Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning
April 20th

Join us for relaxation and food on Tuesday April 5th, from 4:00-5:30 at the Faculty Center. April 9th at 3:30 in the Student Union—Relay for Life. It offers everyone a chance to participate in the fight against cancer, and have a little fun at UCF. And take turns walking or running around the track. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. The Relay is an 18-hour event and does go throughout the night. At the Faculty Center, we are raffling off several prizes for the evening. Relay, including a running quilt created by several UCF faculty and staff. For more information, see http://www.cancer.org or call the UCF Relay for Life offices 1-877-435-2364.

We will cap our "Year of the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning" on Tuesday, April 19th at 11:30 in the Market Place (Pegasus Ballroom, SU). This major event: an address by the Provost on the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning at UCF, as well as a keynote address by a renowned national speaker. Join us for relaxation and food on Tuesday April 5th, from 4:00-5:30 at the Faculty Center. April 9th at 3:30 in the Student Union—Relay for Life. It offers everyone a chance to participate in the fight against cancer, and have a little fun at UCF. And take turns walking or running around the track. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. The Relay is an 18-hour event and does go throughout the night. At the Faculty Center, we are raffling off several prizes for the evening. Relay, including a running quilt created by several UCF faculty and staff. For more information, see http://www.cancer.org or call the UCF Relay for Life offices 1-877-435-2364.

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The Karen L. Smith Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning invites graduate teaching assistants, graders, and other interested graduate students to enroll in our GTA Certificate Program. Students will receive group and individualized instruction by Faculty Center staff and experienced UCF professors, as well as textbooks and materials. GTA’s will attend a 12 week, non-credit program. Interested graduate students should register online and follow the instructions.

Written approval from the chair or graduate coordinator is required. Participation is limited. The Summer 2005 Certificate Program will meet on Fridays, 1:00-4:00, May 20th – August 5th. Please register by May 6th.

For more information: http://www.fctl.ucf.edu/events/gtaert

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**UCF Fit**

The UCF-Fit program challenges builds community at UCF through fitness and wellness activities. Join us all semester long on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m., some of us walking and some of us jogging around UCF. It’s healthy, social, and fun!

For more information and tree registration, see: http://www.fctl.ucf.edu/ucf-fit

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**GTA Certificate Course Summer 2005**

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**Plus/Minus Grading Survey**

Thank you to those who completed our internal online survey of plus/minus grading. Here are the results:

1. Are you using plus/minus grading in your classes this semester?  
   - Yes (57.57%)  
   - No (51.91%)

2. Have you ever used plus/minus grading in the past?  
   - Yes (57.57%)  
   - No (42.43%)

3. Do you plan to use plus/minus grading in the future?  
   - Yes (57.57%)  
   - No (42.43%)

4. Is plus/minus grading more difficult to manage administratively than “flat” grading?  
   - Yes (48.48%)  
   - No (51.52%)

5. Do you believe student performance is impacted by plus/minus grading?  
   - Yes (63.63%)  
   - No (36.36%)

6. Do you wish that UCF required a single standard for everyone instead of allowing instructors to choose plus/minus or “flat” grading?  
   - Yes (57.57%)  
   - No (42.42%)

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**Student Feedback**

How do we deal with students who are critical of our teaching, either in-person or online? We will model some scenarios, and provide suggestions and hints for turning confrontations into constructive experiences.

**Tuesday, April 12, 1-2:30**

**Developing a Portfolio for Promotion and Tenure**

This workshop will discuss, in a general way, the “do’s and don’ts” of promotion and tenure portfolios. We will discuss the “more work/less work” rule, as well as the value of finding a tenure mentor.

**Tuesday, April 19, 10-11:30**

**Focusing Students on Learning**

This session addresses two purposes: getting our students focused on learning goals and collecting quantitative data about student learning. We will look at using learning styles inventories, attitude surveys, and knowledge surveys toward building a foundation for better assessment of student learning and tutor student engagement.

**Tuesday, April 22, 10:30-12:30**

**Handling Negative Student Feedback**

How do we deal with students who are critical of our teaching, either in-person or online? We will model some scenarios, and provide suggestions and hints for turning confrontations into constructive experiences.

**Tuesday, April 12, 1-2:30**

**International Travel: Lessons Learned From Real and Virtual Experiences**

The presentation will start with an overview of the Fulbright-Hays Travel Abroad program conducted by UCF during the Summer 2004. This will be followed by the presentation outlining the U.S.-Armenia Teacher Exchange which took place right after the India program. It will close with a question and answer session clarifying the scope and purpose of the U.S.-Armenia Teacher Exchange.

**Thursday, April 7, 3-5**

**Just-in-Time-Teaching**

Just in time teaching is a new methodology designed to engage students by using feedback from pre-class web assignments to adjust classroom lessons, so that students receive rapid response to specific questions and problems rather than generic lectures. Many teachers have found that this process also encourages students to take more control of the learning experience and become active and interested learners.

**Tuesday, April 12, 10:30-12**

**Life as an Adjunct: Issues, Support, Solutions**

Adjuncts don’t always know where to find the help they need, from nuts & bolts like rosters and gradebooks, to theoretical pedagogical issues like course design and classroom management. We can help!

**Friday, April 22, 9-10:30**

**NSSE Initiatives: Workshop Series**

Faculty are invited to participate in workshops developed as a result of the UCF information gleaned from the National Survey of Student Engagement. “Collaboration and Support Services” is the topic for Friday, April 1. This meeting will be held from 11:00 to 12:30 in the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, CL1 207.

**Friday, April 1, 11-12:30**

**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.

**Thursday, April 14, 2-3:30**

**Wednesday, April 6, 1:30-3**

**Service-Learning Student Reflection Leaders Workshop**

Instructors have the responsibility to guide student reflection through designing reflection prompts and through providing feedback on reflection products, and this function is enhanced when shared with student peers. We will share with interested faculty the theory and practice of using Student Reflection Leaders to facilitate guided reflection and assessment in SL courses.

**Monday, April 4, 11-12:30**

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**What faculty need to know about undergraduate research programs: RAMP and McNair Scholars**

This session is intended to empower UCF faculty and staff with the knowledge of potential local and national undergraduate research opportunities. We will provide insight into mentoring and advising strategies designed to help underrepresented students understand the nuances of graduate education.

**Friday, April 8, 10:30-12**

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**Teaching Outside the Box**

Let’s explore your classes, get new ideas, and create new activities to bring a breath of fresh air to your classroom delivery in order to enhance learning.

**Thursday, April 7, 1-3:30**

**Visual Information and Thinking Maps with Inspiration**

Come find out why Inspiration is the number one visual mapping product used in academia today. This workshop will show you how to use Inspiration as a visual tool for class and project planning, storyboard time-based media, student project collaboration and critical thinking, and curricular process management.

**Monday, April 11, 3-5**

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1. Are you using plus/minus grading in your courses this semester?
   - Yes (57.57%)
   - No (42.43%)

2. Have you ever used plus/minus grading in the past?
   - Yes (75.75%)
   - No (24.25%)

3. Do you plan to use plus/minus grading in the future?
   - Yes (57.57%)
   - No (42.43%)

4. Is plus/minus grading more difficult to manage administratively than “flat grading”?
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5. Do you believe student performance is impacted by plus/minus grading?
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Tuesday, April 12, 10:30-12
Monday, April 18, 1:30-3

Lakes for Learning (Matching Method with Moment)
Come explore several content presentation methods for changing teaching delivery to enhance learning, and leave with new ideas for your classes.

Thursday, April 21, 1:30-3

Life as an Adjunct: Issues, Support, Solutions
Adjuncts don’t always know where to find the help they need, from nuts & bolts like rosters and grade-books, to theoretical pedagogical issues like course design and classroom management. We can help!

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SoTL Faculty Showcase
April 20th

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We also want to focus attention on the work that faculty have done on the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning in the form of a Faculty Showcase. If you’ve done any work on SoTL, or would like to plot out how you might start a SoTL project for the future, we encourage you to display a poster at this showcase! For this event only, the Faculty Center is offering to pay the costs of creating a color poster at the Faculty Multimedia Center; just email fctl@mail.ucf.edu for more details.

We’ve also assembled some electronic assistance on how to create posters, for those new to it. Simply stop by UCF’s SoTL website (http://www.fctl.ucf.edu/events/sotl/sotlevent.asp) and you’ll find information about making a poster, as well as images of several sample posters. Additionally, we’re always happy to consult with you at the Faculty Center if you need ideas about ways to organize your research. Posters must be delivered by April 8 to be printed in time for the event.

Join us for the Provost’s address, a keynote by a national speaker, and a chance to create a cost-free poster on your work. Register online now at http://www.fctl.ucf.edu/events/sotl/sotlevent.asp.