“How the Networked World, Our Understanding of Collaborative Learning, and Advanced Technology are Converging for New Learning Opportunities”

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Harrington Tower 801A

Abstract
Social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are turning the Internet into a distinctly communal and collaborative environment. At the same time, researchers in the Learning Sciences are uncovering the advantages of students learning in groups, working with one another and with an instructor. In this talk, Dr. McLaren will discuss this trend, exploring how online learning experiences are being designed to leverage what we know about collaborative learning and advanced technology to improve learning outcomes. Dr. McLaren will exemplify this trend by discussing some of his and others’ projects that involve students collaborating in computer-mediated fashion, supported by advanced technology. Showcased will be one of Dr. McLaren’s projects (ARGUNAUT), which involved the use of networked visual argumentation tools and AI technology to support students in learning the skills of argumentation. In closing, Dr. McLaren will speculate on how collaborative and AI technologies, which are currently used mostly in small scientific or pilot studies, might support the next generation of students.

Biographical Note
Dr. Bruce M. McLaren, Senior Systems Scientist at Carnegie Mellon University, is passionate about how technology can support education and has dedicated his work and research to projects that explore how students can learn with educational software, in particular, software that runs on the world-wide web. He is particularly interested in intelligent tutoring systems, e-learning principles, and collaborative learning supported by technology. Dr. McLaren has over 100 publications spanning peer-reviewed journals, conferences, workshops, symposiums and book chapters. In addition to his research background, Dr. McLaren has over 20 years experience in the commercial sector, applying research ideas to practical problems using Artificial Intelligence techniques.