Welcome

Center Point is the new monthly newsletter of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning. We hope you enjoy the expanded format of our monthly calendar and take special note of the events we will highlight each issue. For those accustomed to the simpler calendar grid, you’ll still find it on our back cover.

Spotlight on...

The UCF Arboretum: an Environmental Classroom

Learn how the UCF Arboretum can be used as a classroom for your course, engaging students both literally and figuratively in the natural and constructed landscape. From physics to psychology, from journalism to math, the Arboretum is a learning laboratory. Facilitated by Dr. Martin Quigley.

Oct. 28, 1:30-3:00

Targeting Learning Outcomes for Program Assessment

Participants will learn how to develop good student learning outcomes at the program level. Strategies for measuring these outcomes will be offered. This session will include matching targeted outcomes to discipline-specific certification needs. Facilitated by Dr. Paula Krist.

Oct. 5, 1:30-3:00
Oct. 14, 1:30-3:00

Faculty Social

We’re rolling out a new event on October 7th at the Faculty Center: a social hour the first Thursday of every month. Relaxation and food from 4:30-5:30 at the Faculty Center. RSVP (407) 823-3544.

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

The Faculty Center’s 2004-2005 theme is the “Year of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.”

We are often asked what the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) means. Lee Schulman at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advance ment of Teaching offers this definition:

“Scholarly teaching is what every one of us should be engaged in every day that we are in a classroom, in our office with students, tutoring, lecturing, conducting discussions, all the roles we play pedagogically... if it is only when we step back and reflect systematically on the teaching we have done, in a form that can be publicly reviewed and built upon by our peers, that we have moved from scholarly teaching to the scholarship of teaching.”

SoTL has become a national effort in recent years. Rather than simply disseminating ideas about teaching, SoTL focuses on the outcome of teaching: student learning. Indiana University defines SoTL as an initiative “to improve undergraduate learning by fostering faculty inquiry into learning and by building interdisciplinary communities that support and refine this inquiry.” When we hear about how others practice their disciplines, we are prompted into creating our own systemic change.

(continued on next page)
Adjunct Faculty Retreat
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In Closing...
Join us for our famous Hallowe’en Open House on Friday October 29, from 11:00 – 1:00 at the Faculty Center. Refreshments will be served. Costumes are optional. Come be social with your fellow faculty; it promises to be a frighteningly good time!

In the Center
A Different Approach to Bloom’s Taxonomy
Participants will discuss a cumulative impact of cognitive levels on structuring learning objectives, teaching strategies and evaluation methods.

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Oct. 27, 10:30-12:00

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Oct. 12, 12:00-3:30

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This will be a roundtable discussion of grade inflation across the university. Come to learn how it has affected us, what can be done about it, and other related issues.

Oct. 29, 1:30-3:00

ITV Workshop Series
The ITV workshop series will mentor you through the process of providing a successful learning environment at multiple campuses, using the ITV system. You will learn to use the technology, discuss different pedagogical approaches and assessment strategies. This workshop series is open to anyone interested in the ITV system.

Oct. 15 & 22 & 29, 9:00-12:00

Mentoring and Being Mentored
In this session we will discuss the ways in which faculty and administration can mentor each other and how best to find effective mentors in and outside of your department.

Oct. 6, 10:30-12:00
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Watch our calendar for additional workshops about the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning offered throughout the year.

Nuts and Bolts of Service-Learning Classes
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Oct. 5, 9:00-10:30

Using Humor
Humor is a tool for engaging students but can also alienate them. This workshop will focus on positive and negative aspects of the use of humor in the classroom.

Oct. 19, 10:30-12:00

The Karen L. Smith Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning
CLC-207 • Phone: 407-823-3544 • Fax: 407-823-2355
E-mail: fctl@mail.ucf.edu
www.fctl.ucf.edu

“Year of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning,” continued.
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International Teaching Assistants are invited to a culture and discussion hour, Mondays at 4:00 in the Faculty Center. This is a voluntary series of meetings to practice speaking English, learn language immersion tips, and discuss American culture.

Resource of the Month
“Jigsaw”
Describe this exercise to your class as a puzzle that requires cooperation. Organize groups of five. Each person should receive an envelope containing irregular pieces that will be used to form squares. The task of each group is to form five squares. Be sure to offer a chance afterwards for reflection on the emotions inherent in group dynamics and team learning.

For more information and to find other resources, see http://www.fctl.ucf.edu/resources/

The Karen L. Smith Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning
COFFEE AND NETWORKING
Wednesday, October 14, 2004
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Here’s what’s happening outside the Faculty Center:

SITE 2005
March 1-5, 2005
Phoenix, Arizona
http://www.aace.org/conf/site/
Submission deadline: Oct. 18, 2004

CRLL 3rd International Conference
What a Difference a Pedagogy Maker: Researching Lifelong Learning and Teaching
June 23-26, 2005
Stirling, Scotland
http://crll.geal.ucf.org/conf.htm
Submission deadline: Oct. 25, 2004

2005 Lilly South Conference on College and University Teaching
February 18-19, 2005
Greensboro, North Carolina
http://www.aue.edu/tc/lillysouth/
Submission deadline: Nov. 1, 2004

In the Center

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Ethics Across the Curriculum
If you are interested in focusing on ethics in your teaching and in your research, or if you wish to develop ideas and materials for incorporating ethics into your curriculum and projects, please attend this sharing session. If you have materials, bring them. If you have questions, bring them. If you just want to listen in, you will be welcome.

Oct. 11, 2:00-3:30
Oct. 15, 10:30-12:00

Freeing the Creature
The Frankenstein story can be understood as a cultural expression of humanity’s alienation from other beings and systems in the biosphere. In this seminar we will explore some of the causes and the effects of this alienation, including a discussion of how the culture-wide disengagement is manifested in the classroom.

Oct. 20 & 27, 2:30-4:00

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**Teaching and Learning**

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