

SoTL Chronicles [Volume 1, number 1]

April 2010

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Recommended Citation

"SoTL Chronicles [Volume 1, number 1]" (2010). *SoTL Chronicles*. 3.
<http://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/sotl/3>

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SoTL Chronicles

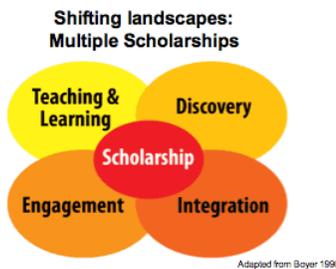
Volume 1, Number 1 April 2010
 Newsletter of the SoTL at Georgia Southern Initiative

What is SoTL?

“Problem posing about an issue of teaching or learning, study of the problem through methods appropriate to the disciplinary epistemologies, applications of results to practice, communication of results, self-reflection, and peer review” (Carnegie Academy)

“Systematic reflection on teaching and learning made public” (McKinney)

“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.... But 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.” (Lee Shulman)



“A scholarship of teaching is *not* synonymous with excellent teaching. It requires a kind of “going meta,” in which faculty frame and systematically investigate questions related to student learning—the conditions under which it occurs, what it looks like, how to deepen it, and so forth—and do so with an eye not only to improving their own classroom but to advancing practice beyond it.” (Hutchings & Shulman)

Other definitions of SoTL are possible since one definition alone does not encompass the complexities of human learning, teaching, and knowledge building about teaching for learning.

SoTL Leadership Team

The SoTL Leadership Team's primary purpose is to actively collaborate with the Center for Excellence in Teaching in guiding, supporting, and assessing the "SoTL at Georgia Southern" initiative. The Team's responsibilities are as follows:

- Collaborate with the CET staff in developing strategies for guiding and supporting existing aspects of the initiative, and in implementing new aspects of the initiative
- By various means provide campus-wide, faculty feedback to the CET about the initiative
- Collaborate with the CET staff in developing an assessment plan for the initiative, and in using the assessment results to improve the initiative

Members of the SoTL Leadership Team are **Laura Frost** (Chemistry), **Delena Gatch** (Physics), **Lorraine Gilpin** (Teaching & Learning), **Trent Maurer** (Hospitality, Tourism and Family & Consumer Sciences), **Laura Regassa** (Biology), **Diana Sturges** (Health & Kinesiology), **Simone Charles** (Public Health), **Kathy Albertson** (Writing & Linguistics), and **Mark Hanna** (Finance and Quantitative Analysis).

New Faculty Awards for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning

In the spring semester, 2010, the CET started new faculty awards for SoTL with the purpose to encourage and recognize faculty members engaging in scholarship that focuses upon teaching and learning and then applying the results of that scholarship to courses for the improvement of student learning. The awards emphasize the integration of research about teaching and learning and the practical application of that research to the teaching and learning

process. There are two annual awards of \$1,000 each provided by the CET, and the initial recipients of these awards for 2009-2010 are **Dr. Laura Frost** (Chemistry) and **Dr. Lorraine Gilpin** (Teaching & Learning).

Website for SoTL at Georgia Southern Initiative

A website for the initiative is being developed at <http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/sotl>. It will serve as the portal for the activities and resources of the initiative.

Inaugural SoTL Expo

On March 30, 2010 the inaugural SoTL Expo was held in the CIT Atrium. There were 29 posters displayed and presenters talked with attendees about their poster projects and SoTL work. The presenters were as follows: Misty Loughry (Management, Marketing & Logistics), Donald Slater (Construction Management and Civil Engineering Technology), Donna Hodnicki (Nursing), Laura Regassa (Biology), Matthew Phillips (Grad Student), Trent Maurer (Hospitality, Tourism and Family & Consumer Sciences), Laura Frost (Chemistry), Diana Sturges (Health & Kinesiology), Simone Charles (Public Health), Deborah Allen (Nursing), Sun-A Lee (Hospitality, Tourism and Family & Consumer Sciences), Tim Cairney (Accountancy), Charles Hodges (Leadership, Technology, & Human Development), Marie Botkin (Hospitality, Tourism and Family & Consumer Sciences), Shonda Bernadin (Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Technology), Judith Longfield (CET), Dena Hale (Management, Marketing & Logistics), Linda Mullen (Management, Marketing & Logistics), Laura Frost (Chemistry), Michele McGibony (Chemistry), Delena Bell Gatch (Physics), Melissa Garno (Nursing), Alice Hall (Hospitality, Tourism and Family & Consumer Sciences), John Peden (Hospitality, Tourism and Family & Consumer Sciences), Joanna Hollaway (undergrad student), Lorraine Gilpin (Teaching and Learning), Delores Liston (Curriculum, Foundations & Reading), Yoakim Kalaani (Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Technology), Margaret Davis (Nursing), Hsiu-Lien Lu (Teaching & Learning). The **“Virtual SoTL Expo”** is available online at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/SoTL_EXPO2010.

Faculty Learning Community for SoTL

The whole Faculty Learning Communities (FLC) program is part of the SoTL at GSU initiative. In this issue the FLC for SoTL is featured.

The FLC for SoTL began in 2006 and has been continuously meeting for the past four years. The FLC is always open to new members, and for the last few years has been about 50/50 veterans and new members. In its four year history, the FLC has investigated the meaning of SoTL and how it can manifest itself at the university, and three independent research topics: post-exam attendance, classroom management and disruptive behavior, and group work. All three research topics have resulted in at least one presentation and one publication each.

Membership over the past four years has included Saida Akbarova (Foreign Languages), Deborah Allen (Nursing), Danny Averette (Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Technology), Cherry Brewton (Teaching & Learning), Tim Cairney (Accountancy), Michelle Cawthorn (Biology), Simone Charles, (JPH College of Public Health), Laura Frost (Chemistry), Melissa Garno (Nursing), Candace Griffith (Office of the Provost), Sun-A Lee (Hospitality, Tourism and Family & Consumer Sciences), Trent Maurer (Hospitality, Tourism and Family & Consumer Sciences), Starla McCollum (Health & Kinesiology), Padmini Shankar (Health & Kinesiology), Carol Strickland (Nursing), Diana Sturges (Health & Kinesiology), Caren Town (Literature & Philosophy). Anyone interested in joining the FLC for SoTL in 2010-2011, please contact Trent Maurer, the facilitator of the FLC.



SoTL Research & Writing Circle

This Circle is a supportive group for faculty working on SoTL projects and wanting feedback, or who want to develop projects about their students' learning, or who want to write SoTL proposals for conference presentations or articles or book chapters, or who want to learn about methodologies for doing SoTL work, or who want to learn more about how to best apply their SoTL work for their students' learning. The Circle determines its own agenda and schedule. Current members include Judith Longfield (CET), Trent Maurer (HTFCS), Danette Wood (Nursing), Clara Krug (French), Alison Rushing (Nursing), Denise Weems (Teaching & Learning), and Lina Bell Soares (Teaching & Learning). To join the SoTL-RWC, please send an email at aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.

SoTL on the Road

Some GSU faculty, experienced in SoTL, have begun presenting SoTL workshops/seminars on campus and at various locations in the region. In January at the CET, Laura Frost, Delena Gatch, Judith Longfield, Trent Maurer and Diana Sturges provided a seminar on SoTL to faculty and administrators from 11 private and public colleges and universities in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida. In February, Laura Regassa, Laura Frost, Lorraine Gilpin and Trent Maurer delivered the opening plenary session at the conference of the Eastern Educational Research Association in Savannah. In March Laura Regassa, Lorraine Gilpin, Laura Frost, Trent Maurer, & Judith Longfield presented an all-day workshop on "The Scholarship of Teaching & Learning: What, Why, How and Who?" in Athens as part of an annual USG faculty development series. In April Delena Gatch, Lorraine Gilpin, Judith Longfield, & Diana Sturges gave an invited workshop on SoTL at Savannah State University. These faculty will offer such presentations at colleges, universities, and conferences in the region, and to be available to consult with people at other schools on the nature, meaning, processes, and benefits of SoTL.



3rd Annual SoTL Commons Conference



March 10 - 12, 2010

Georgia Southern University

Statesboro, Georgia, USA

The SoTL Commons Conference was held on March 9-12, 2010 in the Nessmith-Lane Building. Attendees were from 15 countries and 6 continents: Canada, Denmark, UK, Ireland, Serbia, Japan, Israel, New Zealand, Pakistan, Australia, Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, Ecuador, Malaysia, Taiwan, and the USA. Keynoters were **Gary Poole** (University of British Columbia, Canada), **Kathleen McKinney** (Illinois State University, USA), and **Carolyn Kreber** (University of Edinburgh, UK). Presenters included faculty from Georgia Southern: Greg Brock, Bridget Melton, Yasar Bodur, Donald Slater, Trent Maurer, Delena Bell Gatch, Krystal Ramos (student), Kathy Albertson, Jerry Wilson, Susan De Bonis, Lorraine Gilpin, Delores Liston, Laura Frost, Michele McGibony, Marie Botkin, Judith Longfield, Laura Regassa, Padmini Shankar, Diana Sturges, Saida Akbarova, Deborah Allen. Conference Proceedings are at <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsof/conference/proceedings/index.htm>. With a 68% return rate for the conference evaluation form, 92% rated the conference as either excellent (53%) or very good (39%) with a majority wanting to return in 2011. A few comments by attendees include the following:

- The opportunities to meet and network...the strongest part of the conference. The variety of presentations, mixing national and international perspectives.
- I met a half dozen people with whom I have already corresponded and shared research. As a first time participant, I found these connections to be one of the most valuable parts.
- Every year, I have several "eureka" moments where I see connections to others' work or other disciplines. It really inspires how I approach my scholarship and my teaching.
- It was quite refreshing as a participant and presenter to meet colleagues whose work I had read, and to begin exploring collaborative work.
- This was the best conference I have been to in many years. I learned immediately useful ideas, and never felt so well taken care of!
- Everything was wonderful! I love this conference!
- This was an excellent, well run meeting. Though I have offered suggestions for improvement, I feel the meeting is already exceptional. Thank you for an excellent professional development and networking experience. See you next year!
- All in all, the conference was excellent and I started inspiring my colleagues to be involved in SOTL.
- I hope to be able to attend next year. I found the conference to be extremely relevant and have already made some decisions on how to use some of the ideas in my courses this spring quarter.

4th Annual SoTL Commons Conference will be on March 8–11, 2011 with keynoters Jennifer Robinson (Indiana University), Richard Gale (Mount Royal University, CA), and Bill Cerbin (University of Wisconsin– La Crosse).

***International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning* (IJ-SoTL)**



The inaugural issue of *IJ-SoTL* was published in January 2007 by the Center for Excellence in Teaching at Georgia Southern University. The journal is an open access, double-blind peer-reviewed, academic electronic journal and is international in its Review Board, authors, and readership. It is listed in many directories and databases. The overall acceptance rate is approximately 17%. Over 5,000 people from 114 countries have requested email notification when new issues of *IJ-SoTL* are published. Its review board is composed of some 180 scholars from about 40 countries. Submissions are invited by the May 15, 2010 deadline for the July 2010 issue: <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsoTL/index.htm>

Since its beginning, the following Georgia Southern faculty have published in *IJ-SoTL*: Bridget Melton (Health & Kinesiology), Helen Graf (Health & Kinesiology), Joanne Chopak-Foss (Health & Kinesiology), Laura Regassa (Biology), Ednilson Bernardes (Finance and Quantitative Analysis), Mark Hanna (Finance and Quantitative Analysis), Delena Gatch (Physics), Maggie Davis (Nursing), Deborah Allen (Nursing), Kera Watkins (Computer Sciences), Lorraine Gilpin (Teaching & Learning), Delores Liston (Curriculum, Foundations and Reading). Authors have been from Australia, UK, Canada, China, New Zealand, Belgium, Hungary, Singapore, South Africa, Italy, Jordan, UAE, Ireland, Fiji, Israel, Denmark, Norway, Malaysia, Puerto Rico, United States.

Southeastern SoTL Colloquy

A new academic society has been founded by the CET, the Southeastern SoTL Colloquy (SSC). Its Mission Statement says that "The Southeastern SoTL Colloquy is a scholarly society for communication and collaboration on the SoTL activities of its members. It is a network of scholars, a repository of resources and an advocate for SoTL to improve student learning in higher education." Its Founders' Council has over 90 members (from over 60 private & public colleges and universities) in a 12-state region. The SSC plans to be open for membership by summer 2010. For more information, the SSC website is located at <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/ssc/>.



SoTL Mentors

Beginning in 2010-2011, a cohort of SoTL Mentors will be formed who will be available to consult with colleagues about developing, researching, analyzing, applying, or disseminating SoTL research ideas and projects. Faculty experience in doing SoTL can volunteer to be a SoTL Mentor by sending a list of SoTL projects, publications, presentations to Alan Altany at aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.

SoTL Symposium of the South

The inaugural, annual SoTL Symposium of the South will be held on Friday, October 15, 2010 at Georgia Southern University for faculty and administrators at private and public colleges and universities in the southeastern region of the United States. The main focus of the Symposium will be on ways to develop, design and complete SoTL projects (including dissemination via publication, presentation, etc., as well as practical applications to one's teaching and students), and practical ways for working to foster, support, and recognize SoTL. Attendees can expect to return home with practical ways for promoting individual / collaborative SoTL work, and fostering SoTL at their institutions. Registration information will be available after May 15, 2010 by emailing aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.

SoTL Resources

Tutorial on the What/Why/How of SoTL: <http://www.issotl.org/tutorial/sotltutorial/home.html>
The Scholarship of Teaching & Learning: What's the Problem?: <http://doi.gmu.edu//Archives/feb98/randybass.htm>
Getting SoTL Articles Published: <http://www.sotl.ilstu.edu/resLinks/sotlMats/getPub.shtml>
SoTL Bibliography: <http://www.sotl.ilstu.edu/resLinks/selBibl.shtml>
University of Wisconsin System SoTL Site: <http://www4.uwm.edu/sotl/>

The *SoTL Chronicles* is edited by Alan Altany of the CET. If you have any information, comments, ideas, or projects connected with the SoTL for possible inclusion in a future issue, please send them to aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.