Director’s Message from the Canopy
We at the CTLS thank all those faculty who participate regularly or even periodically in our professional faculty development program. At this time we extend an open invitation to those who do not attend any of our activities or join any of our faculty groups. You are encouraged to participate in some way in the program. Many colleagues find such participation, based largely on interdisciplinary collegiality, to be intellectually stimulating, worthwhile, enjoyable, applicable, and socially beneficial.

Alan Altany, CTLS Director

Individual Consultations
CTLS staff are available to consult with faculty on a large range of teaching and learning issues (constructing exams, use of multimedia, course portfolios, class observation visits, grading, assessing students’ work, active lecturing, course design, etc.). Contact the CTLS to schedule a consultation appointment with one of the staff.

Departmental Consultations
The CTLS is available to consult with whole departments on topics related to teaching and learning. Contact the CTLS to plan how it can work with an academic department.

CTLS Website: Visit the new CTLS web site regularly at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cts/

Awards from the Faculty Development Committee
For guidelines, go to the CTLS website.

Faculty Development Summer Award: Application Deadline: 5 pm, February 3, 2012
Awards of $3000 (salary, purchase, or reimbursement) each will allow faculty members to upgrade skills in the discipline, to develop innovative teaching strategies, to devise new courses/significantly revise existing ones, to plan significant curriculum changes, or to pursue other creative projects that affect the instructional process.

Awards for Professional Travel (for travel after June 25, 2012 & before October 1, 2012) application deadline – 5 pm, March 16, 2012
Funds are available to support professional travel for conference and professional meetings directly related to updating knowledge of the discipline and enhancing your professional development as a teacher-scholar.

Spring Faculty Reading Roundtables
Each semester the CTLS sponsors and provides books for Reading Roundtables (RRs). To join a Reading Roundtable go to http://freeonlinesurveys.com/rendersurvey.asp?sid=8ezzwsvcu16ftm31003265 by January 18, 2012. The book selections include the following:

- How Learning Works: Seven Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching
- Inspired College Teaching: A Career-Long Resource for Professional Growth
- Discover Your Genius: How to Think Like History’s Ten Most Revolutionary Minds
- Teaching American Students: A Guide for International Faculty and Teaching Assistants
- Advice for New Faculty Members
- The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World before the War: 1890-1914

Faculty Awards for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning: $oTL
The Faculty Awards for SoTL recognize faculty members for having engaged in scholarship that focuses upon teaching and learning and then applying the results of that scholarship to courses for the improvement of student learning.
Specifically, the awards look at the body of SoTL work done over the past three years. There are two annual awards of $2,000 each provided by the Center for Teaching, Learning & Scholarship (CTLS):

**Who can apply?**
Full-time faculty members (tenure-track, tenured and temporary) who are in at least their second year of full-time teaching at Georgia Southern University may apply for the Award. Previous recipients are not eligible.

**When is the application period?**
The application period is February 3 - 24, 2012. All applications are to be delivered to the CTLS in Suite 1303, Henderson Library. The deadline is 5 pm, February 24, 2012.

**What is the application format and selection of recipients process?**
See CTLS website for details, or request application materials at aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.

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**International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning**
The January 2012 issue of the CTLS’s peer-reviewed (double-blind) *International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning* (Ij-SoTL) is available at [http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/v6n1.html](http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/v6n1.html). Authors are from Australia, Canada, UK and the United States. The deadline for submissions for the July 2012 issue is May 15, 2012.

**SoTL at Georgia Southern Website:** [http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/sotlgsu/](http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/sotlgsu/)
The "SoTL at Georgia Southern" initiative fosters, supports and recognizes SoTL work by Georgia Southern faculty and its applications to improving student learning. "SoTL at Georgia Southern" seeks to sustain, promote, and expand the scholarship of teaching and learning as a form of scholarship and an evidence-based method for fostering a culture of inquiry about teaching and learning.

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**3rd Annual SoTL Expo**
The 3rd annual SoTL Expo will be held 3 – 5 pm on March 28, 2012 in the Atrium of the CIT building. Proposals for posters for the Expo can be submitted online at [http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/forms/SoTL_Expo/submit_proposal.php](http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/forms/SoTL_Expo/submit_proposal.php) between February 13 – 29, 2012. For information, contact aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.

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**Focus on Excellence Forums**
Formerly composed of a series of six lectures, the format has changed to a series of three forums where the two recipients of each award (Instruction; Research/Creative Activity; Service) collaboratively present sessions. The campus is invited to attend presentations by the previous year’s recipients of the Awards for Excellence. A reception follows each Forum. This semester’s Forums are as follows:

**Instruction:** January 25, 2012 at 4-5 pm in Henderson Library, Suite 1303
Dr. Trent Maurer and Dr. Christine Draper

“Rethinking How We Teach: Promoting Reflective/Reflexive/Recursive Teaching Practices, Techniques and Strategies”
This forum focuses on how the educational experience can be substantially enriched when inquiry is the framework for teaching and learning. We explore the notion that what we need in education are not just better generic strategies for teaching, but generative ways for teachers and students alike to work together as communities of learners—to explore and reconsider their own assumptions towards learning and understanding.

**Research/Creative Scholarly Activity:** February 28, 2012 at 4-5 pm in Henderson Library, Suite 1303
Dr. Lance McBrayer and Dr. Wen-Ran Zhang
"A Philosophical Discussion on Animal Behavior and Quantum Computing"

Research and scholarship are key components of academic life. Although research goals and agendas vary widely across academic disciplines, most researchers find themselves establishing a detailed knowledge of a narrow range of subjects such as molecular biology or quantum entanglement. In this presentation we will try to unveil the useful integrative aspects of our respective research programs. By focusing on integration, we gain a better philosophical understanding of our world, from quantum mechanics to the behavior of whole organisms.

International Conference at Georgia Southern

The CTLS will host its 5th annual SoTL Commons: An International Conference for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning on March 7-9, 2012. Keynote speakers will be Pat Hutchings (Carnegie Academy), Mick Healey (University of Gloucestershire), and Craig Nelson (Indiana University). Presenters come from schools such as San Francisco State, Purdue, University of Central Florida, U.S. Air Force Academy, Miami University, University of New Orleans, University of Georgia, Mercer University, York University (CA), University of York (UK), University of Regina, North Carolina State University, Vanderbilt University, University of Houston, University of California-San Diego, Fordham University, St. Bonaventure University, University of Calgary, University of South Australia, Georgia Southern University.

Website: http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/conference/2012/index.htm

OPEN DOORS

The CTLS invites faculty to form small, interdisciplinary groups composed of 4 people who agree to visit at least one class taught by each of the other members during spring semester, 2012. Each team meets early in the semester to determine the observational process and classes to visit, and then later in the semester, after class observational visits have been completed, to discuss what was gained from the visits. The Open Doors program is a collegial opportunity for faculty to benefit from colleagues’ teaching ideas and practices, experience and knowledge. The CTLS will receive registrations, form the groups, and contact members to arrange for the initial meeting. In order to "walk through doors" and experience some of the ways colleagues are working with their students in classes, join the Open Doors program for spring 2012 by emailing Alan Altany at the CTLS at aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu by January 23, 2012.

CTLS Lending Library

Faculty are invited to check out books in person or by an email request to phendrix@georgiasouthern.edu. If you know of a book that the CTLS library should have, or have a recent book on teaching and learning that you would like to donate to the CTLS library, please contact us. Stop by the CTLS to browse the book shelves in the Conference Room.

Classroom Observations

Faculty may request a formative classroom observation by a member of the CTLS staff as a means to obtain feedback on one’s teaching and classroom work with students. The instructor will inform the CTLS consultant which class is to be observed. The consultant will observe that class and then prepare confidential and written feedback based upon that observation. If the instructor wishes, the consultant and instructor can also meet to discuss the class and the feedback. To request a class observation, contact Patricia at phendrix@georgiasouthern.edu.

SoTL Symposium of the South

http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/sotlsymposium.html

The 2nd annual SoTL Symposium of the South was held on October 14, 2011 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 was on applications and collaborations: develop, design and complete SoTL research projects,
as well as practical applications to teaching and students. Attendees came from many schools, some of them being Armstrong Atlantic State University, Jacksonville University, University of West Georgia, University of South Carolina, Mercer University, Augusta State University, Georgia Tech, Dalton State College, Georgia Southwestern State University, Georgia Southern University.

**Writing Circles**

**Creative Writing Circle** (poetry): to provide encouragement and constructive critiques for creative writing projects. The focus of the CWC is poetry written by its members. The group follows a set of protocols for each writing project. To join, contact Theresa Welford at welfordtm@georgiasouthern.edu.

**Academic Writing Circle**: the goal of the interdisciplinary AWC is to support the writing of professional academic manuscripts (articles, conference papers, book chapters, etc.) of its members. To join, email Brenda Marina at bmarina@georgiasouthern.edu.

**Writers’ Workshop** (prose): A faculty group that critiques and supports the prose/fiction writings of its members. To join, contact Laura Valeri at lvaleri@georgiasouthern.edu.

**SoTL Research & Writing Circle**: to provide guidance and support for scholarship of teaching and learning research projects and writing them up for publication. To join, email Alan Altany at aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.

**NEW**

**SoTL Fellows Program**

In April 2012, there will be a call for applications to become SoTL Fellows for 2012-2013. The purpose of the program is to encourage and assist faculty members engaging in scholarship that focuses upon teaching and learning (SoTL) and then applying the results of that scholarship to courses for the improvement of student learning. The new SoTL Fellows program emphasizes individual and collaborative SoTL research, and disseminating the fruits of that research to others and to the campus. There will be up to 4 SoTL Fellows selected for an academic year, depending upon the quality of the applications received. Faculty will be invited to apply to be SoTL Fellows by describing a significant SoTL project that is either underway, or will be begun and completed during the Fellowship period. In addition to working on and completing the SoTL projects that were the foundation for their fellowship applications, the SoTL Fellows would be responsible for one or more open forums / presentations on SoTL to the campus. Also, the Fellows are to be available to serve as SoTL mentors to colleagues, while joining with the other Fellows in fostering SoTL at Georgia Southern.

Each SoTL Fellowship will be an award of $3,000 that may be taken either as a stipend, or as release time for a three-credit course (at the discretion of the recipient and with approval of department chair). The funds for the award are provided by the Center for Teaching, Learning & Scholarship.

**Resources**

Part of the CTLS’s role is to provide faculty opportunities to view the best research about how students learn and how best to teach for that learning and other resources for designing courses, assessing students’ work, integrating instructional technologies into a class effectively, teaching online, etc.

**Tomorrow’s Professor** (Desk-top Faculty Development): [http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/tomprof/postings.php](http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/tomprof/postings.php)

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

**Active Learning**: [http://www.texascollaborative.org/activelearning.htm](http://www.texascollaborative.org/activelearning.htm)

**Faculty Stress**: [http://www.psychologicalscience.org/teaching/tips/tips_0102.cfm](http://www.psychologicalscience.org/teaching/tips/tips_0102.cfm)

**Qualitative Research**: [http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/qual.php](http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/qual.php)

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.” _Soren Kierkegaard_
“The further you enter into truth, the deeper it is.”  _Bankei

“The journey is the reward.”  _Taoist saying

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

“There is no difference between living and learning...”  _John Holt

“We cannot do great things, only small things with great love.”  _Mother Teresa of Calcutta

“The teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the student with a desire to learn is hammering on cold iron.”  _Horace Mann

“I would like to beg you to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves... Live the questions now.”  _Rilke