

## **CTE NEWSLETTER—AUGUST 2012**

Summer has flown by. Pretty soon, we'll be gathering at opening convocation, rejoining our committees, and meeting new advisees. So now is the time to finish preparations for that new course and to update syllabi and handouts. Would you like some inspiration and ideas to help you with those preparations? Come to the CTE to take a look at the latest books and journals about university teaching.

In addition, the CTE is sponsoring a series of teaching workshops during opening convocation and several programs during the semester.

### **Newsletter Highlights**

- **Opening Convocation Workshops**
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### **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 sponsor several workshops on the theme of technology in the classroom. To enable you to attend as many workshops as possible, each one will be offered twice. The topics, presenters, dates, times, and locations of the workshops are

- “Facilitating Discussion through Blackboard,” Melissa Folman: August 22, 1:15 & 3:30 p.m., 205 Hanna
- “Highlights of the Teaching Professor Conference,” Denise Morris & Teresa Small: Wednesday, August 22: 11:00 a.m. & 1:15 p.m., 104 CRED
- “An Introduction to Diigo, a Tool for Highlighting and Annotating Online Sources,” Julio Quintero: Wednesday, August 22, 11:00 a.m. & 2:15 p.m., 102 Eberly
- “An Introduction to Prezi” (a new alternative to PowerPoint), Frank Pazzynski: Wednesday, August 22, 1:15 p.m. & Thursday, August 23, 11:00 a.m., 301 Miller
- “The Marvels of MERLOT” (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching), Marilyn Roberts: Wednesday, August 22, 3:30 p.m. & Thursday, August 23, 11:00 a.m., 102 Eberly
- “Using Clickers to Enhance Learning,” James Bush: Wednesday, August 22, 11:00 a.m. & 2:15 p.m., 409 Stewart.

In addition, the Office of Academic Affairs is offering the following convocation workshops:

- “Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy (SAP),” Brian Carr & Dana Baer: Wednesday, August 22, 11:00 a.m. & 3:30 p.m., 321 Buhl Hall
- “The Problem of Plagiarism: Preventing and Responding to Academic Dishonesty,” Jenny Jellison, Amy Randolph & Lisa Williams: Wednesday, August 22, 2:15 p.m. & Thursday, August 23, 11:00 a.m., 321 Buhl Hall.

## Teaching Discussion Group 2012-13

This year the Teaching Discussion Group will be devoted to a study of *Engaging Ideas: The Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom*, by John C. Bean. This book, now in its second edition, has been a popular choice for faculty learning communities across the country.

Highly readable and informative, the book offers many practical tips for helping to improve our students' thinking and writing skills.

To obtain your copy, contact Marilyn Roberts at [mroberts@waynesburg.edu](mailto:mroberts@waynesburg.edu) by August 15. One or two copies of the book will also be available on reserve in the library.

The Group holds monthly meetings during the noon hour in Benedum Hall. To enable as many people as possible to attend each month, the CTE offers two opportunities to discuss each reading. Simply select the date that works best for your schedule.

The 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 Fall 2012

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](mailto: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.

### Classroom Visitation Program

Would you like to refresh 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](mailto:mroberts@waynesburg.edu).

### New Professional Development Resource

With a full teaching load, committee assignments, and administrative commitments, today's professors find it difficult to schedule time for professional development workshops and especially to attend teaching conferences. To help as many faculty members benefit from the latest insights into and research on university teaching, the CTE is piloting a subscription to Magna's Online Seminars for this academic year. Topic categories for the seminars include "Grading & Feedback," "Syllabus & Course Design," "Student Engagement," "Issues with Students," "Instructional Vitality," "Academic Integrity," "Specific Types of Courses," "Technology in Face-to-Face Classes," and "Teaching Online."

All you have to do is set up a free account with Magna and download whichever seminars you would like to see. Instructions for creating an account and accessing the seminars are in a flyer that was emailed

to the faculty recently. If you did not receive the flyer, please ask Marilyn Roberts to send a copy to you.

The subscription will be renewed in subsequent years if faculty members make full use of the seminars. (Magna will keep track of how many faculty members create an account and which seminars are downloaded at a given university.)

Please note that, at this time, access to the seminars is limited to faculty and staff who work on WU's Main Campus.

## Upcoming Teaching Conferences

The Lilly Conferences teaching conferences start up again September 20-23 in Traverse City, MI. This year's conference theme is "Evidence-Based Learning and Teaching." Sub-topics for the Traverse City conference include "Engaged Learning," "Promoting Social Responsibility," "E-Learning," and "Creating Communities of Learners." The dates and locations of subsequent Lilly conferences are

- November 15-18 in Oxford, OH
- February 15-17, 2013 in Greensboro, NC
- March 14-16, 2013 in Pomona, CA
- May 31-June 3, 2013 in Bethesda, MD.

For more information about the conferences, go to [lillyconferences.com](http://lillyconferences.com).

This June, Denise Morris and Terri Small presented a paper at the 2012 Teaching Professor Conference in Washington, D.C. To learn more about their experience at the conference, attend their opening convocation workshop. (For details about that workshop, see the list of convocation sessions above.)

The next Teaching Professor Conference is scheduled for May 31-June 2, 2013 in New Orleans. The CTE would like to bring several faculty members to that conference or a Lilly Conference. If you are

interested in joining a WU group at a conference, contact Marilyn Roberts by October 1 at [mroberts@waynesburg.edu](mailto:mroberts@waynesburg.edu).

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.

To learn about other teaching conferences, go to [www.kennesaw.edu/cetl/resources/na\\_conf\\_list.html#general](http://www.kennesaw.edu/cetl/resources/na_conf_list.html#general).

### Call for Faculty Publications

Before the semester gets underway, please send a copy of your latest publication 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

This year, we will welcome 5 new full-time faculty members, each of whom has a mentor. Thanks to the dedicated WU professors who have volunteered to be mentors!

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

The fall 2012-13 orientation sessions for new full-time will take place on 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.

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.

### Teaching Tip of the Month

Have you noticed that students are often confused by the percentage-based grading formulas many faculty members use in their syllabi? In the July 30, 2012 issue of *Faculty Focus*, Mary C. Clement explains that this confusion is a nation-wide phenomenon. To help students gain a better sense of their standing in courses, Clement recommends switching to a point-based grading formula:

Each assignment, quiz, lab paper, project, or exam has a certain number of points. These point values can be listed in the syllabus as well as the total points needed for the final grade. To help students keep track of their points, I give them a worksheet and explain that if they record their points, they will know exactly how many they have and how many they still need to earn. (Clement)

The calculations and running totals can be displayed in Blackboard or through a grading program so that students can check their progress toward their desired grade.

### Center Facilities

Need a coffee, tea, or cocoa break? Come to the CTE to brew a cup 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 has expanded over the summer, so look for new books on active learning, teaching with technology, brain-based learning research, and a variety of other topics. Our new acquisitions include

- *Challenging and Supporting the First-Year Student: A Handbook for Improving the First Year of College*, M. Lee Upcraft
- *From Brain to Mind: Using Neuroscience to Guide Change in Education*, James E. Zull
- *Learner-Centered Teaching: Putting the Research on Learning into Practice*, Terry Doyle
- *Team-Based Learning in the Social Sciences and Humanities: Group Work that Works to Generate Critical Thinking and Engagement*, Michael Sweet & Larry K. Michaelsen, eds.

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](mailto:mroberts@waynesburg.edu). Occasional users may borrow a key 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](mailto:mroberts@waynesburg.edu).