

Blogs and Student Learning: Making Meaning and Connections through Graduate Student Portfolios

Presented at NASPA Regional
November 11, 2007

Eric Stoller, Oregon State University
Jessica White, Oregon State University

Overview://Dashboard

- Blogging 101
- Blogs in the academic affairs context
- Blogs in the student affairs context
- Best practices related to blogging
- Q & A, community discussion

New Post:// Blogging 101

- Web + Log
- Evolved from online diaries
- Mid to late 90's
- Types of blogs
 - Media
 - Device
 - Genre/Niche
 - PR





Go



Google

Search



WORDPRESS

[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [EXTEND](#) [DOCS](#) [BLOG](#) [SUPPORT](#) [HOSTING](#) [DOWNLOAD](#)

WELCOME

NEW TO WORDPRESS?

- ☆ [What is WordPress?](#)
- ☆ [Why should I use it?](#)
- ☆ [What is a blog?](#)
- ☆ [WordPress Lessons](#)

WordPress is a state-of-the-art semantic personal publishing platform with a focus on aesthetics, web standards, and usability. What a mouthful. WordPress is both free and priceless at the same time.

More simply, WordPress is what you use when you want to work with your blogging software, not fight it.

READY TO BEGIN?

- ☆ [Find a web host](#)
- ☆ [Download and Install](#)
- ☆ [Documentation](#)
- ☆ [Get Support](#)

To get started with WordPress, [set it up on a web host](#) for the most flexibility or [get a free blog on WordPress.com](#).



Matt's Blog ([View site »](#))

Dashboard **Write** Manage Links

Write Post Write Page

Write Post

WordPress' admin interface has been redesigned from the ground up to be as intuitive as possible.



Truthts and Consequences of Blogs That Stand Out « Lorelle on WordPress - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Back Forward Reload Stop Home <http://lorelle.wordpress.com/2006/11/01/truthts-and-conse> Go :s blog student affairs Search

Truthts and Consequences o... The Blogging Scholarship by Bl... ONE LITTLE VICTORY Blogs That Stand Out « Lorelle ...



Skip navigation

TRUTHS AND CONSEQUENCES OF BLOGS THAT STAND OUT

I wrote recently asking you all about [what makes a blog stand out from the crowd](#), and some interesting comments came up. I think that some of these are worth discussing.

LOOKS COUNT

Looks count in everything. Don't try to tell me that they don't. If look don't count, then the entertainment, fashion, clothing, hair, makeup, nails, spas, exercise clubs, and health products markets would collapse. In fact, they are a huge multi-billion dollar industry, so looks must count.

HELPING YOU LEARN MORE ABOUT BLOGGING AND WORDPRESS EVERY DAY WITH HELP, TIPS, ADVICE, AND TECHNIQUES FOR BLOGGING AND USING WORDPRESS, AND WORDPRESS.COM. THE BLOGGING HELP YOU NEED. NOW.

RESOURCES

About

Done



Main Menu
[News Aggregator](#)
[Search Archives](#)
[Under Archives](#)
[Essays/Research](#)
[Portal](#)
[PML](#)
[teULike](#)

Search

Done

What Has Blogging Really Accomplished?
Submitted by Clancy on 7 November 2006 - 12:39am. [Blogging](#) | [Politics](#) | [Rhetoric](#)

Guest blogging at Feministe, Ilyka Damen [poses this question](#), and the comments are terrific.

» [login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

About

I'm Clancy Ratliff, an assistant professor in the Department of English at East Carolina University. I try to stick to writing about my research and teaching in this space, but it doesn't always happen. I'll try to keep



TU's Capital Campaign

November 7th, 2006

What would you do with \$50 million? It's easy to think up ways to spend such a windfall...a new car (or several), a beach house, trips to exotic places, and of course (!) a plan to give back to the community.

On November 2, Towson University announced a fundraising goal of \$50 million to be raised over the next seven years. That's an impressive goal for us, but it's doable. The good news is we've raised \$22 million, so we're almost halfway to our goal. You might think that raising money has nothing to do with you or isn't relevant until you graduate and get that phone call from the alumni office. On the contrary, fundraising has *everything* to do with you. Without our donors, many students would be deprived of scholarships, research grants, and study abroad options. Since state funding contributes only about one third of Towson's operating budget, tuition costs would be higher. When we talk with

Pages

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- » [Welcome](#)

Archives

- » [November 2006](#)
- » [October 2006](#)
- » [September 2006](#)
- » [May 2006](#)
- » [April 2006](#)
- » [March 2006](#)
- » [February 2006](#)

Categories

- » [Uncategorized \(11\)](#)

Oregon State University: Office of Admissions - Blog - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Back Forward Reload Stop Home OSU <http://oregonstate.edu/admissions/blog/> Go Search

Truthts and Consequences of Bl... OSU Oregon State University: Of... ONE LITTLE VICTORY Blogs That Stand Out « Lorelle ...

OSU Oregon State University OSU Home | Catalog | Find Someone | Maps

Future Students [Apply Now](#) [Get Info](#) [Visit OSU](#)

OSU Home » Future Students » Admissions Blog

OSU Admissions Blog


- OSU Admissions Blog**

The blog of Oregon State University's Office of Admissions.

Subscribe via email:

subscribe unsubscribe
- Recent posts**

Blogging at PACRAO in Hawaii
November 6th, 2006 at 1:43 pm
Here's our captive audience.....



Aloha!
-bv

Posted in Admissions, Misc. | No Comments »

Meeting Prospective Students and OSU Alumni Across Asia
October 30th, 2006 at 11:40 pm

Done

Bloglines | My Feeds (4) - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Back Forward Reload Stop Home <http://www.bloglines.com/myblogs> Go Google Search

W B ... [Icons]

My Feeds

My Feeds My Blog Clippings

- moleskineart.com
- My Amusement Park
- NASPA JobsLink Search Results []
- Official Google Blog
- OSU Admissions Blog**
- OSU Blog
- OSU OSU Document Management Project
- Peridyd's Progress (1)
- Pomegranate Queen
- Poor Boy comments
- Poor Boy in a Rich World
- privilege judo
- OSU Professionaltown
- Qlipoth
- Rachel's Tavern
- Racism Ain't Over
- reappropriate (2)
- Scottish Adventures
- Signal vs. Noise
- Slant Truth
- Taking Place
- Threadless News & Updates
- Threadless Weekly
- TjRubley.com (1)

Welcome ericstoller

Account Help Log Out

Search for Posts

Directory Share Search

OSU Admissions Blog

1 Item | Updated: Tue, Nov 7 2006 12:33 PM

Meeting Prospective Students and OSU Alumni Across Asia

By Julie on alumni

During the month of October, I traveled to ten major cities across Southeast and Northeast Asia as I represented Oregon State University at a series of university fairs. While my stay in each location was very brief, I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with a great number of enthusiastic and inquisitive students, their parents and school counselors and several wonderful OSU alumni along the way.

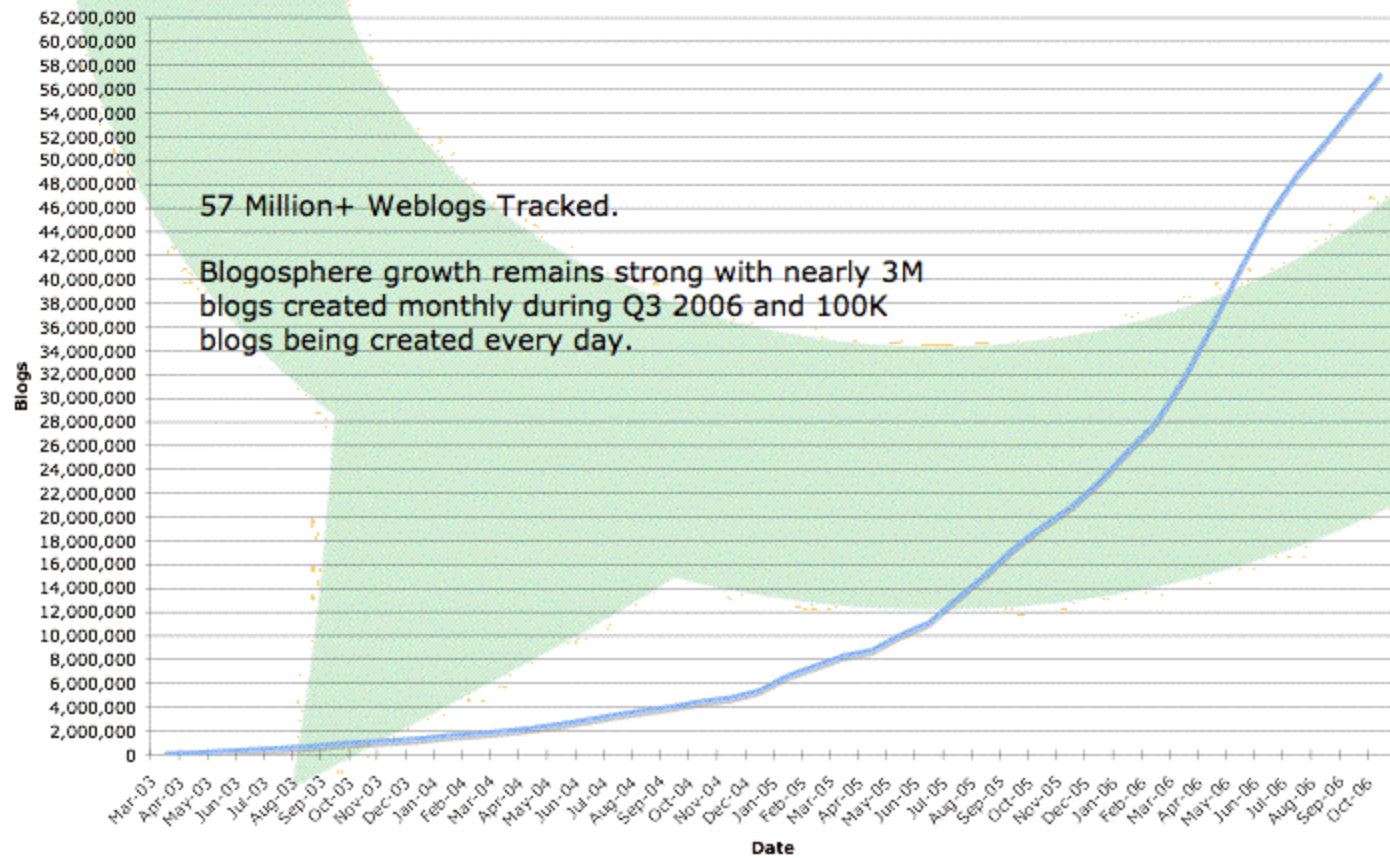
With sometimes only a 48 hour stay in each city, it was challenging to find time to experience the local culture, but highlights include the many festivals being celebrated in the month of October...such as the Autumn Harvest festival, the observance of Ramadan and Eid Fitr, and preparations for the celebration of Deepavali.

In Kuala Lumpur, Dr. Chris Bell, Associate Dean in the College of Engineering, returning from his three city student recruitment tour in India, joined me at a university fair along with OSU alumnus Yunus. Together we spoke to a number of interested prospective students about OSU's academic programs, the campus and the surrounding environment. How nice it is to show photos of Corvallis during this time of year (October) when the autumn leaves perfectly match our school colors...lot's of orange, indeed!

In addition to the university fairs that were open to the general public, I visited a number of International and American high schools, two year colleges and an occasional advising center, where students can gain information about all types of educational opportunities that exist in the U.S., including those at OSU.

While a variety of information can be shared through one on one conversations, large group presentations and publications, describing **everything** that Oregon State University offers to a prospective student is virtually impossible. Fortunately, with the abundance of links to specific departments and programs, one can

Done

Weblogs Cumulative: March 2003 - October 2006

Source: Dave Sifry via Sifry.com

Blogs://Academic Affairs

1. Scholar blogs
2. Course blogs
3. Student blogs

Blogs://Academic Affairs

Scholar blogs

Primarily faculty blogs, related to their area of expertise and/or research agenda, *but also in areas of interest and personal narrative*

Public policy, law, social sciences

Blogs://Academic Affairs

Scholar blogs

The image displays a collage of six browser screenshots, each showing a different academic blog. The top row features:

- blackprof.com:** A blog titled "In the Wake of Brown University's Slavery Report" by Alfred Bragay. It discusses the report on slavery and justice at Brown University, mentioning the Tulsa Race Riot Commission and the Wilmington Race Riot Commission. The page includes a sidebar with "Guest Contributors" and "Regular Contributors".
- University Diaries:** A blog by Margaret Soltan, titled "Tuesday, November 07, 2006" with the post "All Manner of Venality". The post discusses college sports scandals, mentioning NCAA athletes and coaches. It includes a list of "Other Writings, and More" such as "Critical Mass", "CUIOPATRIA", and "College Affordability".
- The Phantom Professor:** A blog post from May 30, 2005, titled "War bride Sedated". The post discusses a woman who served in the military during World War II and her experiences. It includes a "PREVIOUS POSTS" section with links to other articles.

The bottom row features:

- Instapundit.com:** A blog post from November 07, 2006, titled "JIM LINDGREN HAS BEEN CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS and projects a Webb victory". The post discusses the 2006 US House election results, mentioning Glenn Reynolds and the Washington Post's projection.
- The University of Chicago Law School Faculty Blog:** A blog post from November 06, 2006, titled "E-Readers and the Future". The post discusses the use of e-readers and the future of reading, mentioning the Sony E-Reader and the Kindle.
- Rachel's Tavern:** A blog post titled "If You are Going to Talk About the High Infant Mortality Rate in the US, You Must Talk About Race". The post discusses the high infant mortality rate in the US and the role of race. It includes a "Recent Comments" section and a "Leave a Comment" form.

Blogs://Academic Affairs

Scholar blogs

- Opportunities
 - Immediacy and frequency of publication
 - Built in peer review system
 - Larger, more diverse readership
 - Reduction of the hierarchy of the professoriate
 - Encourages collaboration
 - Increased accessibility of professors
 - Genuine and continued dialogue

Blogs://Academic Affairs

Scholar blogs

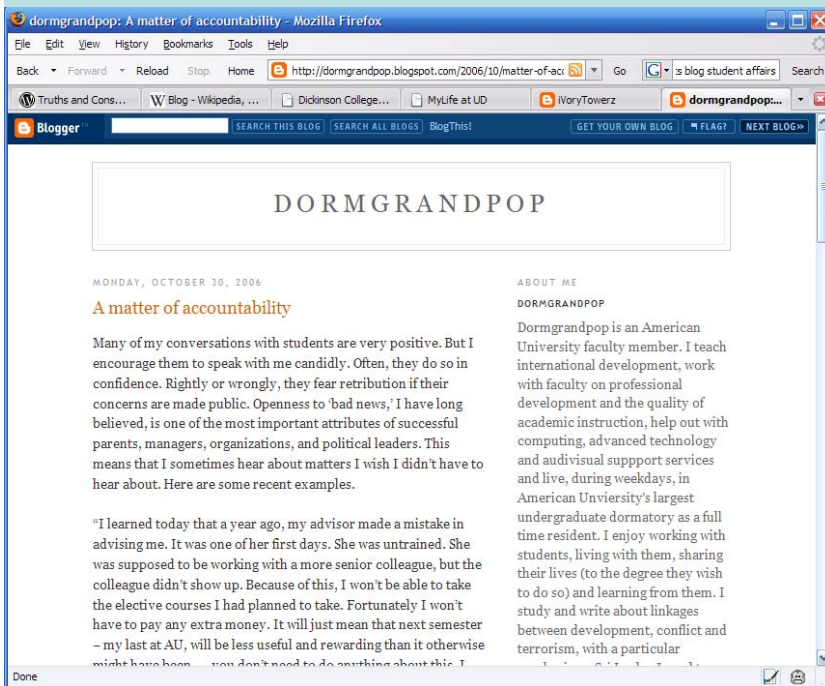
- Challenges

- Disgruntled faculty forum

- Blurring of the personal and professional

- Peer review exists for a purpose

- Over reliance as *the* form of communication



Blogs://Academic Affairs

Course blogs

- Designed specifically in conjunction with a course, including course management, exchange of information, postings
- Many times are a required part of the curriculum

Blogs://Academic Affairs

Course blogs

The image shows three browser windows displaying course blogs. The left window is titled "music 1 - introduction to music" and features a "VOTE" button and a "ASK ME!" button. The middle window is titled "AEGL 101--College Composition Exploring Techno/literacy" and includes a "Post Survey and Online Evaluation" section. The right window is titled "technology and children's development: a course blog" and features a "permalink" button and a "Search" button.

music 1 - introduction to music
 dan mitchell | music department | creative arts division | de anza college | XML
 Tuesday, November 7, 2006
 Election Day - November 7, 2006
 Monday, November 6, 2006
 Concert List Update Later This Week
 Grading Update (11/6/06)
 Test #2 Date - Possible Change

Techno/literacy
 AEGL 101--College Composition
 Exploring Techno/literacy
 Karl Fornes
 Friday, December 12, 2003
 Post Survey and Online Evaluation
 Information Literacy Post Survey
 Laptop Online Evaluation
 Karl Fornes at 2:37 PM
 Tuesday, December 09, 2003
 I'm Done (Yippee)

technology and children's development: a course blog
 This is a blog site for a class called "New Technology & Child Development" being taught in the Cognitive Studies in Education program at the University of Washington by Philip Bell. The class has a dual focus on understanding the technological fluencies that kids are developing with new technologies as well as how digital technologies, electronic gadgets, and interactive media are influencing children's development.
 are as addictive as work
 games, teens, and fighting
 Home Archives
 Course syllabus, bibliography (in EndNote)
 Email a suggestion
 RECENT ENTRIES
 11/12/2003: Videogames are as addictive as work
 09/18/2003: Violent video games, teens, and fighting
 08/22/2003: Video Games and Education Discussion
 07/11/2003: BBC news reports "file swappers buy more music"
 07/08/2003: College students playing games
 06/28/2003: I wonder...
 06/25/2003: Rate your instructor
 06/16/2003: Instant Messaging as a pervasive method of education

Blogs://Academic Affairs

Course blogs

- Opportunities
 - Encourages collaboration
 - Increased accessibility of professors
 - Genuine and continued dialogue
 - Student ownership
 - Supports diverse learning styles
 - Appeals to students technological sensibility

Blogs://Academic Affairs

Course blogs

- Challenges
 - Over reliance as *the* form of communication
 - Time intensive
 - Artificial or forced communication
 - Confidentiality
 - Access!
 - Resources and skills
 - Ability

Blogs://Academic Affairs

Student Blogs

Individual student blogs, hosted by both the institution and privately

Merging of academic, social, and professional worlds

Blogs://Academic Affairs

Student Blogs

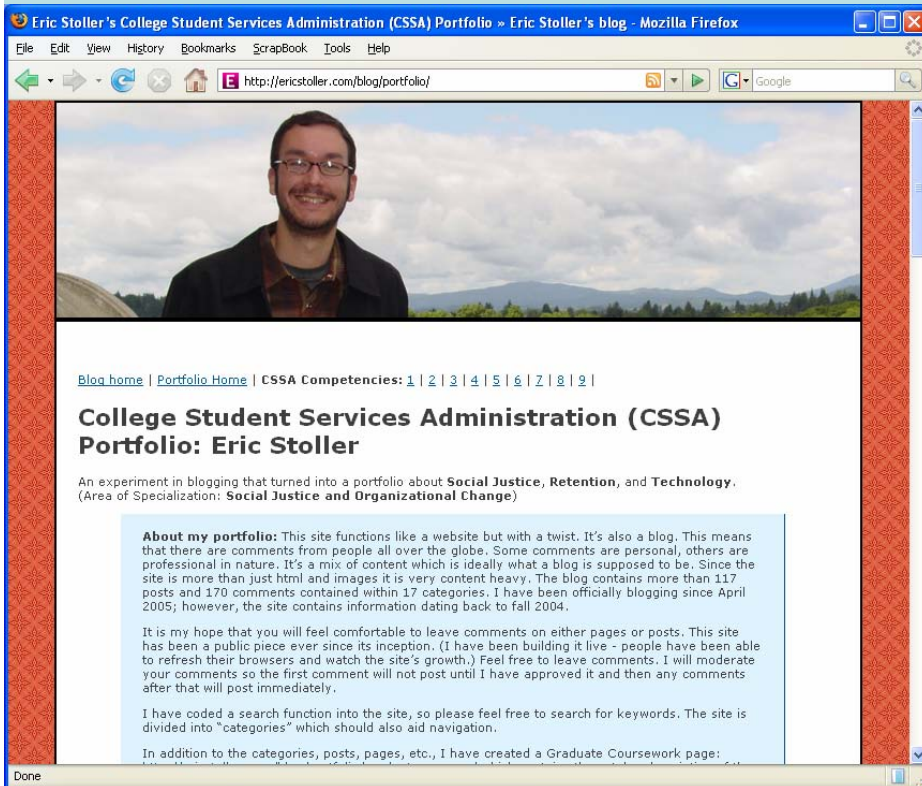
The image displays five browser windows, each showing a different website related to student blogs and academic affairs:

- Top Left:** A screenshot of the RidorLIVE website. The main heading is "Observe But Do Not Interfere" with a photo of a man. Below it, it says "UNIVERSITY RidorLIVE.com Home to Arguably the Most Controversial Deaf Blogger in America". There are navigation links like "HOME", "WHO IS RIDOR?", and "CONTACT ME". A sidebar features a "John McCain & Sandy Ewan" article and a "DvDs ON SALE!" advertisement for "CHICAGO DEAF STORIES".
- Top Middle:** A screenshot of a blog titled "Just a Girl in the World" by "My life as it comes...". The post is dated Nov 7, 2005 at 2:09 PM. The text discusses the author's feelings about a girl she is dating, mentioning "Kinda slacking in LSAT studies" and "I really feel a shot at getting a good score".
- Top Right:** A screenshot of a blog titled "A Collage of Citations" by Michael Faris. It features a post titled "response to 'Between the Drafts'" dated 4:30:06. The post discusses Nancy Sommer's essay and the author's own writing process.
- Bottom Left:** A screenshot of the "bamalog" website, which is a student blog for The University of Alabama. The main heading is "bamalog Students write about life at UA". A post by Shannon, dated October 23, 2006, describes a car accident. The author's name "SHANNON" is prominently displayed.
- Bottom Middle:** A screenshot of "The Student Affairs Job Hunt" blog. The main heading is "THE STUDENT AFFAIRS JOB HUNT". A post titled "Candidate #0000 - The END" is dated Friday, June 16, 2006. The text expresses the author's feelings about the job search process.
- Bottom Right:** A screenshot of Eric Stoller's blog. The main heading is "\$50 admissions barrier?". The post is dated October 1, 2006 at 3:07 pm. It discusses the author's concerns about the 10% of students who do not file online applications.

Blogs://Academic Affairs

Student blogs

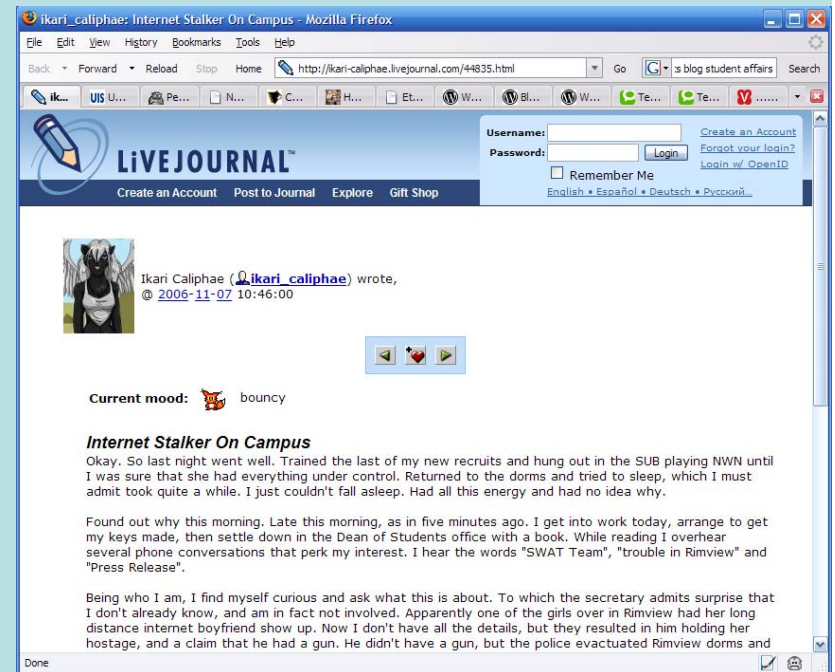
- Opportunities
 - Genuine and continued dialogue
 - Outlet for writing, thinking, and experiences
 - Practice
 - Voice
 - Creative forum for meeting assignment or degree requirements
 - Professional opportunities



Blogs://Academic Affairs

Student blogs

- Challenges
 - Appropriateness, ethics, and legality of postings
 - Confidentiality
 - Readiness for feedback and responses
 - Addiction



Blogs://Student Affairs

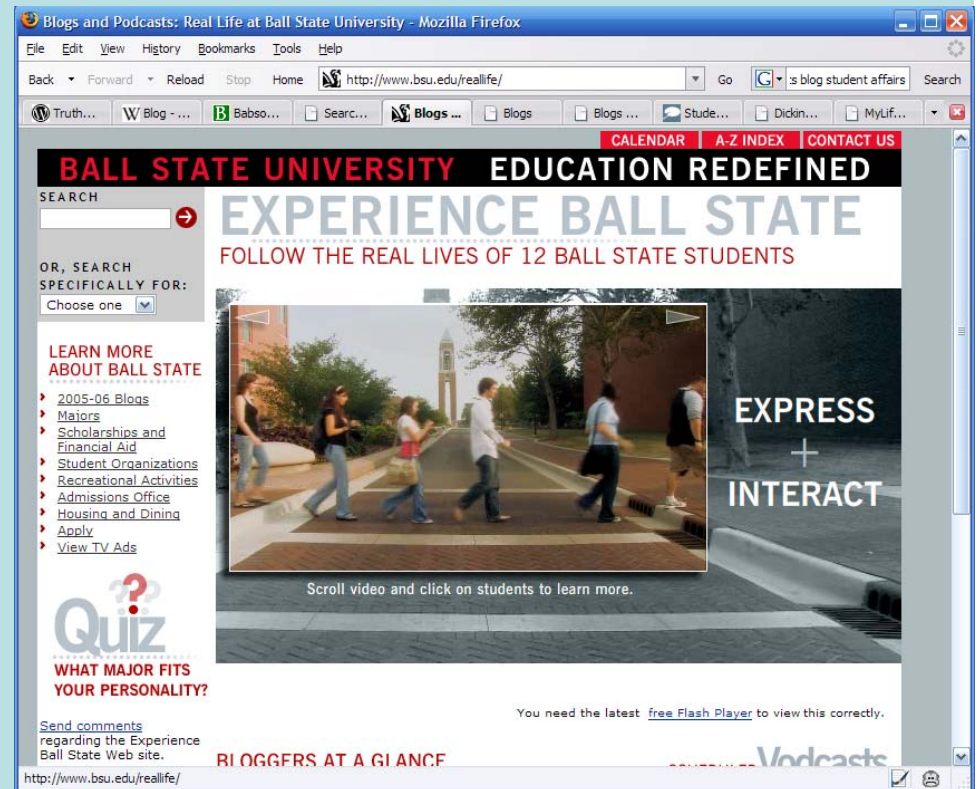
- Publishing system for newsletters (RSS, Web, and Email)
- Search Engine Optimized
- Timely and Accessible
- Comments

- Student Health Services
- Multicultural Affairs
- Career Services
- Student Conduct
- Orientation
- Admissions
- Dean of Students

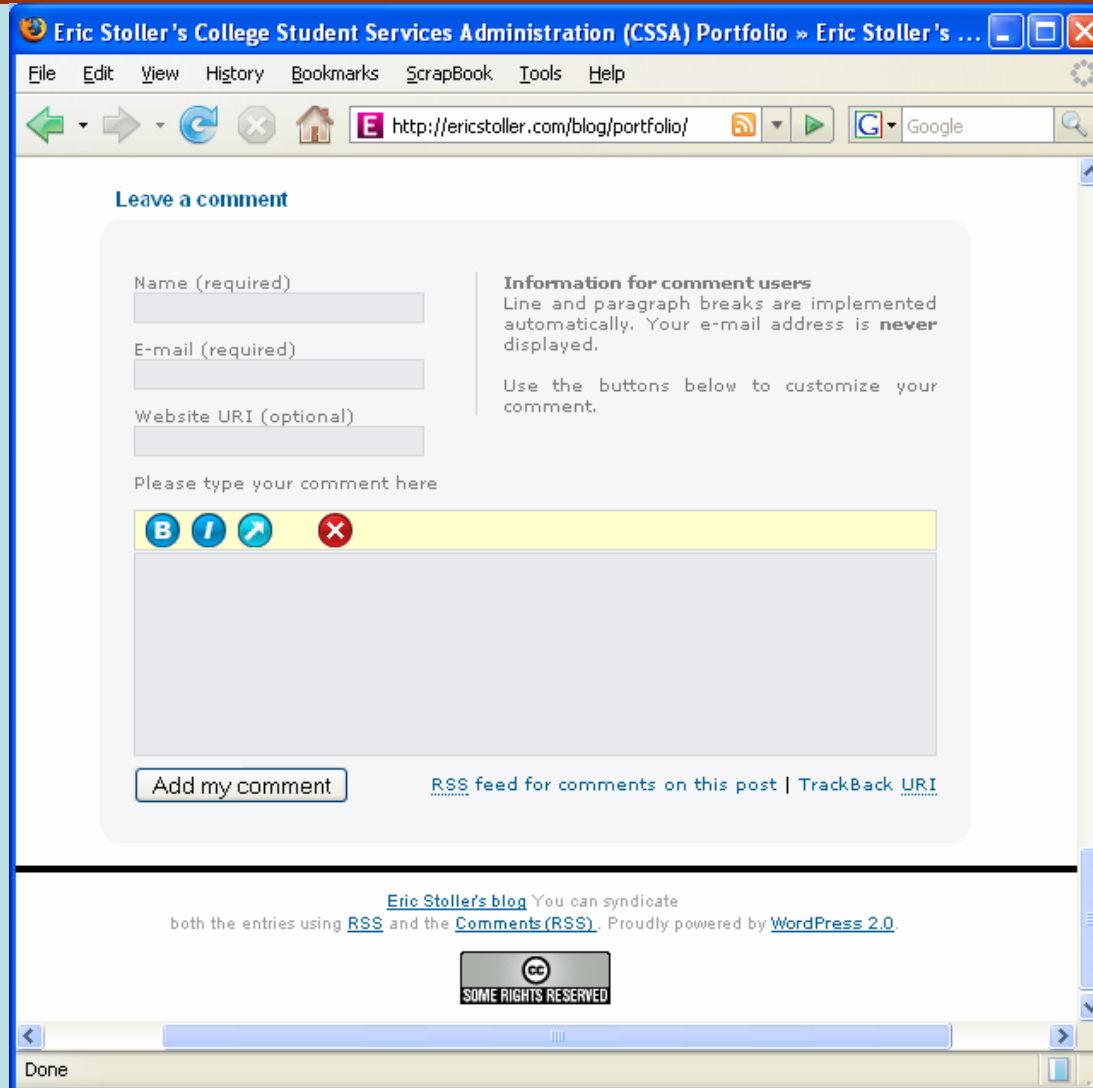


Manage://Best Practices

- Post frequently
- Engage readers via comments
- RSS is really simple
- Analytics
- Test accessibility
- Open Source



Add Comments://Discussion




The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following elements:

- Browser Title Bar:** Eric Stoller's College Student Services Administration (CSSA) Portfolio » Eric Stoller's ...
- Menu Bar:** File, Edit, View, History, Bookmarks, ScrapBook, Tools, Help
- Address Bar:** http://ericstoller.com/blog/portfolio/
- Search Bar:** Google
- Section Header:** Leave a comment
- Form Fields:**
 - Name (required):
 - E-mail (required):
 - Website URI (optional):
 - Please type your comment here:
- Information for comment users:**

Line and paragraph breaks are implemented automatically. Your e-mail address is **never** displayed.

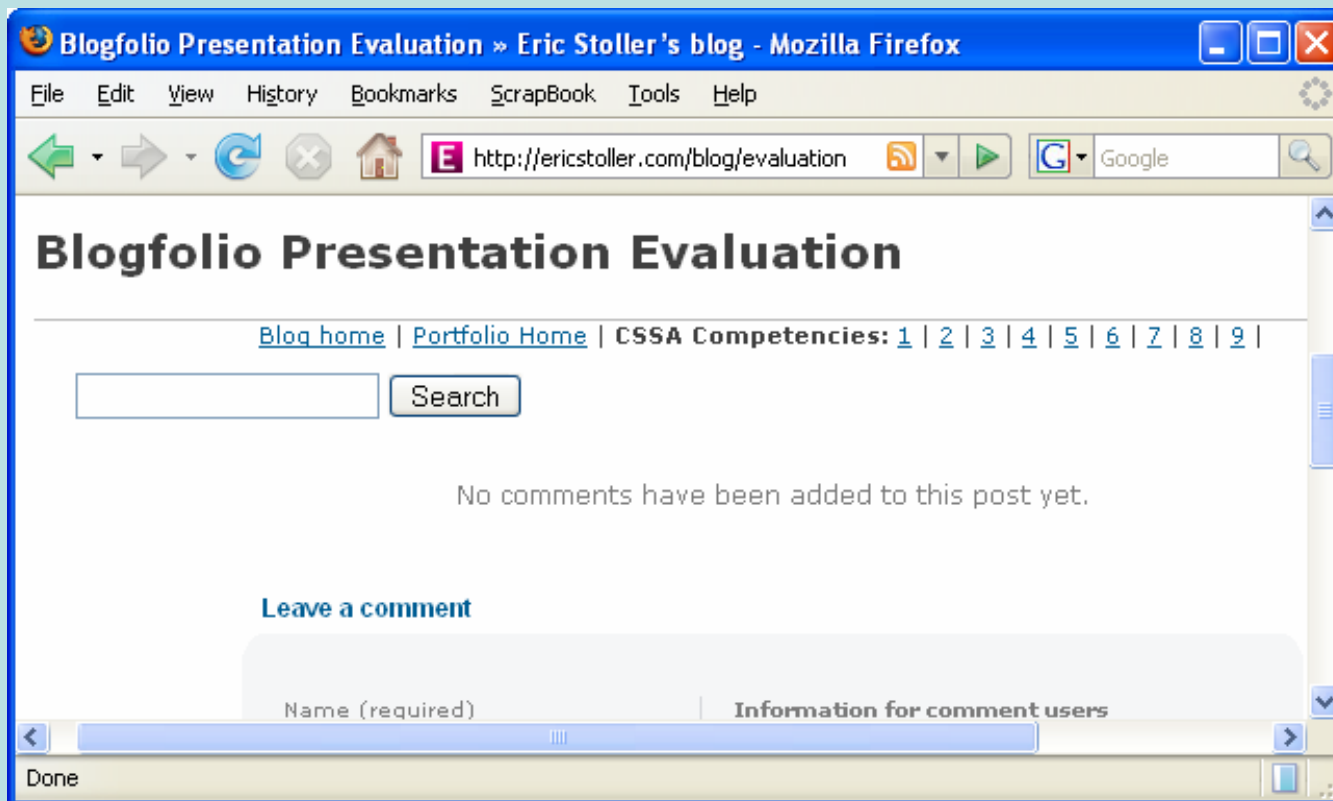
Use the buttons below to customize your comment.
- Rich Text Editor:** A toolbar with icons for Bold (B), Italic (I), Link (chain), and a red X icon.
- Buttons:** Add my comment
- Links:** [RSS feed for comments on this post](#) | [TrackBack URI](#)
- Footer:**

Eric Stoller's blog You can syndicate both the entries using [RSS](#) and the [Comments \(RSS\)](#). Proudly powered by [WordPress 2.0](#).

 SOME RIGHTS RESERVED
- Status Bar:** Done

Blog Stats://Evaluation

ericstoller.com/blog/evaluation



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