses

SuzanneC: I have been impressed by what they can do

SusanR joined the room.

MichelleZ: They have a smart cart that they can check out. We were also required to incorporate technology in all of our course work.

KyteriaR: that's certainly true the school I am at is a lower income school. They have SO much technology.

ElaineR: sometimes it is difficult because we enter a classroom that may or may not have used technology in the past

MarianneH: You guys are going to come out and really be ready to make a difference. Sounds like you are in the right place to make things happen.

Jan_NS: But what about the professors in your courses at the university? Are they integrating technology into the courses in a meaningful way?

SuzanneC: But we saw one school that had this huge network satellite hook up and they couldn't use it

MelanieMM: most

MichelleZ: Quite a few of mine were.

CherylDW: All of the teachers in my school have at least 3 computers

JenniferKe: I do not see much technology used by professors

SuzanneC: No, not really

FranciscaE: I only have seen power point presentations

MichelleZ: We had online discussions in our classes, slideshows to help with comprehension and videos.

Jan NS: humm!

MarianneH: Do your UH teachers assign you to integrate into your lessons or do they model for you by using it is some ways themselves -- like putting syllabi on the web, **ElaineR**: Yes Jennifer, I do not see my professors using technology to teach me in the

way that they are asking me to use it in teaching my students

MarianneH: or creating URL resource lists for you.

Jan_NS: Thank you Elaine, that is what I was wondering.

ElaineR: they just tell us to use it in our lessons. I had not thought about their lack of modeling

KyteriaR: I have not seen my professors using it either. Nothing but videos

JenniferKe: We are usually required to integrate technology into most lessons

JenniferKe: Some professors have syllabi on their websites

MelanieMM: I'm with Jenn

MichelleZ: I guess I have been lucky. I have received resource lists, great websites for classroom lessons and ideas, as well as the classrooms online.

MarianneH: no online resources? no word processed rubrics??? think about how they are using it for you? Can you come up some things.

KyteriaR: yes they all have that

Jan_NS: That has been my sense of it. The expectation for you is there but the profs seem to be reluctant to take the same steps.

KyteriaR: yes that's true

JenniferKe: I see what you mean Marianne

JenniferKe: we do get syllabi on Word

MichelleZ: Several of the classes we have taken have been offered over the Internet. **ElaineR**: I agree Jan, in some respects. However, I am glad that we do not have to do much more online, it is overwhelming as it is. I do think that our teachers could be much better models though

MarianneH: hmmm... but they use the tools and plan for ways to make it meaningful for you to use it, right?

SuzanneC: Yes, that's true!

SuzanneC: Oh, I was agreeing with Jenn

SuzanneC: I think some are too set in their ways

MelanieMM: old habits are hard to break

KyteriaR: also our teachers make us go to this website called e classrooms to do

classwork

MelanieMM: it's about transition

MarianneH: Remember you are natives (you didn't do all this without technology) and they are immigrants (have to learn to do this a new way) AND that is NOT an original idea I heard it elsewhere.

SuzanneC: I've heard that also

MarianneH: Good, Melanie.. great way to say it.

KyteriaR: yes technology is new for a lot of teachers

Jan_NS: Perhaps thinking about the differences between personal productivity use of technology and the use of technology to enhance the concepts being covered could be a good way to describe our use.

ElaineR: However, I have had several professors give me wonderful suggestions as to how I could implement technology in my lessons. It seems to be a HUGE priority across the board

MelanieMM: agreed

SuzanneC: But, I'm a nontraditional student so if I can anyone can!

JenniferKe: good point Jan

Jan_NS: Yes, that is true, Elaine. NCLB has a priority for integrating technology into the schools, as does NCATE for colleges of education.

KyteriaR: yes integrating technology into lessons is good. However we want to fit it into the lesson if and only if it could be used effectively. Not all lessons have to have technology.

MarianneH: Suzanne... that covers a wide range... Can you give us an idea of what you mean by nontraditional?

SuzanneC: I'm an "older" student

ElaineR: I think my biggest concern is that as new teachers we are being taught to implement all of this technology, but we end up working with students who have little or no knowledge because they come from classrooms that did not give it much focus

JenniferKe: Kyteria I agree with that

MarianneH: Right, Kris...

MarianneH: thanks... I learned technology as you did.

Jan_NS: Very true - a hard reality. MelanieMM: with you Elaine

JenniferKe: I have seen that also Elaine

FranciscaE: true, Elaine

ElaineR: So we have to start from scratch in whatever grade level we teach.

SuzanneC: True EricaM: I agree

MarianneH: Do many of the schools you go to allow students to create projects and put them on the web?

FranciscaE: I notice it today, a first grade students was have a hard time typing her name **MichelleZ**: Not that I have seen.

ElaineR: Some children work with computers at home, and some do not. Some have had teachers that taught them technology skills and some do not. It is extremely hard to work on a level playing field

MelanieMM: haven't seen any

JenniferKe: Students create projects but they are only in the hallways

KyteriaR: I do not know if my school does that

SuzanneC: I agree Elaine

ElaineR: It is no like other curriculum areas that are taught consistently across the grades.

FranciscaE: yes, students only create projects and are on the hallways

MarianneH: There isn't a level playing field in a lot of areas... it shows very quickly with technology tools... That's what they mean by "meeting the needs of all students"

KyteriaR: I only saw students work on fancy bulletin boards in the hall ways

AlitaF: I do not know if my school does that but they are required to take a computer class

SuzanneC: I'm not sure if our kids publish their work **MarianneH**: Do you all have electronic portfolios?

ElaineR: All of our teacher's web sites are created by the school technology person and there is no student product displayed on them

MichelleZ: Yes JenniferKe: yes

MelanieMM: I'm sure the opportunity is there, but few take advantage of it

KyteriaR: yes I have an electronic portfolio

Jan NS: Elaine, is that because of parental permission issues?

ElaineR: All of our teachers have websites, but none of them know how to make them themselves

ElaineR: No, it is because one person is in charge of the whole school.

SuzanneC: Yes, I have an electronic portfolio

MelanieMM: that puts them in the same category of the students, square one

Jan NS: Interesting.

ElaineR: I think that the parents as well as the teachers would like to see student products displayed, but the question remains, who publishes them?

JenniferKe: Most of the teachers I talk to say they don't have time for technology

MarianneH: Interesting comparison, Melanie

ElaineR: Exactly

MarianneH: Ah but is that a reason or an avoidance technique?

JenniferKe: exactly

Jan_NS: So teachers are not given the opportunity to create and maintain their own webpages?

FranciscaE: some teachers say it will take time of the instruction

MelanieMM: some just can't do it anyways

KyteriaR: yes teachers in my district are so focused on getting language arts, guided reading and math done, until they don't have time for technology

ElaineR: So that leads me to this question. If teachers are not interested and enthusiastic about learning to use technology, how can they possible expect their students to be?

MarianneH: Jan, do you think cooperating teachers have any idea how they are viewed by these candidates?

SuzanneC: they see it as a "fluff" subject that doesn't need to be covered

MarianneH: in terms of technology?

JenniferKe: I have been told I will never have time to do these projects once I start teaching

KyteriaR: yes that's true. If you are not excited about technology, you can't expect your students to be either.

Jan NS: Probably not.

ElaineR: I am not sure if they are not given the opportunity, but I think they are not urged to take the opportunity.

MelanieMM: I think I understand the plight of the teacher, though

MarianneH: Don't let them convince you of that Jennifer. Have you ever read or heard the term 'change agent' in your studies?

JenniferKe: no

MarianneH: Well, we can have a whole discussion on that one...

KyteriaR: yes, they told us that all the things we are learning in school, we probably will never be able to do once we start teaching

ElaineR: I have already started my teacher site and I think that it will be an excellent source of communication, display, and interaction with my students

MarianneH: but it means someone who does things that causes other changes as well.

Jan NS: Good for you, Elaine.

MarianneH: right on!

JenniferKe: I see, well I want to hold on to what I have learned and realize not everything will be able to be done

MelanieMM: true

JenniferKe: But I am going to try to incorporate everything I can

KyteriaR: yes, I think that all it takes is one person to make a difference and change the schools view of technology,

Jan NS: Perhaps, working gradually to incorporate the technology.

MarianneH: There are places on the web that allow teachers to create web sites very easily and put them up for them... it is a good place to start and as you learn about them you can show them to teachers in the schools

ElaineR: I like your look at reality Jennifer. We are not super heroes, but if we are motivated and interested, we will certainly give it our best effort

MelanieMM: here, here

FranciscaE: I agree with you Elaine

JenniferKe: thank you Elaine

Jan_NS: The whole thing of integrating technology into the curriculum in a meaningful is just one tip of the educational reform iceberg

ElaineR: Technology seems to change hourly and it will be a lifelong effort to keep up on the latest and greatest skills

Jan_NS: meaningful way, i.e.

KyteriaR: true

MarianneH: Is there anything special you guys would like us to discuss with you that you have questions about with technology integration?

SuzanneC: Yes, true

MarianneH: Elaine... that is what makes it wonderful!!

ElaineR: How can we go about being properly trained on Mac's?

JenniferKe: great question!

MarianneH: Come to my house... just kidding MelanieMM: haven't used a Mac in years

ElaineR: My school is primarily Mac's and I have never received any training on them

JenniferKe: same here KyteriaR: me either

MarianneH: Elaine, there must be an Apple Store in Houston you can visit.

Jan NS: We require our students to use Macs for their tech classes.

ElaineR: I can do just about anything on my laptop or PC, but I can't integrate

technology that I don't even know how to manipulate

Jan_NS: I hear lots of moaning and groaning. ElaineR: does the Apple store provide training?

MichelleZ: I think U of H had one Mac and that was for creating your account with the technology department.

SuzanneC: We have some Mac's at U of H that we played with but nothing serious **JenniferKe**: that has been nice because the students have shown me how to use a mac

time to time

MarianneH: We do too because we want them to be prepared for both platforms and the mac works so well with digital tools because of the iLife.

Jan_NS: The leap is not that far, everyone.

MelanieMM: old dog=new tricks

SuzanneC: right!

MarianneH: If you have them at the college go to http://atomiclearning.com and you will see there are free tutorials that are short, quicktime movies and you go right along with them

MichelleZ: The biggest problem I have with Mac is when I go to minimize a window I end up closing it.

MarianneH: You will really have a good time.

ElaineR: I know there is not that big of a difference, but as a teacher, I have to be not only knowledgeable, but comfortable also

JenniferKe: they remind me of cars here and in England, operations are kinda opposite

MarianneH: I find the mac more user-friendly once you start.

Jan NS: Very true. Using both on a regular basis makes you more comfortable.

MichelleZ: That's so true Jennifer.

MarianneH: Well, Jennifer, can you think of any other place where you have to click on START so you can quit? <gri>>

MelanieMM: practice makes perfect, so they say

Jan_NS: But the basics are similar - things are just in different places.

MarianneH: When we are through go to atomiclearning.com and you will like what you can see. they take each step in a very bite size piece you can understand. We have it for all our education students.

ElaineR: Also, when you are working with children at such varied abilities and interests in technology, where do you begin instruction? How can you facilitate effective instruction that does not leave one child behind and bore another?

JenniferKe: thank you for the resource

Jan_NS: That is where the other aspects of educational reform comes in, Elaine.

MarianneH: Oh,

ElaineR: I considered having student tutors along with group projects, but how do you get that going when you are so limited with time and resources

MarianneH: Elaine, you do ask the right and hard question.

KyteriaR: yes peer tutors can be a problem when the projects the students are doing is time consuming to begin with

MarianneH: Have you ever heard of/used the jigsaw method of grouping?

ElaineR: I have watched the media ancillary at my school, and I see children doing work on projects, but in all reality, they are lost.

Jan_NS: Project based learning, cooperative groups, authentic assessment. primary source documents

KyteriaR: yes the jigsaw method of grouping is a good idea.

ElaineR: They are told to do assignments, but they don't have any genuine understanding of the way things work. They seem to just be fiddling around.

Jan_NS: but if these students had these experiences beginning at a very young age, then the whole process would be "the way it is" and getting lost would not be the issue.

MarianneH: Then each group learns a specific skill and goes back to their own group and becomes the mentor for that particular tool or whatever.

ElaineR: I tell you what, there is nothing about fiddling around in the 3rd grade TEKS. They are explosive!

Jan NS: TEKS?

MarianneH: Didn't they just change the TEKS and give them a new name? or is that the new name?

KyteriaR: yes if the students are able to learn that way then it could work well.

MichelleZ: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

ElaineR: Yes Jan, and that brings me back to the frustration I feel when I work with children that come from a classroom that did not value technology.

SuzanneC: No, that's the TAKS that they changed

MarianneH: Those are the Texas standards and indicators.

FranciscaE: TEKS are the state objective

MichelleZ: The TAKS is the testing... or assessment of the state objectives.

MarianneH: What is the difference, please? I thought I had it down.

Jan_NS: thank you MarianneH: OH

MichelleZ: I think it used to be TAAS testing.

ElaineR: I think something has to be done at a School level that will ensure that technology is being taught throughout the grades

MarianneH: Taught or implemented as needed... That is what the NETS-s was supposed to do....

Jan_NS: I agree, Elaine. And now we are right back to all of us being "change agents" MichelleZ: In the implementation of the lessons we have created we haven't had a problem with the students not knowing how to use the computers, rather, with our disks not working in the computers.

ElaineR: Technology is not tested, and therefore, not monitored. Teachers have to be accountable

MarianneH: the provide a framework of competencies for different grade levels and expectations

MichelleZ: Or not having enough computers for the classroom on short notice. **MarianneH**: Unless states adopt state technology competencies for students and teachers. Illinois is doing that

Jan NS: As is OHIO

KyteriaR: technology is in the TEKS

SuzanneC: There is an new certification being created in order to teach technology **ElaineR**: Lastly, I feel fearful that students that I encourage to get involved with technology may end up in a class next year that does not nurture that foundation.

JenniferKe: oh really Suzanne? SuzanneC: Well, a new test!

MarianneH: Illinois just started the Technology Specialist K12 certificate and we were just approved to offer it this week!!

JenniferKe: I totally agree Elaine

JenniferKe: although isn't that true with any curriculum area, next year the students teacher might not like to allow students to have independent reading time

MarianneH: But Elaine, they and their parents will put pressure on the school to make sure they DO get it... that is part of being in the change agent cycle.

ElaineR: As a preservice teacher, I think that it really is more than just me teaching with technology. I think that it is about making technology curriculum a monitored school wide component that is consistent across the grades

KyteriaR: yes I agree

MarianneH: Elaine May I say it just a bit differently.. A technology curriculum focuses on TECHNOLOGY.

ElaineR: well, Jennifer, it is true in a way. But, usually, schools do more across the board reading programs like guided reading and such

MarianneH: How about having Curriculum driven technology use Not having technology drive the curriculum?

MarianneH: It is when the technology drives that teachers balk... they see no value in the learning process and they are right... It has to extend, expand or enhance learning.

Jan_NS: Use the technology ONLY when it makes the curriculum better and makes the learning more meaningful.

MarianneH: Right On!!! SuzanneC: That is so true JenniferKe: that would definitely make it more meaningful

KyteriaR: yes I agree! technology does not need to be this separate isolated thing that we teach every once in a while. Instead, we need to INTEGRATE technology and use it as lesson supports.

SuzanneC: That is what one of our instructors stressed to us

Jan_NS: Then it is not another thing to accomplish, but something that assists in meeting the objectives and standards.

ElaineR: Marianne, thank you for rewording it for me. I do agree that technology is only an addition to well planned and effectively implemented curriculum. However, some technology as content has to be taught in order to use it to assist other curriculum

MarianneH: Who, Suzanne, I am curious cause I have several friends there.

ElaineR: Also, here in Texas, there are very detailed technology standards in the TEKS that discuss technology as a content areas of its own

MarianneH: some yes, but in other cases, Just In Time is best

Jan_NS: True, Elaine, but we all learn to use the dictionary in context, the technology can be the same way.

SuzanneC: Dr. Pierson

MarianneH: yep, no surprise.

KyteriaR: yes technology does have specific content, but once students master the basics, everything else kinda falls into place. Children learn things fast.

ElaineR: I absolutely agree with that Kyteria

SuzanneC: She always said only use technology when it was needed, not just to use technology

MarianneH: And the changes in technology help us remember about life-long learning. You can't learn technology and say... Well, Now I know it.

ElaineR: I know for me, the greatest hurdle has been simply getting my students excited about using technology and not fearing it. Once they feel safe in experimenting, they do

JenniferKe: learning with your students is important

MarianneH: Just like the rest of us, Elaine.

ElaineR: Yes, just like us

KyteriaR: that's true. nobody in this world knows everything there is to know about technology because technology is constantly changing.

ElaineR: Oftentimes, our students teach us!

Jan_NS: Rather like being alive and maturing through our life cycle, technology learning is like being alive. We have to keep learning because we must.

MarianneH: That is the best part of every class I teach... that I can be a learner too.

MarianneH: Not a bad ending to our time and I have a favor I ask of the UH folks (Sorry, Jan, I can't resist)

MichelleZ: I Think the biggest challenge, that the teachers I have observed, as well as, the puma students have encountered has been the lack of computers for the students to use. They have two computer labs, one set of laptops, and only three classroom computers.

SuzanneC: Yes, funding is a problem

ElaineR: All in all, I am very excited about using technology in my classroom. As preservice teachers we just have to work out the kinks, stay focused on what we know,

and encourage our peers to be enthusiastic also. We can be the greatest source of motivation for aged teachers

MarianneH: True, Michelle, I think all faculty at all colleges would agree with your. **MarianneH**: UH Folks, if you see Melissa P or Sara M or Bernard R will you please tell them Marianne says hi and that I said they have great technology using students.

SuzanneC: Yes, we'll be glad to

MichelleZ: lol, We will. Thanks for the wonderful discussion.

Jan NS: This has been a great discussion, everyone!

JenniferKe: absolutely SuzanneC: Thank you! JenniferKe: thank you

Jan NS: Thank you for being here to participate.

ElaineR: Also, remembering that teaching with technology does not limit us to sitting at

computers. Technology is everywhere and more vast than we give it credit for

FranciscaE: thank you

ElaineR: Yes, it was great. Sorry I was late

KyteriaR: yes

MarianneH: Come back again, please. We learn from you as well.

MichelleZ: Bye everyone. Jan NS: Join us next month!