The Banyan Tree [Volume 5, Number 1]

August 2010

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Recommended Citation
Altany, Alan, "The Banyan Tree [Volume 5, Number 1]" (2010). Banyan Tree. 10.
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"Teaching is the greatest act of optimism." _Colleen Wilcox

**Director’s Message from the Canopy**

In 2009-2010 some 62% of full-time faculty (permanent & temporary) were involved in at least one significant activity of the CET program. Please read this newsletter and check the CET schedule of events for 2010-2011 activities that you can join. If you have not been to the CET, or it has been a long time, we invite you to stop by. **It is your faculty center.** The recognition for such a high level of faculty participation belongs to the Georgia Southern faculty who form this active, collegial community. _Alan Altany, CET Director

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**Individual Consultations**

CET 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 CET to schedule a consultation appointment with one of the staff.


**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. It could lead to Georgia Southern being unique among colleges & universities in the United States for its overall emphasis upon SoTL. “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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**Invitation: Faculty Learning Communities Program 2010 – 2011**

You are invited to join a **2010-2011 Faculty Learning Community** (FLC). These interdisciplinary groups of 6-12 members will begin in the Fall semester according to the schedules of members, and each FLC will determine its own goals and meeting schedule. To join by the August 20th deadline, please complete the brief form at [http://FreeOnlineSurveys.com/rendersurvey.asp?sid=vpge5ia64unb7ft765911](http://FreeOnlineSurveys.com/rendersurvey.asp?sid=vpge5ia64unb7ft765911).

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**Grants & Awards**

For guidelines and deadlines, go to [http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/resources/grants.htm](http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/resources/grants.htm)

**Grants for the Development of Instruction:** application deadline – 5 pm, 9/3/10

Funds are available for faculty members to pursue projects that will have a direct impact upon classroom instruction. Supplies, equipment, travel related to the project, or personal services to develop innovative teaching strategies or improve existing methodology may be funded.

**Grants for Professional Travel:** application deadline – 5 pm, 9/10/10

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.

**Awards for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction:** nomination deadline – 5 pm, 9/10/10

Designed to recognize and reward faculty who have made outstanding contributions to the teaching-learning process at Georgia Southern, the Awards for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction are presented to two full time faculty members. Recipients are selected from persons nominated by faculty, administrators, and/or students. Two $4,000 summer stipends are awarded.
International Conference at Georgia Southern
The CET will host its 4th annual SoTL Commons: An International Conference for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning on March 9-11, 2011. Keynote speakers will be Jennifer Robinson (Indiana University), Richard Gale (Mount Royal University, CA), and Bill Cerbin (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse). The submission of proposals period is August 15 – October 31, 2010.

Website: http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/conference/2011/index.htm

Fall 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. If you haven’t yet joined a RR for Fall 2010, register online by August 20th at http://freeonlinesurveys.com/rendersurvey.asp?sid=w4i3abzqe2tazu5769039. Titles:

- Team-Based Learning: A Transformative Use of Small Groups in College Teaching
- Humor: The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy / My Life and Hard Times / Loved One
- Building Online Learning Communities: Effective Strategies for the Virtual Classroom
- Optimizing Teaching and Learning: Practicing Pedagogical Research
- The Skilful Teacher: On Technique, Trust, and Responsiveness in the Classroom
- Teaching the Large College Class: A Guidebook for Instructors with Multitudes
- Creativity: Flow and the Psychology of Discovery and Invention
- Science Fiction: 1984 / The Martian Chronicles / Childhood’s End
- On Course [for new & relatively new faculty]

International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning
The July 2010 issue of the CET’s peer-reviewed International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (IJ-SoTL) is available at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/v4n2.html. Authors are from UK, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, Singapore, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Denmark, Sweden, Mexico, USA. The acceptance rate for the issue was 11%. The deadline for submissions for the special 5th Anniversary Issue of IJ-SoTL (January 2011) is November 15, 2010.

Faculty Writing Circles

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 Alan Altany at aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.

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 Alan Altany at aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.

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

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 the CET provides each member a copy of the books. The selection for Fall 2010 is Mistakes Were Made (But Not by Me): Why We Justify Foolish Beliefs, Bad Decisions, and Hurtful
USG Board of Regents Award for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

A Georgia Southern faculty member has again been named a recipient of the USG Board of Regents’ Award for SoTL. Congratulations to Dr. Trent Maurer (Hospitality, Tourism and Family & Consumer Sciences) for being a 2010 recipient of the award. Trent is a member of the SoTL Leadership Team at Georgia Southern and has facilitated the FLC for SoTL since its beginning in 2006-2007. He joins previous Georgia Southern recipients Dr. Laura DeLong Frost (Chemistry) in 2007, and Dr. Laura Regassa (Biology) in 2009.

Focus on Excellence Forums: Fall 2010
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:

September 15, 2010 | 4 – 5 pm | Research | Henderson Library, suite 1303 (CET) | no registration needed
Dr. Samuel Todd  Dr. Christopher Cutler

“How to Find Meaning in Scholarship When Reviewer ‘A’ is Mean to You”
has engaged in research well knows the depth of effort required to scholarship valued by his/her colleagues. From project design to data analysis to manuscript drafting to editorial responses, there are many moving parts to the machine. Indeed, the process can be at times, but also very rewarding when the meaning of the endeavor understood. In this lecture, we will consider what the true meaning really is.

November 10, 2010 | 4 – 5 pm | Service | Henderson Library, suite 1303 (CET) | no registration needed
Dr. Jerri Kropp  Dr. Nirmal Das

“Multi-Faceted Faculty Service at Georgia Southern and Beyond”
the personal and professional benefits and outcomes of service….to the community? Campus-based committee work is service begins and is essential to the smooth operation of the institution as a whole. However, learn how the presenters have also used therapy dogs, program accreditation, Habitat for Humanity, making wishes come true for children and student engagement, building small-scale steel bridges to take service beyond the University. Join us for some details of these experiences, including how we have engaged students in community based learning and enhanced our scholarship and teaching as well.

The CET 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 fall semester, 2010. 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 CET will receive registrations, form the groups, and contact members to arrange for the initial meeting. If 4 faculty want to form their own group and join Open Doors, that is also encouraged. 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 fall 2010 by emailing Alan Altany at the CET at aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu by August 25, 2010.

“We think too much about effective methods of teaching and not enough about effective methods of learning.” _Carolus
“Those who go to college and never get out are called professors.” _George Givot
“Who dares to teach must never cease to learn.” _John Cotton Dana
“The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery.” _Mark van Doren
“Education is too important to be left solely to the educators.” _Francis Keppel

Inaugural SoTL Symposium of the South
http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/sotlsymposium.html

The inaugural, annual SoTL Symposium of the South will be held from 9 am – 4 pm 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 applications and collaborations: develop, design and complete SoTL research projects, as well as practical applications to teaching and students. Attendees can expect to return home with practical ideas for individual / collaborative SoTL work, as well as for encouraging SoTL at their institutions. As a leader in fostering SoTL regionally, nationally, and internationally, Georgia Southern University invites to the Symposium experienced SoTL researchers, and people new or relatively new to SoTL.

CET Website  (watch for the new CET website)
Visit the new CET web site regularly at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/.

December Course Design Series
Do you have questions about effective teaching strategies, classroom assessment techniques or pedagogical practices, and how to implement them? Are you new or newer to teaching at Georgia Southern? If so, the CET will offer a seminar series on course design and assessment for new and newer faculty on December 13, 14 & 15, 2010. The series will provide guidance on developing effective course components where learning goals, teaching and learning activities, and assessment work together for student success. The seminar takes place over three days with a different session each morning and with CET staff available in the afternoons to work with faculty, upon request, in developing their course(s). Register by contacting Patricia Hendrix at 478-0049, or phendrix@georgiasouthern.edu.

Virtual SoTL Expo
If you did not visit the inaugural SoTL Expo in March 2010, you can still see the poster displays of the work being done by Georgia Southern faculty. The 2nd annual SoTL Expo will be held on April 13, 2011 in the Atrium of the College of Information Technology.


CET 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 CET library should have, or have a recent book on teaching and learning that you would like to donate to the CET library, please contact us. Stop by the CET to browse the book shelves in the Conference Room.

Resources
Team-Based Learning (TBL): http://teambasedlearning.apsc.ubc.ca/
Larry Michelsen video (12 minutes) introduces TBL: http://teambasedlearning.apsc.ubc.ca/v/clip11/clip11.htm

Facilitating Class Discussion: http://tep.uoregon.edu/resources/faqs/presenting/facilitatediscussion.html

“We don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing.”  _anonymous

“Few things can help an individual more than to place responsibility on him, and let him know that you trust him.”  _Booker T. Washington