



New Links for December 2010 – Please take a minute to check out this issue! For information on using these tools or joining the ET group, please contact Tammy Douglas at x2378 or douglast@kellogg.edu.

- **Create your own talking avatar** – do you want to add a little fun to your online materials? **Voki™** is a free online service that creates speaking avatars (an avatar is a cartoon-like image that you create – often to represent yourself). These avatars can add a more ‘human’ aspect to your online course materials. You can use your Voki to introduce course materials, engage visual/auditory learners or have students engage with each other’s avatars. Play with it yourself at <http://www.voki.com> (you don’t even need to create an account). Don’t forget to add a voice to your avatar via your cell phone, microphone or other methods. When you’re finished, click the “submit” button and an “embed code” will be provided your use. You can then cut and paste this “embed code” into your Blackboard site, academic web site or other online environment to add your voki avatar.
- **Photo Album in PowerPoint** – the **Photo Album** feature in PowerPoint is a very quick and easy way to add a series of slides with images. In PowerPoint, select the Insert tab and click on the Photo Album icon. Choose “New Album” from the drop down menu. The “File/Disk” button allows you to select your images. The images are then listed in the “Pictures in album” window. You may change the order, remove, or add more images. Additional text slides may also be added. The album may be customized by using the “Album Layout” area. Clicking the “Create” button assembles your presentation.

Faculty Highlight: Pat and Randy Kopf – Pat and Randy Kopf have been creating a series of videos using a flip-style camera, then posting the results on YouTube. Randy explains, “video gives us the potential to connect with our students in a very real way.” Pat adds “online students feel like they know me even though we’ve never been in the same room together. A total stranger came around the corner at Meijer’s, her face lit up upon seeing me and she said ‘Oh hi, I spent my entire morning with you’.” Randy describes the video production process as fairly rapid. “We shot 65 ten-minute videos in the span of a few days and had them all up on YouTube in no time.” Take a look at some of their videos on KCC’s **YouTube Channel** (<http://www.youtube.com/KelloggCommunityColl>).

NOTE: The technologies included in the ET newsletter are typically web-based and are subject to change by the vendor. Note also that many technologies require storage of your information on the web, so be intentional about the information you post outside of KCC’s environment. It is important to be careful when sharing of student information (FERPA issues), maintain awareness of intellectual property rights, and recognize the potential instability and lack of backup that may exist with these products. If possible, always keep a copy of your information in your own KCC file share as backup.