Welcome

by Dr. Sue Mossing

Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year! We have several programs lined up for the year and hope that you find something of interest within them. Our first invited speaker at our Faculty Development Luncheon (FDL) was Dr. Regina Frey from Washington University's Chemistry Department and Teaching Center. Dr. Frey shared her expertise in the subjects of STEM education and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). Stay tuned for additional Center initiatives that encourage SoTL projects. A copy of her presentation is available online at SoTL.

Our next Faculty Development Luncheon presentation will focus on the development of teaching portfolios, and specifically how to help graduate students develop teaching portfolios. This presentation should be of special interest to Graduate Program Coordinators. See the “Links” section of this newsletter for a complete listing of luncheons being held this year. We hope you will mark your calendar and make plans to join us. All luncheons are held in the Union Ballroom, doors open at 11:45 AM and presentations begin at 12:05 PM. If you’d like to be on our email list, please sign up at Mailing List.

The Center is hosting New Faculty Seminars designed especially for faculty members that are new to campus. New faculty who attended the first seminar heard from Dr. Charlotte Font, Registrar and Assistant Provost and Ms. Jennifer Bennett, Senior Advisor at the Academic Support Center. They highlighted important dates on the University’s academic calendar and described the process of reporting freshmen absences via FABI. Our second NFS is currently underway. Dr. Maurice Eftink is offering a brief overview of “Other Things Faculty Members Should Know.” These seminars are a great opportunity to become more informed about important policies and procedures on campus as well as meet folks outside of your own department. If you are a new faculty member on campus and are interested in participating in future New Faculty Seminars, please contact us!

Lastly, we would like to extend a warm welcome our newest members of the CETL Advisory Board. We look forward to working with you to further the mission of the Center!

Luca Bombelli, Physics & Astronomy
Dennis Bunch, Leadership & Counselor Education
Robert Doerksen, Medicinal Chemistry
André P. Liebenberg, Finance
Dwight Waddell, Health, Exercise Science & Recreation Management

Peer Mentor Program

by Ms. Rebekah Reysen

This is a very exciting time for the Center. In June 2012, an application was submitted to the College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) for the purpose of obtaining licensure of our Peer Mentor and Peer Tutor Training Programs. Between now and April of 2013 when the application process should be complete, the Center’s Learning Specialists will conduct training sessions with a variety of departments across the UM campus. The credentialing process is retroactive, which means students can begin...
being a resource, providing a forum for the discussion of research, implementing ideas for practices central to the teaching and learning processes, and facilitating professional development for faculty to empower students for lifelong learning.

The primary purpose of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is to improve student learning on the campus of The University of Mississippi. The Center serves all teaching faculty including tenure-track faculty, visiting faculty, adjunct faculty, and graduate teaching assistants and instructors. The Center also serves students interested in improving their learning skills. Services provided fall into three areas: support services, program coordination, and interdisciplinary facilitation.

**Contact Us**

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training now for certification later!

Becoming a Peer Mentor or Peer Tutor is an excellent opportunity for students to make a difference in someone's life, hone leadership skills, develop professional relationships, and build a great resume! Both the Peer Mentor and Peer Tutor Training Programs includes hands-on-activities geared towards helping future mentors acquire valuable skills in communication, role modeling, time management, learning strategies, and assertiveness.

If you have students interested in becoming a Peer Mentor or Peer Tutor, or if you would like to know more about the training programs, please contact Ms. Rebekah Reysen at: rreysen@olemiss.edu, or 662-915-2352.

### Supplemental Instruction (SI)

**by Dr. Nancy Wiggers**

The Supplemental Instruction (SI) Program begins its third year at UM. SI is an academic support program designed to facilitate student learning through peer interaction in historically difficult courses. Essentially, SI is a model supporting organized study groups which allow classmates to gather together to compare notes, review important concepts, and develop strategies for studying. SI leaders are students who have successfully completed the targeted course. They facilitate the groups by organizing collaborative review sessions which promote student independence in the learning process, thus mitigating students’ dependence on professors and tutors.

During the 2012 academic year, SI expanded its support from 6 courses to 11 courses. The courses included ACCY 201/202, BISC 102/104, BISC 160/162, BISC 206/207, CHEM 101, and CHEM 105/106. Attendance to SI averaged about 30% of course enrollments. Comparing students that attended SI with those that did not, they earned half a letter grade higher and a 6% lower rate of drops, failures, and withdrawals in these courses supported by SI.

SI continues this semester with the support of the following faculty members and SI Leaders:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>SI Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCY 201</td>
<td>Suzanne McCaffrey</td>
<td>Shaquera Franklin, Caroline Purcell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BISC 102</td>
<td>Tiffany Bensen</td>
<td>Dan Roberts, Destiny Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BISC 160</td>
<td>Glenn Parsons, Gail Stratton, Rebecca Symula</td>
<td>Bhavik Magan, Alex Woods, Ethan Collier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BISC 206</td>
<td>Carol Britson</td>
<td>Hillary Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 101</td>
<td>Keri Scott</td>
<td>Kate Moore, Austin Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 105</td>
<td>James O’Neal, Jason Ritchie, Steven Davis, John Wigington</td>
<td>Kevin Bui, Rachel Banka, Chris Cora, Jacob Elrod</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the encouragement of faculty and SI Leaders, students have been attending SI sessions since the very first week of classes. This promises to be a good year for the SI Program and, most importantly, a good year for all the students who participate.

*This newsletter is produced and distributed by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.*