Open Forum on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
An open discussion about the results of Georgia Southern’s participation in the Survey will be held on February 26, 2007, from 3:30-4:45 pm in the Professional Development Center on the 3rd floor of the CIT building. The Forum is co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, First Year Experience, Honors Program, Office of Strategic Research & Analysis, Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, and the CET. 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 purpose of this forum is to discuss the NSSE findings and their implications for teaching and student learning at Georgia Southern. To view the Survey results, go to http://services.georgiasouthern.edu/ora/download/NSSE.htm

We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time. _ T. S. Eliot

NEW!  Academic Writing Circle (AWC)
The goal of the interdisciplinary AWC is to support the writing of professional academic manuscripts (articles, conference papers, book chapters, etc.). The group will decide its schedule and activities. Sessions may include 1) review of successful articles and proposals, 2) interactive editing, 3) presentation of manuscripts at different stages of development, 4) discussion of ideas on what to write, 5) components of manuscripts such as abstracts, introductions, methods, etc. All projects and reviews are treated with confidentiality. For more information contact Lisa Machado, lhmachado@georgiasouthern.edu.

Upcoming Conferences on Teaching & Learning
February 16-18, 2007: 2007 Lilly South Conference on College and University Teaching
Greensboro, NC | http://www.iats.com/conferences/schedule.html

February 23-24, 2007: 14th Georgia Conference on College & University Teaching
Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA | http://www.quinnipiac.edu/x18694.xml

March 1-3, 2007: General Education and Assessment: Engaging Critical Questions, Fostering Critical Learning
Miami, FL | http://www.aacu.org/meetings/generaleducation/index.cfm

March 11-13, 2007: Southern Regional Faculty and Instructional Development Consortium
Chattanooga, TN | http://www.srfidc.org/

March 29 - April 1, 2007: 55th National Conference on Science Education (NSTA)
St. Louis, MO | http://www.nsta.org/session

April 2-5, 2007: 18th International Conference on College Teaching & Learning
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL | http://www.teachlearn.org/final.html

April 13, 2007: 8th Annual Midwest Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
Indiana University South Bend, South Bend, IN | http://www.iub.edu/~ucet/sotl_2007.shtml

May 18-20, 2007: The Teaching Professor Conference
Atlanta, GA | http://www.teachingprofessor.com/

June 3-7, 2007: 29th Annual Summer Institute on College Teaching
The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA | http://www.vtc.odu.edu/summer_institute.html

November 1-2, 2007: The SoTL Commons: A Conference for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning
Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA | http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/ipstl/conference/

Volume 1, Number 1 January 2007
Newsletter of the Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET)
Georgia Southern University

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

Director’s Message from the Canopy
Why do we teach the way we do? What are our assumptions about our teaching, students, and how they learn? Is student learning significant and transformative in our courses? Do our exams, assignments, grading practices, etc. assess and promote “deep learning”? Are we enjoying working with students as much or more than when we first became teachers? What do we know about the research on how college students best learn and how best to teach our disciplines for such learning to occur? Do we know the pedagogical research literature? What if there were a way to approach teaching and student learning that could lead to improved student learning outcomes? There is. It is called the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) where SoTL is a research-led, evidence-based approach to teaching so that students learn. Good teaching is not which particular method or technique is used, but about good student learning outcomes.

To gain an experience of SoTL-in-action, 1) read the inaugural issue of International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning; 2) participate in The SoTL Commons: A Conference for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning on November 1-2, 2007; 3) join a Faculty Learning Community for 2007-2008. SoTL may be the most effective way to improve teaching and learning, and to transform an academic culture into a collegial culture of inquiry about teaching, learning, and scholarship. SoTL is a continuously growing body of literature about student learning that can help good learning outcomes become more normative. And with your support and participation, Georgia Southern could become a national center for SoTL and its applications for the transformation of student learning.

Information cannot replace education. _ Imparato & Itarari

Most ideas about teaching are not new, but not everyone knows the old ideas. _ Euclid
CET Web Site & CD
Visit the CET web site regularly at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/ for updated resources, calendars, events, announcement for faculty, etc. 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/CD/INFCD/INFCD.html

NEW! International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning
International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning is online. The goal for the journal is to become the premier publication in the world for the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) and be deeply international in its readership, authors, and Review Board.

The inaugural issue of the CET’s new, peer-reviewed, open access eJournal, International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning is online. The goal for the journal is to become the premier publication in the world for the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) and be deeply international in its readership, authors, and Review Board.

The secret of education is respecting the student. _Emerson

Faculty Learning Communities Forum
The Faculty Learning Communities Program will present the inaugural FLC Forum on April 10, 2007 from 3:30 - 5 pm in CIT 1004. The Forum is open to all FLC members, but also to all other faculty. Each of the FLCs will briefly showcase its work for the 2006-2007 academic year. Faculty, staff and administrators who wish to consider joining an FLC for 2007-2008 are strongly encouraged to attend.

Scholarship Reconsidered Seminar
Based upon Boyer’s Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate, a discussion will be held on January 25, 2007 in the Professional Development Center on the 3rd floor of the CIT building from 3:30 - 4:45 pm to address such topics as “What is scholarship?,” “Are there different forms of scholarship?,” “Scholarship & the faculty reward system,” etc. The seminar will be led by members of the Faculty Learning Community for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning. Boyer’s book is very brief (80 pages) and a limited number of copies are available to borrow from the CET library (contact Alan Altany for a copy). Those who go to college and never get out are called professors. _George Givot

Reading Roundtable
Each semester the CET sponsors a faculty book discussion group called Reading Roundtable (RR). A different book is read each semester. The RR meets several times during the semester, according to the schedules of its members, to discuss the book. Some 28 members of the RR for the spring semester are reading What the Best College Teachers Do by Ken Bain (Harvard University Press, 2004). Plan on joining the Roundtable next fall to read a different book.

Focus on Excellence Lecture Series for 2006 - 2007
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. All lectures begin at 4 pm and are followed by a reception.

February 6, 2007 | Room 1603, Nessmith Lane Building | Research
“Human Genome Project, Genomics, and Tick Genomic Research,” Dr. Quentin Fang
February 27, 2007 | Room 3302, Professional Development Center, CIT Building | Service
“Professional Service: Opportunities, Challenges, and Rewards,” Dr. Donna Saye
March 6, 2007 | Room 3302, Professional Development Center, CIT Building | Instruction
“Teaching Economics: Comparing Topic-Based vs. Core Knowledge Approaches at the High School and University Level,” Dr. Anthony Barilla

Grants & Awards & Educational Leave
For information, go to http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/grants.htm

Imagination is more important than knowledge. _Albert Einstein

Innovative Teaching Strategies Retreat
The CET sponsors a faculty retreat to enhance innovative teaching strategies. The retreat is held twice a year, early May and December and provides dedicated time with CET staff and colleagues for course development and work on a variety of pedagogical and technological issues in a friendly, resource-rich environment. The spring retreat will be held May 8-11, 2007 in the CET. The deadline for proposals is March 15, 2007. If you’d like to learn more, contact Raleigh Way at the CET.

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Faculty Retreat Showcase
On Monday, May 7, 2007, from 3:30 - 5 pm in the Professional Development Center on the 3rd floor of the CIT building, there will be a Retreat Showcase of the work of the faculty who participated in the December 2006 retreat (Heldi Altman, Horst Kurz, Shonda Bernardin, Marian Tabi, Maggie Davis). If you have not attended a Showcase in the past, please plan on this one and see how colleagues are improving their courses.

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes, but in having new eyes. _Marcel Proust

Featured Web Sites
Theories on How People Learn: http://www.funderstanding.com/about_learning.cfm
Active Learning Techniques: http://www.vcu.edu/cte/activelearningtechniques.html
Resources for Teaching & Learning
The CET seeks to provide faculty opportunities to learn the best pedagogical research.

Online Faculty Development Resources: http://www.developfaculty.com.onlinelibrary.com
Desk-top Faculty Development: http://sll.stanford.edu/projects/tomprof/newtomprof/postings.html

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

Faculty are invited to check out books from the CET’s lending-library. Any of the books may be borrowed, including the following:

Team-Based Learning: A Transformative Use of Small Groups
Engaging the Online Learner: Activities & Resources for Creative Instruction
The Power of Problem-Based Learning
Learner-Centered Teaching: Five Keys to Practice
The Learning Portfolio: Reflective Practice for Improving Student Learning
Creating Significant Learning Experiences

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