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The Faculty Scholarship & Teaching Center Newsletter

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The Faculty Scholarship & Teaching Center Newsletter

A Note from the Coordinators

By Tony Labriola and Dr. Raven James

Welcome to the Faculty Scholarship & Teaching Center (FS&TC), a support center for faculty development at GSU. We arose from a perceived need in our faculty community for an organization to support us in our teaching, scholarship and service initiatives. We're here to provide a place for communication, celebration, and encouragement of faculty development.

This past year we have sponsored workshops, brown bag luncheons, speakers, webinars, and various events. Two weeks ago we held our second wildly successful "Rapid Fire Research" event, where faculty presented and shared their research interests (both in progress and completed) in a fun and interesting way. We'd love to hear your suggestions for other ways we can connect with each other as faculty colleagues to share our ideas,

challenges, and accomplishments—and learn from one another.

The FS&TC is faculty run and faculty driven. This is not an “Us” and “Them” operation. “We” need all of “Us” to be involved. We encourage you to suggest activities and to contribute your knowledge and expertise. As faculty colleagues, we are strong *together* and can support each other in all of our work with scholarship and teaching.

This newsletter will keep you up to date on faculty development activities campus-wide. In the coming months we hope to put together a calendar of activities and to pursue the new initiatives that you recommend. We will need your help, insight, skill and abilities to make it all happen. Call us. Talk to us. E-mail us at

faculty@scholarshipandteachingcenter.govst.edu

Be a part of a cooperative spirit for learning.

A Note from the Editor

By Dr. Christopher White

As editor of the *Faculty Scholarship & Teaching Center Newsletter*, I am very pleased to introduce our first issue. The *FS&TC Newsletter* is designed to help us, members of the GSU faculty community, stay connected with all the faculty development events and initiatives happening here on campus. The *Newsletter* will also provide a way for faculty to share ideas that might be of general interest to us all as teachers and scholars.

In this issue, you'll learn about GSU's new Faculty-in-Residence Program and hear from Dr. Kerri Morris, the Faculty in Residence for AY 2012-13, about her vision for rejuvenating our Writing Across the Curriculum Program. This issue also features short articles about professional learning communities, faculty mentoring, and grant making opportunities here at GSU.

We plan to publish two issues of the *FS&TC Newsletter* next semester. Please contact us if you are planning any speakers, activities, or workshops related to faculty development or enrichment—we'll help you publicize your event. Also, if you'd like to propose a short article for a future issue, we would love to hear from you! Email us at faculty@scholarshipandteachingcenter.govst.edu. Enjoy!

About the Faculty-in-Residence Program

By Dr. Angela Latham

Shortly after my arrival at GSU in April, I was asked to collaborate with faculty development leadership on current and future programming ideas. One concept I had successfully implemented at a previous institution was a “faculty-in-residence” (FIR) program. Although I realized it would need to be adapted to the particular needs of GSU, I explained the basic concept to a few people, who responded positively and agreed it would be a good idea to implement as a pilot.

The FIR position is selected based on an application process that consists of a detailed proposal for a significant project relevant to the scholarship of teaching. This project should be wide enough in scope to be beneficial to all faculty, regardless of discipline.

More specifically, The FIR position calls upon the selected faculty member to be highly engaged with faculty colleagues about the scholarship of teaching, including issues related to assessment, curriculum development, and pedagogy. The faculty in residence also conducts special projects, acts as a teaching consultant, leads seminars and workshops, and contributes to other professional development activities such as “brown bag” discussions, book discussion groups, peer review of teaching, etc.

Given my recent arrival and the late introduction of this program, we considered inviting a faculty member to apply for the FIR position for a pilot in the academic year 2012-13. Dr. Kerri Morris' strategic work with both CASLO and the GE Task Force as well as her expertise in Writing Across the Curriculum made her an ideal person to invite to submit a proposal in the context of our planning for first year students. Thankfully, she willingly submitted an excellent proposal, the details of which are referenced in her own article below.

I invite all who are interested to stay tuned for information about the application for FIR for AY 2013-14.

Faculty in Residence, AY2012-13

By Dr. Kerri Morris

As the Faculty in Residence for the Faculty Scholarship & Teaching Center this year, my main focus is to offer support and resources about writing and teaching writing for my colleagues across the university. I was hired in 2011, and in my first year at GSU it has become clear that all of us share a commitment to improving student writing.

GSU has had a Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program for many years and has a Writing Intensive course requirement in its catalog. We have some really impressive programs on campus that are models for how to develop writing within a discipline. However, I don't think that everyone is aware of these things. I would like to bring attention to WAC, to celebrate our successes, and to provide support for development.

On October 24th the FS&TC highlighted the Physical Therapy department's WAC work with a panel presentation from Ann Vendrely, Becky Nugent, Rebecca Wojcik, Antonia Christian, and Sarah Bugajski. Their exemplary approach to improving their students' writing has been ongoing for almost a decade and has included revising their curriculum, adopting shared objectives about writing across their courses, creating common rubrics and assignments, and emphasizing the importance of writing in research about their discipline and in the profession itself.

I will host several workshops and brown bags, the first at the beginning of the spring semester. The first workshop will advocate the use of writing in the classroom for three reasons.

- People improve as writers when they write frequently
- People learn better when they put their knowledge into words
- Teachers have insight to student learning when students write

When we ask students to write in our classrooms, we don't always have to aim for a "product" or a "paper." Rather, we can ask students to write in order to help them learn and to help us see their learning.

We will discuss strategies for using writing to teach content material, in-class assignments that can be easily added to your syllabus, and the use of Blackboard to develop both writing and learning. All of these are low-impact uses of writing for both teachers and students. They promote learning and writing skills without increasing the grading load and without overwhelming students.

I plan to offer several more workshop/brown bags on topics such as "Designing Writing Assignments," "Using Rubrics to Guide Writing," "Revision and Drafting Across the Curriculum." I will also make a blog available by the end of the semester that will provide a place for people to discuss writing and that will provide resources for teachers who would like to include more writing in their courses.

I want people to share any ideas they have for workshop titles and to know that I am available for one-to-one consultations or for consultation with programs that want to focus on students' writing. You can email me at kmorris2@govst.edu.

Professional Learning Community for Online Teaching

Dr. Cathy Toll

A Professional Learning Community (PLC) for faculty teaching online courses is forming here at GSU. A PLC is a collaboration that supports its participants' learning. The members of the PLC set their own direction.

Participants in the PLC for Online Teaching will learn together as they explore topics related to their online teaching and their students' online learning. Members of the PLC will determine how they engage around topics they choose; possibilities include: reading research done by others; engaging in a cycle of problem solving; writing and responding to one another via blog entries; and conducting their own research into a matter of significance.

The focus of this PLC will be on creating a community of faculty learners whose collaboration leads to even greater success in online teaching. We imagine 10 to 12 participants in the first PLC and plan to use the Blackboard CMS as the platform for our engagements.

There will be a face-to-face meeting for faculty members interested in this PLC from 11 a.m. to 12 noon on

Thursday, January 17, 2013, in Room G227. The meeting will enable potential participants to meet one another and to chat about possible directions for the PLC. Activities of the PLC beyond this meeting will take place on Blackboard. Please attend this meeting if you would like to learn more and meet potential learning collaborators.

If you would like more information, contact the PLC convener, Cathy Toll, in the Division of Education, ctoll@govst.edu, Yvette Brown of the Center for Online Teaching and Learning, ybrown@govst.edu, or Tony Labriola of the Faculty Scholarship & Teaching Center, tlabriola@govst.edu.

Faculty Mentorship

By Dr. Raven James

We see it happen informally; sometimes we might seek out a colleague for assistance or join a like-minded group to learn some skills. Perhaps we extend a hand when we see a colleague floundering in their new position, trying to navigate the tenure process. The Faculty Scholarship & Teaching Center has been working to facilitate a mentorship collaborative. This past summer, Kim Boland-Prom and Stephen Wagner (with Karen Stuenkel, Robin Wyatt and Margaret Brady) worked diligently to design NEXUS, a website for networking. The site was designed to facilitate networking among all GSU faculty who have interests in teaching, scholarship and community service. On this site, you can build a profile to list your areas of expertise or search for other faculty for potential collaborative roles.

While the NEXUS site is still in its infancy, its potential is underutilized. I encourage faculty to visit the website and fill out your profile. Consider what you have to offer or what you might need to move forward in your scholarship. View some of the profiles; perhaps you might find that person who cares enough to provide guidance and advice. Maybe you will form a group for writing with colleagues who have similar interests.

In spring 2013, the FS&TC will continue to explore avenues for developing more formalized mentorship initiatives. We hope that you will consider participating in the public square as we discuss faculty needs and how mentorship might be systemized in our respective divisions. Consider volunteering at one of the new faculty and adjunct faculty orientations, or attend one of the brown bag topics. What a great way to provide service and get to know your colleagues. You just never know -- your mentor or mentee could be there waiting.

To access the NEXUS site, log into the GSU portal and, under the "Quick Links," click on "Faculty Scholarship & Teaching." Once on the Faculty Scholarship & Teaching Center webpage, you'll find a link for the NEXUS site on the right, under "Link to Faculty Sites."

Grant Making at GSU - OSPR

By Dr. James R. "Chip" Coldren, Jr

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research (OSPR) is the department within the Provost's Office at GSU that supports faculty, staff, and administrators in their efforts to secure external funding for a variety of research and program activities. Dr. James R. "Chip" Coldren, Jr. is the Faculty Coordinator for OSPR, and Jennifer Morehead, M.B.A. and Certified Research Administrator is the Deputy Director of OSPR. They are assisted by Veronica Hunt in the Provost's Office and David Deeds, M.A., a part time program assistant in the OSPR Office.

The OSPR assists individuals seeking grants with both pre-award and post-award activities. Pre-award activities include identifying grant opportunities, preparing concept papers and proposals, assisting with budget preparation and review, ensuring compliance with state and federal grant regulations, and meeting Institutional Review Board (research ethics) requirements. Post-award activities typically involve fiscal and programmatic reporting, and monitoring ongoing compliance issues.

OSPR also sponsors periodic faculty workshops on grant writing and relevant issues, and works with the Education Policy Committee (EPC) to establish research policies required by the federal government (e.g., Financial Conflict of Interest policy, Research Misconduct policy). OSPR and the GSU Development Office have licenses for the Foundation Directory, a foundation grant opportunities database, and can work with individuals seeking to find grants through foundations. OSPR is currently assessing different automated grant tracking systems (with an expected purchase and installation in spring 2013).

Early this fall semester, in response to concerns expressed by several principle investigators (PIs) on campus, OSPR convened a Grants Planning Committee to explore, investigate, and resolve problematic issues regarding

grant making at GSU. This Committee has looked into the distribution of “F & A” (facilities and administrative) revenues to University units and PIs, and is also developing guideline materials regarding hiring staff on grants at GSU. This Committee will explore additional matters in the spring 2013 semester, including grant budget management and accounting and fiscal reporting.

If you are interested in developing grant proposals or learning more about the services OSPR can provide, please visit the OSPR web site at: <http://www.govst.edu/ospr/> or contact Jennifer Morehead at jmorehead@govst.edu, 708-235-2846.

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