

CTE NEWSLETTER—SUMMER 2012

The class of 2012 has graduated, and we're "free" for the summer . . . free to complete that deferred yard work and spring cleaning, free to make up for lost family time, and free to teach that five-week course. Perhaps we'll also have time to recharge our academic batteries by preparing a new course for the fall, to start a paper or even a book, to attend a summer conference, and then to convert that conference presentation into an article. Even if your Buhl office is inaccessible, the CTE is available all summer during library hours. Feel free to use one of the computer work stations, to read in a comfortable leather chair, and relax with a fresh cup of coffee or tea.

Newsletter Highlights

- Opening Convocation Workshops
- Teaching Discussion Group 2012-13
- Scholarship Discussion Group Update 2012-13
- Classroom Visitation Program
- Upcoming Teaching Conferences
- Call for Faculty Publications
- Mentoring & New Faculty Orientation Programs
- Scholarship Tip of the Month
- Center Facilities

Opening Convocation Workshops

Over the past several years, the CTE has increasingly contributed to faculty development workshops during opening convocation. This fall, the CTE will provide several workshops on the theme of technology in the classroom. The prospective topics are

- Advanced PowerPoint Techniques for Facilitating Learning
- Creating Classroom Presentations through Prezi (a new alternative to PowerPoint), Frank Pazzynski
- Facilitating Online Discussion through Blackboard, Melissa Folman
- The Marvels of MERLOT (an online resource of classroom materials, especially strong in science, mathematics & history)
- Using Clickers in the Classroom, James Bush.

In addition, Denise Morris and Terri Small will share their favorite tips from this summer's Teaching Professor Conference.

Teaching Discussion Group 2012-13

The focus of the 2012-13 Teaching Discussion Group will be the highly acclaimed *Engaging Ideas: The Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom*, by John C. Bean. This book, published in its second edition in 2011, has become a classic in the field of faculty development. Clearly written and chock full of helpful hints for teaching thinking and writing skills, it is an ideal text for the Group. To obtain your copy, contact Marilyn Roberts at mroberts@waynesburg.edu by July 15. The books should be available in mid to late August. If you cannot attend the meetings on a regular basis, you will be able to find a copy of the book on reserve in the library.

All sessions of the Group will take place during the noon hour in Benedum Hall and will include a free cafeteria lunch. To enable as many people as possible to attend, the CTE is offering each topic at two different times: on a Tuesday or Thursday and a Wednesday or Friday. Simply select the day that works best for your schedule.

The preliminary schedule for the 2012-13 Teaching Discussion Group meetings is

- August 30, Faculty Dining Room & September 5, Glass Room, chs. 1-2
- September 26 & 27, Faculty Dining Room, chs. 3-4
- October 18 & 19, Faculty Dining Room, chs. 5-6
- November 13 & 14, Glass Room, chs. 7-8
- January 29 & 30, Faculty Dining Room, chs. 9-10
- February 27 & 28, Faculty Dining Room, chs. 11-12
- March 20, Glass Room & 21, Faculty Dining Room, chs. 13-14
- April 10 & 18, Faculty Dining Room, chs. 15-16.

Scholarship Discussion Group 2012-13

Are you working on a book, article, or creative piece? If you would like suggestions for revising and submitting your draft, join the Scholarship Discussion Group next semester. To arrange for your draft to be shared with the Group, contact Marilyn Roberts at mroberts@waynesburg.edu.

The Group will meet in the Faculty Dining Room one Wednesday a month at noon. The following dates have been selected for the fall 2012 Scholarship Group meetings:

- September 12
- October 10
- November 7, Noah Haiduc-Dale.

Classroom Visitation Program

Would like to improve a particular aspect of your teaching? Consider visiting a course taught by a colleague who excels in that facet of instruction. To find out more about the Classroom Visitation Program, contact Marilyn Roberts at mroberts@waynesburg.edu.

Upcoming Teaching Conferences

The 32nd year of Lilly Conferences begins September 20-23 in Traverse City, MI. The theme for those conferences is “Evidence-Based Learning and Teaching.” Sub-themes for the Traverse City conference are “Engaged Learning,” “Promoting Social Responsibility,” “E-Learning,” and “Creating Communities of Learners.” The remaining Lilly conferences will take place on November 15-18 in Oxford, OH; February 15-17, 2013 in Greensboro, NC; March 14-16, 2013 in Pomona, CA; and May 31-June 3, 2013 in Bethesda, MD.

If you like extended winters, Lilly is sponsoring the Arctic Institute on Innovations & Excellence in Teaching in Fairbanks, AK, on March 6-8, 2013. To learn more about the conferences, go to lillyconferences.com.

Next month, our own Denise Morris and Terri Small will present a paper at the 2012 Teaching Professor Conference in Washington, D.C. This year’s conference is so popular that registration is closed. But consider attending the next Teaching Professor Conference, which will take place in New Orleans on May 31-June 2, 2013.

For information about other teaching conferences, including regional and discipline-specific conferences, go to the following link at Kennesaw State: www.kennesaw.edu/cetl/resources/na_conf_list.html#general.

The CTE would like to bring several faculty members to either a Lilly conference or the Teaching Professor Conference. If you are interested in joining the WU group at a conference, contact Marilyn Roberts at mroberts@waynesburg.edu by October 1. Partial funding for WU attendees is available through the CTE. For additional funding, apply to the Professional Development Committee. Because professional development funds are limited, it’s a good idea to submit your application during the fall semester.

Call for Faculty Publications

Now that we are on summer break, take a few minutes of your time to send your publications to Marilyn Roberts at the Eberly Library. The CTE has a special shelf for displaying faculty books and articles. Please add yours to the collection.

Mentoring & New Faculty Orientation Program Programs

Because the University has hired new faculty members for the 2012-13 academic year, the CTE will need several mentors. Mentoring entails meeting with a first-year faculty member over lunch or coffee once a month, attending new faculty orientation meetings when possible, and being available to your mentee by phone or email for consultations.

Please volunteer to serve as a mentor to one of those colleagues by contacting Marilyn Roberts at mroberts@waynesburg.edu by June 15.

Any faculty members hired within the past three years should feel free to continue to consult with their mentor, especially for advice on preparing for a pre-tenure review.

New faculty will receive their *Faculty Resource Manual* during the orientation session in August. If you have questions about campus procedures, policies, and resources before then, feel free to contact Marilyn or your department chair.

A tentative schedule for the 2012-13 new faculty orientation program has been set for the following dates:

- Monday, September 17, noon—advising, Chuck Beiter & Brian Carr
- Monday, October 15, noon—faith & learning integration, John Thompson
- Monday, November 12, noon—administering & interpreting teaching evaluations.

Scholarship Tip of the Month

Normally, this newsletter offers a monthly teaching tip. For variety, the CTE is offering its first scholarship tip of the month.

Do you often have major plans for scholarship, service, or course preparations for the summer? Are you disappointed in how little progress you have made on those plans? If so, consider adopting the Pomodoro Technique, which was developed by Francesco Cirillo in 2006. The Technique is based on a simple formula: establish a list of daily tasks, break the tasks down into parts, work on each part in 25-minute intervals (Pomodoros), allow yourself a 5-minute break after each interval, take a 15-minute break after 4 Pomodoros, and record and assess your progress at the end of each day. To keep track of each Pomodoro, use a timer with an alarm.

A hard copy of Cirillo's book, *The Pomodoro Technique*, will be in the CTE library by the end of the summer. In addition, you can download a copy for free through Wikipedia at the following link:

www.pomodorotechnique.com/resources/ThePomodoroTechnique_v1-3.pdf .

Help your colleagues become even better instructors or scholars by sharing your favorite teaching or scholarship tip. Simply send it to mroberts@waynesburg.edu. Your tip will be published in a future CTE newsletter.

Center Facilities

Come to the CTE to make coffee, tea, or cocoa with our Keurig K-cup machine. After the CRE refrigerator is repaired or replaced, cream and non-fat half and half will be available again.

The CTE library will be expanding over the summer, so look for new books on teaching with technology, assessing student learning, active learning, and

a variety of other topics. In addition, you can access the following recent books on teaching and learning through ebrary:

- Burke, Deirdre & Jackie Pieterick. *Giving Students Effective Written Feedback*. Open University Press, 2010.
- Cahn, Steven M. *Saints and Scamps: Ethics in Academia*. 25th anniversary ed. Rowman & Littlefield, 2010.
- Cox, Rebecca D. *The College Fear Factor: How Students and Professors Misunderstand One Another*. Harvard University Press, 2009.
- Gurung, Regan A. R. & Beth M. Schwartz. *Optimizing Teaching and Learning: Practicing Pedagogical Research*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.
- McCray, Richard A., Robert L. DeHaan, and Julie Anne Schuck, eds. *Improving Undergraduate Instruction in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics* Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2003.

Ebrary is easy to access. Simply go to myConnect, select the Library tab, click either the Eberly Library Catalog or the ebrary link, and search for the book by author(s) or title.

Faculty members who would like to use the CTE on a regular basis may request a key to the Center from Marilyn Roberts at mroberts@waynesburg.edu. Occasional users may gain entrance to the CTE by asking at the main desk of the Eberly Library.

Questions or Suggestions?

Feel free to ask questions about or to share suggestions for the CTE with Marilyn Roberts by contacting her at mroberts@waynesburg.edu.