

Fall 2007 Events

STRATEGIES FOR INCORPORATING AND ENHANCING ACTIVE LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM

Date: Thursday, September 6

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library (the electronic classroom)

Host: Dee Oseroff-Varnell (Communication)

Do you ever get the feeling that your students think you're somewhat odd for getting excited about your course material? Is it possible to engage our students so that they think about the course content past the final exam? It's time to rethink the time-old techniques of lecturing, question and answer, and testing and to implement some new learning strategies in the classroom. This workshop will focus on strategies and suggestions for jump-starting the classroom with active learning techniques. Come with your ideas for engaging your students in the course content for this lunchtime discussion. We extend a special invitation to our new faculty.

MENTORS AND MENTEES

Date: Wednesday, September 19

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Autumn Room, Reynolda Hall

Hosts: Margaret Bender (Anthropology), Wayne Pratt (Psychology)

Mentoring is often thought of as a partnership because there are obligations, implicit or otherwise, that each individual accepts. What obligations might you take on as either mentor or mentee? What challenges might arise for you in relation to these obligations? How can you partner with someone to meet your obligations to him or her? Our panelists will discuss how this relationship can lead to exceptional professional insight and growth for both mentor and mentee, and will encourage your comments and questions. Light refreshments will be offered.

DOES CLASS SIZE MATTER?

Date: Monday, September 24

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library (the electronic classroom)

Hosts: Angela King (Chemistry), Ralph Tower (Calloway), and Robert Ulery (Classical Languages)

This session explores the issues of whether there is a substantial trade-off between class size and student learning. The discussion will focus on what, if any, impact class size has on student academic performance, student attitudes toward the class and subject matter, and student evaluations of faculty. Our panel will encourage discussion, questions, and concerns. We extend a special invitation to our new faculty to attend! Light refreshments will be offered.

RESPONDING TO STUDENTS' WRITING: WHEN LESS IS MORE

Date: Tuesday, October 9

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library (the electronic classroom)

Host: Tom McGohey (Director, WFU Writing Center)

For most of us, grading and commenting on students' papers can be a time consuming chore. Yet research shows that a lot of our painstaking comments are counterproductive! Come find out how fewer, briefer comments on papers can help students learn better. Your comments, concerns, and questions are encouraged and welcomed.

DEMYSTIFYING ADHD AND LEARNING DISABILITIES

Date: Tuesday, October 16

Time: 12:00 P.M.

Location: TLC, Room 330, ZSR Library

Hosts: Van Westervelt, Michael Shuman (Learning Assistance Center)

The session will explore such issues as why we need to discuss ADHD and learning disabilities, how ADHD and LD are diagnosed, when are academic accommodations justified, how can we identify students with potential learning issues, and why faculty should become involved. Topics will range from diagnosis to accommodation, including recommendations. We extend a special invitation to new faculty to attend our events.

PEER REVIEW OF TEACHING

Date: Wednesday, October 24

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Benson 344F

Hosts: Sharon Andrews (Theatre), Sally Barbour (Romance Languages), Jeff Lerner (History, TLC), Gordon McCray (Calloway)

How do we undertake a systematic review of a colleague's teaching? How do we assess teaching excellence? What are the criteria we use? Faculty peer review of teaching entails the collaboration of colleagues who assist one another in developing, improving, and transforming approaches and course content through an evaluation of teaching activities. The panelists will discuss a set of strategies that departments, Schools, and programs can use in developing their own faculty peer review document based on their culture and local issues.

THE NEW CURRICULUM

Date: Tuesday, October 30

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Benson 410

Hosts: Dilip Kondepudi (Chemistry), Win-Chiat Lee (Philosophy), Barry Maine (English), Meg Zulick (Communication)

Come join us for a round-table discussion about the new curriculum. Four faculty will share their insights and lead a lively discussion about the changes made to the curriculum. The session will afford us an opportunity to reflect on what has taken place this first semester of its implementation and on what the future holds

FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A “MEET AND GREET” RECEPTION SPONSORED BY THE TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER

Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Time: 2:00-4:00 P.M.

Location: Johnson Room, ZSR Library

We hope you will join your Wake Forest colleagues for an informal pre-holiday gathering. Enjoy an assortment of delicious hors d'oeuvres and wines, meet new faculty members—our special guests for the event—and greet old friends. Please feel free to arrive and depart as your schedule dictates..

Spring 2008 Events

COURSE PREPARATION ASSIGNMENTS: A STRATEGY FOR CREATING DISCUSSION-BASED COURSES

Date: Wednesday, January 23

Time: 12:00 P.M.

Location: Benson 344 F

Host: David Yamane (Sociology)

Although many of us would like to get beyond lecturing, we often lack concrete strategies for doing so. In his paper “Course Preparation Assignments: A Strategy for Creating Discussion-Based Courses,” David Yamane explores one critical strategy when creating a discussion-based course: the success of such a course is predicated on students reading and thinking about the course material (receiving “first exposure”) prior to attending class so that class time can be devoted to more substantively engaging activities grounded in guided discussion. Dr. Yamane will discuss elements of his paper, which is included in the spring 2007 edition of the TLC Exchange and is currently on the TLC website at <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/resources/exchange.html>, and will welcome and encourage discussion by attendees.

ENRICHING STUDIES ABROAD

Date: Tuesday, February 5

Time: 12:00 P.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library

Host: Steve Folmar (Anthropology)

As Wake Forest increasingly engages with culturally diverse educational programs, many questions regarding how to foster deeper immersion into other cultures arise. The opportunities and challenges associated with learning in other cultures are pertinent to students and teachers alike. This seminar focuses on exploring with interested faculty members how better to prepare ourselves and to engage in learning about the cultures we visit and how those cultures inform the topics we teach to our students. The specific goals of this seminar are: 1) to recognize our (faculty) strengths and weaknesses in study abroad offerings and 2) to identify a small group of faculty interested in increasing their own and the University’s level of cultural competency. Our host invites you to partake in this discussion and extends a special invitation to faculty that have taught in other cultural settings or who intend to do so!

TEACHING OVERSEAS

Date: Monday, February 11

Time: 12:00 P.M.

Location: AUTUMN ROOM, REYNOLDA HALL (Note location change)

Hosts: Kline Harrison (Associate Provost for International Affairs), David Phillips (East Asian Languages), Susan Rupp (History)

Increasingly, overseas programs form an integral part of the total educational experience at Wake Forest by providing unique academic and experiential opportunities for both students and faculty. Join your colleagues as they reflect on their experiences teaching overseas and share their insights about the similarities and differences of teaching and learning in a different country. Our hosts will welcome your comments and questions. We extend a special invitation to our new faculty! Lunch will be available for faculty who reply by Wednesday, February 6 (choices are listed below; be sure to specify your selection).

TEACHING AND LEARNING FAIR

Date: Wednesday, February 27

Time: 2:00-4:00 P.M.

Location: Benson 401 A&B

Open to faculty and graduate students, this event is designed to offer practical and interactive presentations to assist the novice and experienced faculty alike by enhancing their effectiveness as educators. Presenters will share their best practices, introduce emerging new curricular tools, explain and demonstrate tried-and-true pedagogic approaches to stimulate learning and to provide exposure to new vistas and emerging concepts in education. It will be an opportunity to see what colleagues in different departments do in their classes.

RESPONDING TO CAMPUS EMERGENCIES

Date: Wednesday, March 19

Time: 12:00 P.M.

Location: Pugh Auditorium, Benson Center

Campus emergency preparedness has been on minds of many people in the wake of tragedies at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University. The Teaching and Learning Center will host a program led by University Police Chief Regina Lawson and Vice-President Ken Zick on the subject, "Responding to Campus Emergencies," on Wednesday, March 19 at 12-1 p.m. in Pugh Auditorium of the Benson University Center. The program will address University crisis management planning, crisis communications, campus safety initiatives, and practical advice for responding to particular emergencies. This program is open to all faculty and staff.

BLOGS AND WIKIS AT ZSR

Date: Wednesday, April 2

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library

Hosts: Christa Colyer (Chair/Associate Professor of Chemistry), Stephanie Pellet (Romance Languages) and H. David "Giz" Womack (Manager of Technology Training for the Z. Smith Reynolds Library)

The Z. Smith Reynolds Library is now pleased to offer the Wake Forest community blog and wikis. Join us to learn more about these resources and see how blogs and wikis are already being used in the classroom at WFU. Participants will not only see example of academic blogs and wikis currently being used in classes at WFU, but also learn how to create and edit a blog or wiki hosted on the ZSR Library server.

WHY NOT AN INTERDISCIPLINARY WRITING MINOR?

Date: Tuesday, April 15

Time: 12:00 P.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library

Host: Tom McGohey (The Writing Center)

Guess who's teaching writing at WFU? It's not just the English Department. You might be surprised at how many of your colleagues across the campus use writing in all sorts of challenging and creative ways to help their students master the material of their discipline. How might we all – professors and students – benefit by bringing together this wealth of experience and expertise? Please join us in an open forum discussion to consider how the courses many of you are already teaching might contribute to an Interdisciplinary Writing Minor. Whether you have lots of experience using writing in the classroom or have just been curious about how writing might change your teaching, please come offer your own views on the advantages of an Interdisciplinary Writing Minor.