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Alan Altany

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The Banyan Tree

Newsletter of the Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET)
Georgia Southern University

Volume 3, Number 1

September 2008

Director's Message from the Canopy

The CET is designating 2008-2009 as the "Year of Course Design" and is available to work with individuals and departments in developing optimal course design or re-design so that greater student learning is achieved on a regular basis. Effective course design is key to the best teaching and learning.

This semester the CET is moving from its present location in the College of Information Technology building to the new section of **Henderson Library**. We hope to be in area 1303 by the end of September. Please stop in after we move.



CET has founded an academic society for the scholarship of teaching & learning (SoTL) in the Southeast: **Southeastern SoTL Colloquy (SSC)**. Its **Founders' Council** includes faculty & administrators from Georgia Southern and 65 other private and public colleges and universities (Auburn, Duke, Virginia, Florida, Miami, Georgia, Georgia Tech, West Virginia, Alabama, Tennessee, Agnes Scott, Spelman, Wesleyan, Mississippi, Richmond, NC State, Kentucky, Xavier of Louisiana, St. Leo, Central Florida, Mississippi State, Marshall, etc). You will soon receive info about it and how to join. The SSC's annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the SoTL Commons Conference at Georgia Southern.



The SoTL Commons

A Conference for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning

March 11 - 13, 2009

Georgia Southern University

Statesboro, Georgia, USA

The CET will host its **2nd annual SoTL Commons: An International Conference for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning** on March 11-13, 2009 in Nessmith-Lane. Keynote speakers will be **Randy Bass** (Georgetown University), **Kathy Takayama** (Brown University) and **Laurie Richlin** (Charles Drew University of Medicine and Health Science). The **submission of proposals period is August 15 – October 15, 2008**. Georgia Southern faculty are encouraged to submit proposals for the blind review process (<http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/conference/2009/index.htm>). Faculty can volunteer to chair a concurrent session and have their registration fee waived (meals not included). **To volunteer contact Stacy Kluge at the CET**. For other GS faculty/staff, a greatly reduced registration fee (\$150) is available (includes meals) and must be done by phone at 478-5551.

Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs)

(<http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/programs/flc.htm>). FLCs will soon begin their interdisciplinary, collaborative work for 2008-2009. The deadline to register is past, but contact aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu asap if you would still like to join an FLC (Course Design; POGIL; Effective Lecturing; Teaching Honors; Teach Grad Courses, etc).



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Grants & Awards

For guidelines and deadlines, go to

<http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/resources/grants.htm>

Grants for the Development of Instruction: applications due 9/5/08

Grants for Professional Travel: applications due 9/12/08;
1/9/09; 3/20/09

Awards for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction:
nominations due 9/12/08

Faculty Development Summer Award: applications due 2/6/09

"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery."

_Mark van Doren

Call for Nominations: Award for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction

Nomination Deadline: 5 pm, September 12, 2008

Form: http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/resources/Excel_Award_Nom_Form_fy08_09.doc

Designed to recognize and reward faculty who have made outstanding contributions to the teaching-learning process at Georgia Southern, the Awards for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction are presented to two full time faculty members. Recipients are selected from persons nominated by faculty, administrators, and/or students. Two \$4,000 summer stipends are awarded.

International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

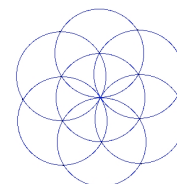


The 4th issue of the CET's peer-reviewed, academic journal, **International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning** (IJ-SoTL) contains articles, essays and book reviews and is available at <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsoTL/v2n2.html>. Currently over 4,100 people from 114 countries have requested email alerts when new issues are published. IJ-SoTL is becoming a premier academic journal for SoTL.

Reading Roundtables

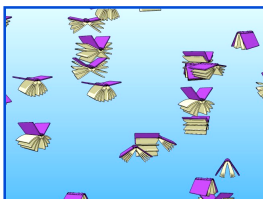
Each semester the CET sponsors faculty book discussion groups called Reading Roundtables (RR). The RR meets several times during the semester, according to the schedules of its members. This fall there are **52 faculty in various RRs** for these books:

Creating Significant Learning Experiences: An Integrated Approach to Designing College Courses (Fink); **Inquiry in the College Classroom: A Journey Towards College Teaching** (Savory, Burnett & Goodburn); **Straight Man** (Russo; a novel); **The Skillful Teacher** (Brookfield); **Enhancing Learning Through the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning** (McKinney); **The Art of Changing the Brain: Enriching the Practice of Teaching by Exploring the Biology of Learning** (Zull). Consider participating in a Spring 2009 Roundtable.



Featured Books from the CET Lending Library

Faculty are invited to check out books, either in person or by an email request to phendrix@georgiasouthern.edu. Here are a few of the books available:



The Course Syllabus: A Learning-Centered Approach
Blueprint for Learning: Constructing College Courses
Team-Based Learning: Small Groups in College Teaching
Advice for New Faculty
Making Time, Making Change: Avoiding Overload in College Teaching
Enhancing Learning Through the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning
Exploring Research-Based Teaching
Peer Review of Teaching: A Sourcebook

Focus on Excellence Lecture Series for 2008 - 2009

This annual series of 6 lectures is facilitated by the CET and the campus is invited to attend presentations by the previous year's recipients of the Awards for Excellence in Contribution to Instruction, Research/Creative Scholarly Activities, and Service. Lectures begin at 4 pm, followed by a reception. Fall Lectures:

October 28, 2008 | Instruction | CIT 3301
"Teaching: Option or Obsession?" - Dr. Sharon Taylor

November 11, 2008 | Research | Nessmith-Lane 1908
"Fleas, Bedbugs and Headlice are back: Ectoparasites are Resurging!" - Dr. Lance Durden

December 2, 2008 | Service | CIT 3302
"How To Survive A Mental Breakdown At Least Once A Year!" - Dr. Susie Lanier



Quotes

"A teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary." _Thomas Carruthers

"It's not what is poured into a student that counts, but what is planted." _Linda Conway

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." _John Dewey

"Those who go to college and never get out are called professors." _George Givot

"The great end of education is to discipline rather than to furnish the mind; to train it to the use of its own powers rather than to fill it with the accumulation of others." _Tryon Edwards

Faculty Series - Fall 2008 (first session was held on August 26th)

September 10, 2008
Today's Graduate Students

3 - 4 pm | Room 3301, College of Information Technology Building

Presenter: Dr. Tim Mack (Dean, Graduate School)

What is it like to serve as a major advisor for today's graduate student? Are Georgia Southern's graduate students different from students where you were trained? They could be! This session will be an interactive discussion of these two questions.

September 18, 2008
Web 2.0 for Teaching & Scholarship



11:30 - 12:45 | Room 3301, College of Information Technology Building

Presenter: Dr. Barbara Nixon (Department of Communication Arts)

The new technologies available today make it easier than ever to meet our students and other faculty members where they are -- and where they need to be. In this engaging workshop, you will learn how to use available -- and free -- technology to connect with students and colleagues, both academically and personally. Highly interactive (no death by PowerPoint), with short demos of the technologies in action, accompanied by a blog to continue the conversation.

October 16 2008
Active Learning in Large Classes ([brown bag lunch](#))

12 - 12:50 pm | Room 3301, College of Information Technology Building

Presenter: Dr. Michelle Cawthorn (Department of Biology)

Research on learning indicates that people learn least by listening and most by doing. However, many (perhaps most) faculty teach how they were taught--through passive listening via a lecture format. This is especially true in large lecture halls, where both time and classroom management issues are magnified. I will demonstrate how I incorporate active learning and critical thinking skills in large classes.

October 21 2008
Service Learning ([brown bag lunch](#))

12 - 12:50 pm | Room 3301, College of Information Technology Building



Presenters: Dr. Todd Deal, Diana Hensley & Janna Pennington (Student Leadership & Civic Engagement)

What is service-learning and how can it be applied in the classroom? Join colleagues in a discussion about service-learning, and learn ways that you can use this rapidly emerging, active teaching/learning strategy in your classes.

Please register for sessions by contacting Patricia Hendrix at 478-0049, or phendrix@georgiasouthern.edu.

CET Web Site

Visit the CET web site regularly at

<http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/index.htm>



Center for
Excellence
in Teaching

"The further you enter into truth, the deeper it is." _Bankei

CET SEMINARS: To register for a seminar call the CET at 478-0049 or email phendrix@georgiasouthern.edu.

September

- 2 **CET Seminar: More Effective Lecturing** 9 – 10:30 am | CIT 1205 | Steve Bonham
- 3 **CET Seminar: Creating Significant Learning Outcomes** 10 – 12:30 | CIT 1205 | Stacy Kluge
- 4 **CET Seminar: More Effective Lecturing** 12 – 1:30 pm | CIT 1205 | Steve Bonham
- 8 **New Faculty Seminar Series: Creating a Syllabus That Works**
3:30 – 5 pm | CIT 3301 | Dr. Danny Dixon (Sociology & Anthropology)
- 9 **CET Seminar: Creating Significant Learning Outcomes** 10 – 12:30 | CIT 1205 | Stacy Kluge
- 10 **Faculty Series: Today's Graduate Students** 3–4 pm | CIT 3301 | Dr. Tim Mack (Dean, Grad School)
- 11 **CET Seminar: Student Engagement in Smart Classrooms** 3 – 4:30 pm | CIT 1205 | Steve Bonham
- 15 **CET Seminar: Creating Significant Learning Outcomes** 2 - 4:30 pm | CIT 1205 | Stacy Kluge
- 17 **CET Seminar: More Effective Lecturing** 9 – 10:30 am | CIT 1205 | Steve Bonham
- 18 **Faculty Series: Web 2.0 for Teaching & Scholarship** 11:30–12:45 | CIT 3301 | Dr. Barbara Nixon
- 23 **CET Seminar: Designing Courseware & Simulations (with PowerPoint)**
9 – 10:30 am | CIT 1205 | Steve Bonham
- 24 **CET Seminar: Student Engagement in Smart Classrooms** 10 – 11:30 am | CIT 1205 | Steve Bonham
- 29 **CET Seminar: Designing Courseware & Simulations (with PowerPoint)**
3 – 4:30 pm | CIT 1205 | Steve Bonham

October

- 6 **New Faculty Seminar Series: Creating a Dynamic Classroom for Students**
3:30 – 4:30 pm | CIT 3301 | Dr. Lorne Wolfe (Biology)
- 7 **CET Seminar: Effective Uses of Digital Simulations & Games** 9–10:30 am | CIT 1205 | Steve Bonham
- 9 **CET Seminar: Using Assessment to Promote Student Learning** 2 – 4 pm | CIT 1205 | Stacy Kluge
- 13 **CET Seminar: Using Assessment to Promote Student Learning** 2 – 4 pm | CIT 1205 | Stacy Kluge
- 15 **CET Seminar: Effective Uses of Digital Simulations & Games** 9–10:30 am | CIT 1205 | Steve Bonham
- 16 **Faculty Series: Active Learning & Large Classes** 12–12:50 (brownbag) | Dr. Michelle Cawthorn (Biology)
- 20 **Faculty Series: Effective Uses of Digital Simulations & Games** 3–4:30 pm | CIT 1205 | Steve Bonham
- 21 **Faculty Series: Service Learning**
12 – 12:50 pm (brownbag) | CIT 3301 | Dr. Todd Deal, Diana Hensley & Janna Pennington
- 28 **CET Seminar: A Taste of MERLOT** (multimedia for teaching) 10–11:30 | CIT 1205 | Steve Bonham

November

- 3 **CET Seminar: Active Learning for Students** 10 - 12 | CIT 1205 | Stacy Kluge
- 6 **CET Seminar: Using Blogs, Vlogs & Social Networks (Facebook, MySpace) in Your Courses**
12 – 1:30 pm | CIT 1205 | Steve Bonham
- 11 **CET Seminar: Active Learning for Students** 10 - 12 | CIT 1205 | Stacy Kluge
- 12 **CET Seminar: Using Blogs, Vlogs & Social Networks (Facebook, MySpace) in Your Courses**
3 – 4:30 pm | CIT 1205 | Steve Bonham

December

- 15 **CET Seminar: Creating Significant Learning Outcomes** 10 – 12:30 | CIT 1205 | Stacy Kluge
- 16 **CET Seminar: Using Assessment to Promote Student Learning** 10 - 12 | CIT 1205 | Stacy Kluge
- 17 **CET Seminar: Active Learning for Students** 10 - 12 | CIT 1205 | Stacy Kluge