

The Banyan Tree [Volume 6, Number 1]

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Center for Teaching, Learning & Scholarship

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AUGUST 2011

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1

The Banyan Tree

Newsletter of the Center for Teaching, Learning & Scholarship (CTLTS)
at Georgia Southern University

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE FROM THE CANOPY

According to Dr. Alan Altany, the Director of the Center for Teaching, Learning and Scholarship (CTLTS), "Professional faculty development is not an add-on, or extraneous activity, but can be said to be the 4th leg of academic life along with teaching, research, and service. It is to be an effective, enjoyable responsibility that steadily rejuvenates and regenerates attitudes and applications. Professional faculty development is readily interdisciplinary and across all stages of academic careers, serving to create a networking academic community for the whole campus. It opens doors and opportunities."

Altany also believes, "Faculty development takes many forms and venues, both formal and informal. It can occur at the individual, departmental or college level, and be found on one's own campus, or across campus boundaries in disciplinary and interdisciplinary contexts. Faculty developmental centers on campuses are another venue, units whose sole purpose is to foster and support professional faculty development." The CTLTS is such a unit and it invites faculty to participate in its 4th leg activities and events each semester and year.



Faculty development is not an add on but is the 4th leg of academic life along with teaching, research and service.

THE WAY OF THE TEACHER by J.M. Haile

- ... Let's stop teaching the courses and start teaching the students.
- The process of learning is at least as important as the material being learned.
- Simply giving the correct answer may not be the optimal way to promote growth.
- In addition to attending lectures, students must explore and exercise new patterns of thought.

OPEN DOORS TO FACULTY LEARNING WITH CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS

The CTLTS invites faculty to form small, interdisciplinary groups composed of four people who agree to visit at least one class taught by each of the other members during the fall semester. 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 and learn from colleagues' teaching ideas and practices, experience and knowledge. The CTLTS receives registrations, forms the groups, and contacts members to arrange for the initial meeting. If four faculty members 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 by August 29, 2011. To join, e-mail Alan Altany at aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AWARDS

The CTLS facilitates the work of the Faculty Development Committee in its awarding of funds throughout the academic year.

Awards for the Development of Instruction

Application Deadline:
5:00 p m , September 2, 2011
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.

Awards for Professional Travel

Application Deadline:
5:00 p m , September 9, 2011
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

Application Deadline:
5:00 p m , September 9, 2011
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.

For guidelines, go to the CTLS website, to "Index," and click of "Awards." The URL is <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ctls/Services/Awards/index.html>



The CTLS facilitates the work of the Faculty Development Committee in its awarding of funds.

FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE FORUM ON INSTRUCTION

Formerly composed of a series of six lectures, the *Focus on Excellence* format has changed and is now a series of three interac-



tive forums where the two recipients of each award (Instruction; Research/Creative Activity; Service) collaboratively present their session. The campus is invited to attend presentations by the previous

year's recipients of the Awards for Excellence. A reception with refreshments is part of each Forum. Watch for the schedule of Forums to be held during the academic year.

*"So if you
aspire to teach
well, practice
learning."*

J.M. Haile

INVITATION TO JOIN FACULTY LEARNING COMMUNITIES

You are invited to join a **2011-2012 Faculty Learning Community (FLC)**. These interdisciplinary groups of 6-12 members begin in the Fall semester. Once formed, each FLC determines its own goals and meeting times based on the schedules of individual members. FLC for this year include:

- Basics of Qualitative Research
- Teaching Critical Thinking

- Teaching Large Classes
- Scholarship of Teaching & Learning
- Democracy & Education
- International Faculty
- Web 2.0 & Virtual Worlds for Teaching/Learning
- Improving Learning in STEM Disciplines
- The Brain & Students' Learning

• Peace Studies

The deadline to join is August 24th. If you're interested, complete a brief survey by going to the CTLS website and clicking on the "Register for FLCs" link—near the bottom of the page in the middle column. Or go directly to the survey at <http://freeonlinesurveys.com/rendersurvey.asp?sid=p4ag7iovkzvqpl8910565>.



Faculty learning communities for 2010-2011 are being formed. Join by August 24th.

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.

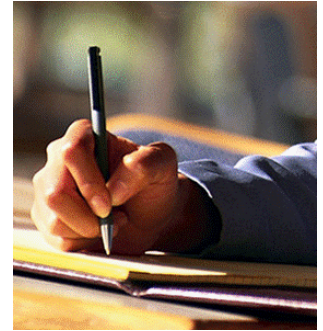
Creative Writing Circle (poetry): To provide encouragement and constructive critiques for creative writing

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/fiction writings of its members. To join, contact Laura Valeri at lvaleri@georgiasouthern.edu



A writing circle is a group of like-minded writers who want to support each other in their work

CTLS SERVICES AND RESOURCES

The CTLS offers a variety of services to faculty, including:

Individual Consultations
CTLS staff are available to consult with faculty on a large range of teaching and learning issues such as constructing exams, assessing students' work, active lecturing, course design, dealing with disruptive students, course portfolios, etc.

Classroom Observations
Faculty may request a formative classroom observation as a

means to obtain feedback on their teaching and classroom work with students. After observing the class, the consultant prepares confidential, written feedback based upon the observation. If the instructor wishes, s/he can also meet with the consultant to discuss the class and the feedback.

Lending Library
Faculty are invited to stop by the CTLS to browse the book shelves in the Conference

Room. 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.

To request a class observation, schedule a consultation appointment with one of our staff, or check out a book by email, contact Patricia Hendrix at phendrix@georgiasouthern.edu.

"The goal of good teaching is not merely to convey the material, but to reach the student."

J.M. Haile

READING ROUNDTABLE FOR FALL 2011

Each semester the CTLS sponsors and provides books for Reading Roundtable (RRs). Each RR meets during the semester according to a schedule determined by its members. To join a RR for Fall 2011, register before August 22nd at <http://freeonlinesurveys.com/rendersurvey.asp?sid=1qomq0yt5tly2nr907218>. Titles for the semester include:

How Learning Works: Seven Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching

Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses

Illustrated World Religions: Guide to Our Wisdom Traditions

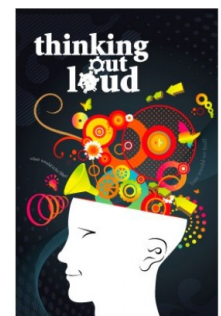
Modern Art: Impressionism to Post-Modernism

Engaging Ideas: Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active

Learning in the Classroom

On Course (for new(er) faculty)

Another reading option is the **Think Aloud Club**. The TAC is a collegial group that meets about once a month for engaging, enjoyable intellectual discussion of a wide-ranging scope of reading. Books are selected by the group. To join, before August 24, 2011. email aaltany@georgiasouthern.edu.



The Think Aloud Club is another reading option for this fall.

SOTL AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN AND AROUND THE WORLD

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 and 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. Visit the “SoTL at Georgia Southern” website at <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/sotlgsu/>.

As part of this initiative, the CTLS sponsors and annual **SoTL Expo**. If you were una-

ble to visit the 2nd Annual SoTL Expo last April, you can still see the poster displays of the work being doing by Georgia Southern faculty at the Virtual SoTL Expo: <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/cet/VirtualExpo/2011/>.

Regionally, the annual **SoTL Symposium of the South** will be held from 9 am – 4 pm on Friday, 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 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.

Internationally, 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), Craig Nelson (Indiana University), and Mick Healey (University of Gloucestershire). The submission of proposals period is September 1 – October 31, 2011. To submit a pro-

posal, go to <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/conference/2012/index.htm>. Additionally, the July 2011 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/v5n2.html>. Authors are from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Russia, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States. The deadline for submissions is November 15, 2011 for the January 2012 issue. Georgia Southern faculty are encouraged to submit articles to IJ-SoTL.



A FINAL NOTE

As part of the CTLS’s mission to provide faculty with information on the best practices on how students learn, how to teach for that learning, including designing courses, assessing students’ work, integrating instructional technologies into a class effectively, teaching online, etc., the following websites are recommended.

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

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

Scenes from the Classroom – Active Learning: <http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tutorials/active/index.html>

Course Design: <http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tutorials/coursedesign/index.html>

We’re on the Web

<http://academics.georgia.southern.edu/ctls>

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