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Director’s Message from the Canopy

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For while knowledge defines all we currently know and understand, imagination points to all we might yet discover and create” (Einstein).

The CET will publish a regular booklet series (paper & electronic) entitled Imaginare with informative, evocative booklets written by Georgia Southern faculty on topics connected to teaching, learning, scholarship, academic life and careers, etc. If you have an idea for a booklet (2,500 - 3,500 words), please contact me at aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu with a brief proposal for the booklet. Thank you. _ Alan Altany

CET Website
Visit the CET web site regularly at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/index.htm

ONLINE SOON! SoTL at Georgia Southern Website: http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/sotl

The "SoTL at Georgia Southern” initiative is a university-wide plan to foster, support and recognize SoTL work by Georgia Southern faculty, and has the potential to be a signature feature of the university and mark it as unique among colleges and universities in the United States for a systematic, integrated, long-term emphasis upon SoTL as a key way to improve teaching and student learning outcomes. “SoTL at Georgia Southern” proposes to recognize, sustain, promote, and expand the scholarship of teaching and learning at Georgia Southern, not only as a legitimate form of scholarship, but as an evidence-based method for fostering a culture of inquiry, exploration, and application.

Grants & Awards
For guidelines and deadlines, go to http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/resources/grants.htm

- Summer Award: deadline, 5 pm, February 5, 2010
- Grants for Professional Travel: deadline, March 19, 2010 (Summer or Fall travel after July 1, 2010 only)
- SoTL Awards: deadline, 5 pm, February 25, 2010 (NEW AWARD)

International Conference at Georgia Southern

The CET will host its 3rd annual SoTL Commons: An International Conference for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning on March 10-12, 2010. Keynote speakers will be Carolin Kreber (University of Edinburgh), Kathleen McKinney (Illinois State University), and Gary Poole (University of British Columbia). Visit the website http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/conference/2010/index.htm. A reduced registration fee of $150 is available for Georgia Southern faculty/staff and must be completed by phone at 478-5551. Georgia Southern faculty and staff are invited to volunteer to chair concurrent sessions by contacting Steve Bonham at sbonham@georgiasouthern.edu. Presenters of accepted proposals are from Canada, Denmark, UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Nigeria, UAE, Pakistan, Australia, Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, Ecuador, Malaysia, Taiwan, and the USA.
Spring Faculty Reading Roundtables
Each semester the CET sponsors and provides books for Reading Roundtables (RRs). Each RR meets during the semester according to a schedule determined by its members. In the fall semester nearly 100 faculty joined Roundtables. If you haven’t yet joined a RR for spring 2010, register online by January 19th at http://freeonlinesurveys.com/rendersurvey.asp?sid=6rcfwngwb9gn38z629917. Titles:

- How to Think Like Leonardo da Vinci: Seven Steps to Genius Every Day
- Teaching What You Don’t Know
- Optimizing Teaching and Learning: Practicing Pedagogical Research
- Managing the Large College Class: A Guidebook for Instructors with Multitudes
- Encountering Faith in the Classroom: Turning Difficult Discussions into Constructive Engagement
- Rights and Wrongs in the College Classroom: Ethical Issues in Post-secondary Teaching
- Science Fiction Classics: The Time Machine; Brave New World; Fahrenheit 451
- Advice for New Faculty Members: Nihil Nimus
- SuperFreakonomics
- Integration of Abilities: Exercises for Creative Growth (teaching creative arts; register aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu)

International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Faculty Learning Community (FLC) for International Faculty

A new FLC has formed for international faculty at Georgia Southern. The purpose of this FLC is to be a collegial group of colleagues who discuss and work together on topics important to international faculty. For example, what do faculty who are new, or relatively new, to teaching American students need to know about those students, and about how best to teach them? What are important differences between teaching in an American university and teaching in universities in other countries? People who have joined the FLC are from Jamaica, India, China, Ghana, Uzbekistan, South Korea, Antigua, UK, Mexico, Taiwan, Russia, and 7 colleges at Georgia Southern. To learn more, contact the FLC’s facilitator, Dr. Hsiu-Lien Lu.

Latest CET “Featured Faculty”

**Dr. Lorraine Gilpin**

“The core of my philosophy of education was formed as one of nine children living in a tenement yard in rural Jamaica, and it has been solidified with passing years: The fundamental purpose of education is to transform lives and the environment in which those lives are lived. Then, it meant a ticket out of poverty and a chance to improve the quality of life for my family. Now amplified, it means that education holds transformative potential for individuals, groups, and society at large and carries ethical and social imperatives. This belief in the transformative potential of education, along with my orientation toward the scholarship of teaching and learning, form the basis of my teaching.” Read more at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/featured_fac/LorraineGilpin/index.htm

**Dr. Tony Barilla**

My engagement as a faculty member requires the successful students to engage themselves in the learning process. I stress to my students that they need to be clear eyed and creative problem solvers when faced with a crisis... but when students are accountable for their work, it creates a more responsible student. Students need to know that they are getting my best, but I expect their best too. This approach is essential when students leave college for the demands and responsibilities of work, family, and community. Read more at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/featured_fac/TonyBarilla/index.htm

Featured Faculty Archive: http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/featured_fac/
Pre-Conference Workshop (open to anyone attending, or not attending, SoTL Commons Conference)

"Optimizing Teaching and Learning: Strategies to Carry Out and Use Pedagogical Research (SoTL)"

Dr. Regan Gurung (University of Wisconsin, Green Bay) & Dr. Beth Schwartz (Randolph College)

March 9, 2010 | Nessmith-Lane | 2 – 5:45 pm | Fee: $35

This workshop will show participants how to best use pedagogical literature to intentionally and systematically modify one’s own teaching and measure the resulting changes in students’ learning. The presenters are the authors of “Optimizing Teaching and Learning: Practicing Pedagogical Research” (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009). Using examples from across disciplines, the presenters will help participants surmount barriers to doing pedagogical research, plan out studies and ways to analyze findings, as well as ways to share the results. Designed for instructors at all levels in their careers and in experience with pedagogical research, participants will have the opportunity to plan practical, useful projects for their own classes.

Info and Register at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/conference/2010/preconf_workshop.htm

NEW

SoTL Research & Writing Circle: a collaborative faculty group for supporting each other’s SoTL projects, planning for presentations, writing journal articles, etc. To join, email aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.

SoTL Expo: the inaugural, annual SoTL Expo will be held from 3 – 5 pm on March 30, 2010 in the Atrium of the College of Information Technology building. The Expo will consist of poster displays by Georgia Southern faculty about 1) SoTL research projects, and 2) key aspects of SoTL.

SoTL Awards: CET is sponsoring two awards of $1,000 each for SoTL work by Georgia Southern faculty. The application period is February 11 - 25, 2010. For info, contact aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.

Focus on Excellence Lecture Series: Spring 2010

This annual series of six 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. This semester’s lectures:

January 28, 2010, 4 – 5 pm | Service | Henderson Library, suite 1303 (CET)
Dr. Lorne Wolfe

Service for Dummies: Surviving the Ugly Duckling of the 3-Legged Stool with Grace and Dignity

“It is probably safe to say that most individuals become university professors because of a love of conducting scholarly research and teaching, while relatively few do so owing to a desire to serve on committees. Yet, the demands of service often surprise the junior faculty member. In this talk I will discuss how it is possible, within certain bounds, to influence one’s service portfolio with the goal of minimizing the pain while maximizing the gain.”

February 23, 2010, 4 – 5 pm | Research | Henderson Library, suite 1303 (CET)
Dr. Junan Shen

Millions of Scrap Tires Polluting Our Environment… And a Practical Plan for Making Use of Them

“There is increasing environmental concern about the 230-million scrap tires (i.e., tires that are discarded due to wear or failure) produced each year in the U.S. The use of scrap tire-produced crumb rubber modifier (CRM) in paving materials is a practical, effective and promising solution to the problem of dealing with these millions of discarded tires. CRM binder is considered a sustainable, long lasting and green construction material that can support essential upgrades to our infrastructure.”

March 25, 2010, 4 – 5 pm | Instruction | Henderson Library, suite 1303 (CET)
Dr. Michelle Cawthorn

Teaching… the Continuing Frontier

“These are the musings of a Georgia Southern biology faculty member. My mission, begun 15 years ago and continuing into the future: to explore the wonders of biology with current and future students; to seek out new teaching and alternative learning methods; to boldly go in teaching directions that promote lifelong learning.”
Qualitative Research Seminars at the CET

Qualitative Research Methods: Learning through Experience
Dr. Kathleen deMarrais, University of Georgia
February 16, 2010 | 2 – 5 pm | Henderson Library, suite 1303 (CET)
Seating is limited; please register by February 12th at phendrix@georgiasouthern.edu

"This seminar will focus on the design and implementation of qualitative research. Examples of various approaches to qualitative research such as ethnography, interview studies, case studies, narrative inquiry, and action research will be discussed. Participants will use a research design model to examine all aspects of their projects including theoretical frameworks, research purposes, criteria for selecting participants, data collection and analysis processes, and writing the results. Participants will learn strategies for interviewing participants, taking ethnographic field notes, using documentary evidence, and analyzing qualitative data."

Dr. deMarrais is a professor in the Department of Lifelong Education, Administration and Policy at the University of Georgia. She has published numerous books including: Foundations for Research: Methods of Inquiry in Education and the Social Sciences (with S. Lapan) and is currently completing Qualitative Research Methods: Learning Through Experience (Routledge).

Qualitative Research Software
Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson, Georgia Southern University
March 2, 2010 | 3 – 4:30 pm | Henderson Library, suite 1303 (CET)
Seating is limited; please register by February 25th at phendrix@georgiasouthern.edu

"This seminar is an introduction to Atlas.ti qualitative data analysis software and will illustrate how to apply principles of qualitative analysis when using software. Techniques covered include tips on preparing data, and creating document and coding families. In addition, we will discuss specialized functions of Atlas.ti that distinguish it from other qualitative software products. There will be a mixture of demonstrations and activities that will engage participants in sampling common procedures in Atlas.ti."

Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Psychology and teaches research methods at Georgia Southern. Her personal and professional experience coupled with academic training has forged a particular mixed methods research emphasis to exploring how emotions impact learning.

Thinkaloud Club (TC)
The TC is a collegial group that meets about once a month for engaging, enjoyable intellectual reading and discussion of a wide-ranging scope of writings. Books are selected by the group and have included topics such as slavery, genetics, Vietnam War, science & religion, a novel, etc. The CET provides each member a copy of the book. To join, email aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.

Resources

MERLOT is a leading edge, user-centered, searchable collection of peer reviewed and selected higher education, online learning materials, catalogued by registered members and faculty development support services. MERLOT's vision is to be a premiere online community where faculty, staff, and students from around the world share their learning materials and pedagogy.

MERLOT's strategic goal is to improve the effectiveness of teaching and learning by increasing the quantity and quality of peer-reviewed online learning materials that can be easily incorporated into faculty designed courses. http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm

TOMORROW’S PROFESSOR: Desk-top Faculty Development (http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/postings.php)
Tomorrows-Professor pieces are posted twice weekly. Tomorrow’s Professor seeks to foster diverse, world-wide teaching and learning among over 30,000 subscribers at over 600 institutions and organizations in over 108 countries. Postings are under the following categories:

• Tomorrow’s Academy
• Tomorrow’s Graduate Students and Postdocs
• Tomorrow’s Academic Careers
• Tomorrow’s Teaching and Learning
• Tomorrow’s Research