

Gerald L. Stevens, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary - **Technology Twist on the Visiting Professor**

One of the more exciting classroom activities that infuses a session with interest and motivation is the opportunity to have a visiting professor who is expert in a field visit a class and make a presentation followed by student interaction in a question and answer period. The great difficulty for this type of activity is expense and logistics. That is, normally, one does not have the desired expert in the field resident in the same community as the institution at which one teaches. Inviting someone to come involves overwhelming expenses. Sometimes a pre-existing institutional event may have a roster of scholars participating, and this event could be coat-tailed by inviting one of the visiting scholars to present in a class if they are available. However, the logistics for this type of activity are complicated by the event schedule itself. Another downside is that these institutional events rarely are coordinated with the class syllabus for that semester, so the presentation, while probably worthwhile, is not timely. Distance learning long has been part of institutional endeavors for some time now. Our own institution has CIV, Blackboard, and other venues. However, these resources are expensive, and not all institutions have these type of resources. What almost everyone has access to, however, are other inexpensive technologies that bridge the gap of distance, such as Skype accounts and BlueJeans conferencing. That inexpensive access was the inspiration to an experiment in using BlueJeans videoconferencing technology to “pipe in” a visiting scholar from the other side of the world to the classroom to facilitate a presentation and student interaction. The proposal is to describe, discuss, and, if possible, demonstrate the use of inexpensive video conferencing capabilities across the Internet to bring a visiting scholar live into the classroom. A test session in a class on Greek exegesis of Romans related to Rom 3:25 was conducted in March 2016 and videotaped to use as an example. We used BlueJeans technology to videoconference with a scholar in Antalya, Turkey for a class presentation at our institution in New Orleans. The scholar made a presentation, and the students were allowed to interact. This pre-recorded session will be used as an example to provoke conversation with section participants. The goal of the presentation is to inspire discussion about other examples of videoconferencing visiting professors among participants in the session and the possibilities that go beyond the concept of the visiting scholar in the classroom.