Director's Message from the Canopy

Joseph Campbell talked of heroes and seekers going on a “vision quest.” The quest is motivated by some unease or trauma compelling the seeker to leave the familiar and routine in search of a solution or resolution, thereby entering into and grappling with the luminal forces that obstruct the rescue or rejuvenation, and then, after overcoming those forces, returning back home to the familiar but now seeing it in a whole new way. Steadily improving teaching and learning is like an ongoing vision quest.

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.

Virtual CTLS Open House (February):  http://academic.georgiasouthern.edu/ctls/voh2010

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

Faculty Awards for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning:  $oTL

The Faculty Awards for SoTL have 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 $2,000 each provided by the Center for Teaching, Learning & Scholarship (CTLS):

Who can apply?
Permanent, full-time faculty members (tenure-track and tenured) 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 9 – February 27, 2011. All applications are to be delivered to the CTLS in Suite 1303, Henderson Library. The deadline is 5 pm, February 27, 2011.

What is the application format and selection of recipients process?
See website for details

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

Awards for Professional Travel:  application deadline – 5 pm, March 18, 2011 (Summer/early fall travel after June 25, 2011 only)
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.

Faculty Development Summer Award:  Application Deadline: 5 pm, February 4, 2011
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.
International Conference at Georgia Southern
The CTLS will host its 4th annual SoTL Commons Conference 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). To attend the conference for free, faculty can chair 1-2 concurrent sessions (contact Steve Bonham at the CTLS at sbonham@georgiasouthern.edu).


Spring Faculty Reading Roundtables
Each semester the CTLS 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 Spring 2011, register online by January 20th at http://FreeOnlineSurveys.com/rendersurvey.asp?sid=vchhd7kdttnjzrs847076.

Titles:
- How Learning Works: Seven Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching
- Inspired College Teaching: A Career-Long Resource for Professional Growth
- Academic Novels (Deadly Professors & Final Exam)
- Encountering Faith in the Classroom: Turning Difficult Discussions into Constructive Engagement
- Fiction by Georgia Writers (A Good Man is Hard to Find; The Year the Lights Came On; Elbow Room)
- Effective Grading: A Tool for Learning and Assessment in College
- Scientific Teaching
- Advice for New Faculty Members: Nihil Nimus

International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning
The January 2011 issue (5th Anniversary Issue) of the CET’s peer-reviewed (double-blind) International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (IJ-SoTL) is available at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/v5n1.html. Authors are from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, UK, South Africa, China, and the U.S.

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops. _ Henry Brooks Adams

SoTL at Georgia Southern Website: 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.

2nd Annual SoTL Expo
The 2nd annual SoTL Expo is scheduled for 3 – 5 pm on April 13, 2011 in the Atrium of the College of Information Technology building. It is an opportunity for Georgia Southern faculty to present posters about their SoTL work, and for members of the academic community to see the work of colleagues and talk with them about that work. The submission of proposals (blind review by members of FLCs for SoTL) schedule is

Submission of Proposals Period: February 1 - 18, 2011
Proposals Reviewed by February 28, 2011
Notification of Authors by March 4, 2011
Submission Form: http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/forms/SoTL_Expo/submit_proposal.php

The “2010 Virtual SoTL Expo” is available online at http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/SoTL_EXPO2010.
I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.  _Einstein

I cannot teach anybody anything, I can only make them think.  _ Socrates

Focus on Excellence Forum on Instruction

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 Forum:

Dr. Christine Ludowise & Dr. Michael Reksulak

February 15, 2011  |  4 – 5 pm  |  Instruction  |  Henderson Library, suite 1303 (CTLS)  |  no registration needed

“Gaming the System”

This forum focuses on how interactive games and group exercises can be a recipe to achieve sustained learning outcomes in students. It will also reflect on how traditional and non-traditional collaborative learning activities are valuable tools to defeat various entrenched systems – on the student side as well as on the part of the institution – that tend to inhibit student learning and excellence in teaching.

Who dares to teach must never cease to learn.  _ John Cotton Dana

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, 2011, 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. 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 spring 2011 by emailing Alan Altany at the CTLS at aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu by January 25, 2011.

The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.  _ R. M. Hutchins

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 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.
The secret of education lies in respecting the pupil. _Emerson

The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change. _Carl Rogers

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.

Teaching Perspective Inventory:  http://www.teachingperspectives.com/html/tpi_frames.htm

“Teaching Perspectives Inventory can help you collect your thoughts and summarize your ideas about teaching. It can be useful in examining your own teaching as well as helping clarify the teaching views of other people. The TPI is quick to complete - it usually takes no more than 10-15 minutes to answer all the questions and to automatically score your results.”

Teaching Goals Inventory:  http://fm.iowa.uiowa.edu/fmi/xsl/tgi/data_entry.xsl?db=tgi_data&lay=Layout01&view

The Teaching Goals Inventory was developed by Thomas Angelo and Patricia Cross. The Teaching Goals Inventory (TGI) is a self-assessment of instructional goals. Its purpose is threefold: (1) to help college teachers become more aware of what they want to accomplish in individual courses; (2) to help faculty locate Classroom Assessment Techniques they can adapt and use to assess how well they are achieving their teaching and learning goals; and (3) to provide a starting point for discussion of teaching and learning goals among colleagues.

MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching):  http://www.merlot.org/

MERLOT is a leading edge, user-centered, searchable collection of peer reviewed, higher education, online learning materials created by registered members, and a set of 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.

Tomorrow’s Professor (Desk-top Faculty Development, from the Stanford Center for Innovations in Learning):  http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/tomprof/postings.php

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

Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance. ~Will Durant

If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people. _Chinese Proverb

Too often students are given answers to remember, rather than problems to solve. _Roger Lewin

Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world. _Albert Einstein