I attended several presentations. I will report on the most interesting and stimulating ones:

- Carole Bergin from Harvard University talked about “Communicating Outside the Classroom: Radio Shows, Movies, and Video Blogs.” She presented two of her courses where she uses technology to enhance the learning experience, offer authentic material and stimulate student engagement. In French 30, a French Oral Expression course, students watch and study the film “Ma Nuit Chez Maud” by Eric Rohmer, famous film maker of the Nouvelle Vague movement, and then are asked to make their own movie using techniques that exemplify the Nouvelle Vague movement. In this course students also make radio news clips, after having listened and discussed radio podcasts. All work done by students is uploaded to the class’s website for sharing and discussion in class. She presented another course, French 59, which focuses on Haitian culture. In this course promoting community engagement, students go out in the Boston Haitian community to teach French to young children. Technology is used in the form of video blogs for weekly updates on the children’s French classes, discussing methodology, challenges, rewards and cultural learnings.

- Barbara Sawhill from Oberlin College also gave a stimulating talk, reporting on work she does in her classroom on assessment. Her talk was entitled “Flipping your Assessment Practices,” calling participants to challenge their teacher-centric approach to assessment and grade assignment. She shared information about her practice (6 years +) of using student self-assessment and self-grading.