First Tuesday at Two: Pedagogy Focused Meetings Resume

Not since the pandemic has TLPEC co-hosted the open forum round table styled pedagogy focused gatherings formerly named Tuesdays at Two. For the fall 2024 semester (at least) the meetings are again held on the first Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. in the Library Learning Commons IDEA Space Room 109. All Chadron State College employees are welcome to attend and participate in the discussions.

The first meeting of the academic year was held Tuesday, September 3rd with a focus on AI: What it can do today, wearables, current uses for students and educators, and what is coming soon. The gathering had a turnout of 14 participants including both faculty and staff. Dr. Eric Rapp presented a few key topics to spur group discussions.

The Big Players in AI- While many AI tools were mentioned including: ChatGPT, Google AI, Copilot, AlphaGo and Alpha Zero, LaMDA, Azure AI, Siri, Google Assistant and more there were three that were focused most on.

1. Google/Google Assistant: Currently used in smart phones, smart home devices, smart displays, and wearable technology.
    a. This technology has integrated an AI personal assistant in phones, homes, and devices that can help screen for spam phone calls, generate emails, answer inquires and more.
2. Microsoft/ Copilot: Microsoft has integrated OpenAI's GPT models, including ChatGPT, into its products including Teams, Outlook, and word.
    a. These integrations are intended to increase productivity by utilizing AI services for tasks like drafting emails, generating content, and summarizing information.
3. Apple/Siri: Apple's Core machine learning (ML) allows developers to integrate AI into all of it's current tech.
    a. It supports a wide range of ML including for facial recognition, natural language processing, voice recognition, and sound classification.

New Wearable AI Tech- As AI becomes more integrated, new uses for them are being developed. Wearable technology such as Ray-Ban Meta Smart Glasses, The Friend AI necklace, and Plaud NotePin were discussed. Mentioned benefits of items such as the Plaud NotePin are that it could help people that have to attend a lot of meetings by recording and annotating the encounters. There were concerns addressed about if students were to use the wearable technology to record an entire class session and post the content for others to view. That would be considered a copyright violation. These are just some of the things that will have to be considered as the technology advances.

Current Uses for Students and Educators-

The big fear is that students are using AI to cheat. And while this may be the case for some, it certainly isn't the situation for all. Students can use AI for a variety of purposes including creating study materials, helping summarize content into a way they can understand, editing their work, and data analysis.

Educators can use AI to help create lesson plans, prepare slide decks, supporting students by answering questions via a chat bot, creating customized learning for individual students, creating rubrics for assignments, and more.

To close out the gathering, Rapp also suggested three podcasts that keep up to date with AI: Last Week in AI, a16z, and The Ted AI Show.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 1st in the LLC IDEA Space (room 109) at 2 pm. The topic covered will be increasing student engagement in online courses.