

Dear Colleagues,

Proposals are rolling in for the 2012 POD Conference (Oct. 24-28 in Seattle, WA) and are due on **Feb. 23, 2012, by 5:00 PM** Pacific Time. The full Call for Proposals and submission system is online at <http://podnetwork.org/conferences/2012/index.htm>.

We are excited to announce two distinct and unique **plenary speakers'** perspectives on the conference theme, *Pencils and Pixels: 21st Century Practices in Higher Education*. From the media ecology of teaching and learning in a digital age, to contemplative computing, **Michael Wesch** and **Alex Soojung-Kim Pang** are sure to prompt our collective thinking about professional and organizational development in higher education in exciting ways. (See more below on our confirmed plenary speakers!)

And, we are eager for your proposals, which are at the very heart of a great conference. Note that the theme this year, as always, has broad latitude: there are many "tools" (low tech, high tech, and everywhere in between) and "21st Century Practices" that you are using in your work as you address the breadth of possible topics, projects, research, and innovations normally represented in POD conferences. Please read more about this year's re-organized (helpfully, we hope) topic areas, too, in the Call for Proposals at <http://podnetwork.org/conferences/2012/index.htm>.

Your 2012 Conference Team:

Natasha Haugnes, *Conference Co-Chair* nhaugnes@gmail.com

Cassandra Horii, *Conference Co-Chair* chorii@curry.edu

Danilo Baylen, *Program Co-Chair* dbaylen1@yahoo.com

Victoria Bhavsar, *Program Co-Chair* vbhavsar@csupomona.edu

POD 2012 Plenary Speakers

Michael Wesch

Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology
Coffman Chair for Distinguished Teaching Scholars
Kansas State University, <http://ksuanth.weebly.com/wesch.html>

Michael Wesch, a media ecologist and digital ethnographer who has been breaking new ground in higher education through his teaching, research, and YouTube videos such as "A Vision of Students Today," has been dubbed The Explainer (Wired magazine), an Emerging Explorer (National Geographic), and U.S. Professor of the Year (2008, CASE/Carnegie). Besides bringing new, student-centered insights to us through media, his work on peer review of teaching and "rethinking education" in light of Web 2.0 and collective intelligence will surely get us thinking and discussing our work in new ways at POD.

Alex Soojung-Kim Pang

Futurist in Residence at the [Peace Innovation Lab](#) at [Stanford University](#)
[Associate Fellow](#) at Oxford University's [Saïd Business School](#)

Alex Soojung-Kim Pang brings the innovative concept and framework of "Contemplative Computing" (<http://www.contemplativecomputing.org/>) to POD. Commenting on his spring 2011 sojourn at Microsoft, Pang describes this contemplative approach to the technology of the future as "how to design information technologies and user experiences that promote concentration and deep focused thinking, rather than distract you, fracture your attention, and make you feel dumb." Dr. Pang is excited about joining us at POD to learn and engage, as well as offer his unique perspectives.