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September 2006
Alan Altany

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NEW! Reading Roundtable
Each semester the CET will sponsor a faculty book discussion group called Reading Roundtable (RR). A different book is read each semester and faculty are invited to join by the start of a semester so the books, provided courtesy of the CET for members to keep, can be ordered. The RR for the fall semester has already formed and will be reading Donald Finkel’s *Teaching With Your Mouth Shut*. In the spring semester, the Roundtable will read *What the Best College Teachers Do* by Ken Bain (Harvard University Press, 2004). Places are limited and if you would like to register for the spring Readers’ Roundtable, please contact Ludy Goodson at the CET.

Grants & Awards
For information on grants, awards, and educational leave, go to http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/grants.htm.

Innovative Teaching Strategies Retreat
Georgia Southern University sponsors a competitive faculty retreat for faculty members to enhance their innovative teaching strategies. The retreat is officially called “Innovative Teaching Strategies Retreat.” The retreat is sponsored twice a year, early May and early December. The retreat provides dedicated time with the CET staff and colleagues for course development and discussion on a variety of pedagogical and technological issues in a distraction-free, resource-rich environment. The fall retreat will be held December 11-14, 2006. In the CET, if you’d like to learn more, contact Raleigh Way at the CET and/or visit: http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/retreat.htm

On November 6th, 3:30 – 5 pm, there will be a Showcase of the work of faculty who participated in the May, 2006 retreat.

Featured Web Site
Teaching Goals Inventory (http://www.uiowa.edu/~centeach/tgi/index.html)

The Teaching Goals Inventory (TGI) is a self-assessment of instructional goals. Its purpose is threefold: (1) to help college teachers become more aware of what they want to accomplish in individual courses; (2) to help faculty locate Classroom Assessment Techniques (CATs) that can facilitate student learning; and (3) to provide a starting point for discussion of teaching and learning goals among colleagues.

Resources for Teaching & Learning
Part of the CET’s role is to provide resources for how students learn and how best to teach for that learning, for designing courses, assessing students’ work, integrating instructional technologies into a class effectively, teaching online, and all manner of such good stuff. Here are several resources:

MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching): http://www.merlot.org/

Tomorrow’s Professor (Desk-top Faculty Development, from the Stanford Center for Innovations in Learning): http://sll.stanford.edu/projects/tmprof/newtmprof/postings.html

Online Faculty Development Resources (extensive): http://www.developfaculty.com/online/

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
Georgia Southern University participated in the Spring 2005 administration of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). Spring 2005 represented the third administration of this survey at Georgia Southern (previously Spring 2002 and 2004). View the results at: http://services.georgiasouthern.edu/sara/download/NSSE.htm. The survey measures students’ perceptions of how engaged they are in educationally meaningful activities and contexts that have been associated with high levels of learning. The results may be used for institutional improvement in general assessment, learning communities, first year and senior year experiences, faculty development, academic advising, etc. The CET encourages faculty to examine the report for 2005 to see how it might influence their work with students. In the spring semester, the CET will sponsor an open forum to discuss the NSSE findings and their implications at Georgia Southern.

Message from the Canopy
Program change is underway at the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning. Having taught college for about twenty years and directed a faculty center at another university, I became the full-time director of the CET in June 2006. With the collaboration and work of the whole staff, we have begun a new and re-imagined stage in the CET’s support for faculty in teaching, student learning, scholarship, and academic life. The banyan tree, the “tree that walks,” is now our logo. For why we are hanging out in its branches, and swinging from its roots, go to http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/banyan.htm. With those aerial roots, multiple trunks, and expanding canopy, the banyan epitomizes our model for professional faculty development, a peer based, dissemination model based upon the scholarship of teaching and learning. Our vision quest is for a great percentage of the faculty to be actively involved in this program, and thus with colleagues, for a continuous transformation of teaching and learning and of the academic culture as a whole.

Our model begins with respect and appreciation for the experience, knowledge and wisdom of Georgia Southern’s faculty about teaching, students, and scholarship. Working with faculty, we will seek to create opportunities for faculty to collaborate and reflect upon students’ learning and development. The CET advocates for professional and personal faculty growth and hopes to be an agent, even crucible, for that growth. We invite you to swing from the roots, climb the branches, rest in the shade of the canopy, or contemplatively watch the roots grow.

Alan Altany,

Director, CET

“Growth is the only evidence of life.”  — John Henry Newman

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Newsletter of the Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET)

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CET Staff

Alan Altany
Director
681-0049
• Guidance, Coordination and Planning
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• Course Planning and Design
• Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
• Using Teaching Models
• Teaching with WebCT
• Using Active Learning
• Problem Based Learning
• Test and Survey Construction
• Assessing Learning Outcomes
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• Using Student Evaluations
• Research on Teaching and Learning
• Reading Roundtable; Creative Writing Circle;
• Faculty Learning Communities
• Graduate Assistant Training
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• Public Relations & Communication
• Word Consultant
• Faculty Development Grant Contact
• CET Workshop Registration Administration
• Budget and Procurement
• Coordinate Focus on Excellence Lecture Series

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• Instructional Design
• Active Learning/Lecturing
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• Learning Simulations
• Instructional Video
• CET’s Multimedia Resources CD
• University Mentor Program
• Faculty Series
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CET Staff

Raleigh Way
Instructional Services Coordinator
681-0078
• Course Planning and Design
• Strategies (WebCT and Face to Face)
• Instructional Strategies
• Rubrics for Learning and Assessment
• Stating Student Learning Outcomes
• Course Mapping
• Preparing Content for Online Distribution
• Audio/Video Online Lecture strategies
• Web Page Accessibility for People with Disabilities
• Conference Coordinator: “The SoTL Commons: A Conference for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning”
• New Faculty Seminar Series
• Assessing Online Teaching & Learning

Steve Bonham
Director of Tech. Development Lab
681-0067
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• Faculty Series
• Featured Faculty Program

CET Advisory Council

The new CET Advisory Council forms for the new academic year. Its purpose is to give advice to the CET, critique the program, support the CET’s mission, and be a voice from the faculty to the CET and from the CET to the faculty and campus. Members are June Alberto, Robby Ambler, Chris Caplinger, Tom Case, Julie Cole, Bob Cook, Steve Engel, Laura Delong Frost, Ellen Hendrix, Jane Hudak, Goor Lewis, Gary Means, Bridget Melton, Bade Mitchell, Tony Parrillo, Barbara Price, and Kent Rittschof.

New Web Site & Virtual Tour CD

The CET has completely redesigned its web site and encourages faculty to visit it at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/ for updates, calendar of events, resources and announcements.

If you have a problem finding information on the site, use the Site Index page, where you will find multiple ways to locate information.

The CET has created a multimedia CD
full of teaching & learning resources, and featuring people, traditions, places, things of Georgia Southern University. For a downloadable version of the CD, go to: http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/SB/NFO/tour.html.

NEW! Faculty Learning Communities Program

Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs) are forming and will be working together for the entire academic year. It is a dynamic opportunity for collaborative work with colleagues, application of what is learned to one’s courses, and dissemination, by the FLC as a whole, of its work to the campus. To join one of the FLCs, go to the FLC web page at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/flc.htm for registration information.

NEW! “The SoTL Commons: A Conference for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning”

The CET will host an annual conference that could grow into a key regional/national conference for SoTL. The inaugural conference will be held on November 1-2, 2007 in the Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education building. Proposals for presentations will undergo a blind, peer review process. The conference’s web site is www.georgiasouthern.edu/ijstol/conference

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Mary Taylor Huber, an internationally known writer and scholar for SoTL at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

NEW! International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning

The CET will publish a new, peer-reviewed, open access journal, International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning at http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/ijstol/. The goals for the journal are to become the premier journal in the world for the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) and be deeply international in its readership, authors, and Review Board. The first issue will be published in January 2007. Deadline for submissions for the issue is November 1, 2006.

Featured Books from the CET Library

Faculty are invited to check out books from the CET’s lending library located in our offices on the first floor of the College of Information Technology building. Any of the books may be borrowed including the following:

Thinking About Teaching and Learning: Developing Habits of Learning with First Year College and University Students, Robert Leamnson

The Teaching Portfolio: A Practical Guide to Improved Performance and Promotion/Tenure Decisions, Peter Seldin

Advice for New Faculty Members, Robert Boice

Teaching Tips: Strategies, Research, and Theory for College and University Teachers, Wilbert McKeachie

Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professorate, Ernest Boyer

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