Graduate Student Workshops

The graduate student workshop series is a collaborative effort between the Graduate School and the Center. Begun in September, the series has been well attended, with 85 different graduate students attending at least one workshop. The workshops are hosted by Graduate Dean Maurice Eftink and are held in Hill Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. The focus of the series is to help graduate students prepare for future careers whether in business or academia. The workshop schedule for 2010-11 is listed below.

October – “Mentoring: What to Expect in the Relationship with Your Advisor.” Panelists were Minjoo Oh, Associate Professor of Sociology; Laura Johnson, Associate Professor of Psychology; Greg Tschumper, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry; and Chuck Ross, Director of African-American Studies and Associate Professor of History.

November – “Get Published Now! How to Successfully Write Articles While in Graduate School.” Panelists were Stephen Cutler, Chair and Professor of Medicinal Chemistry; Don Dyer, Chair of Modern Languages and Professor of Russian and Linguistics; Robert VanNess, Professor of Finance; Tamar Goulet, Associate Professor of Biology; and Todd Smitherman, Assistant Professor of Psychology.

January – “Becoming a Professor! Tips for Entering the Academic Job Market.” Panelists were Jeannette Mena, Assistant Professor of Marketing; Don Dyer, Chair of Modern Languages and Professor of Russian and Linguistics; K. B. Melear, Associate Professor in the Department of Leadership and Counselor Education; and Tim Nordstrom, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Political Sciences.

February – “Stepping from Academia into the Corporate World.” Panelists included Tonya Flesher, Professor of Accountancy; John Williamson, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry; and Ryan Miller, Project Manager of the Center for Manufacturing Excellence.

Workshops are still being planned for March and April and will include “Thesis, Dissertation, and Grant Writing” and “Business and Professional Ethics.” Graduate students who have attended several workshops will be invited to practice their dining skills at a formal luncheon.

Open Source Curriculum Development Grant

The Center is pleased to announce two $5000 grants to departments to facilitate the development of open source curriculum for their large class. For information on how to apply, see http://olemiss.edu/depts/cetl/CurrDevGrant2011.pdf

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Staff

Dr. Ann L. Canty, Acting Director
Dr. Susan Mossing, Assistant Director
Dr. Nancy Wiggers, Learning Specialist
Ms. Terry Russell, Senior Staff Assistant
Teacher Behavior Checklist for Midterm Assessment

Dr. William Buskist of Auburn University was our guest at the August Faculty Development Luncheon, where he spoke on his work with the Teacher Behavior Checklist (TBC). Rather than ask students to judge nebulous instructor qualities, the TBC asks students to provide feedback on specific behaviors exhibited by instructors such as encouragement, enthusiasm, constructive feedback, and respect. The TBC has solid psychometric properties and has been found to be a useful means of formative assessment.

With Dr. Buskist’s permission to use it freely, the TBC is now available for upload into Blackboard from our website. Once uploaded, you can ask your students to complete it. Blackboard will compile their results anonymously (students are not matched to their responses) and the compiled results will only be visible to you. Simply go to http://olemiss.edu/depts/cetl/teaching_resources.html and follow the directions for uploading the TBC into your Blackboard course. Once uploaded, you can modify or delete items as you wish. If you have any problems uploading the TBC, please contact the FTDC at 915-7918 or ftdc@olemiss.edu.

The TBC is a valuable tool to help us learn what behaviors are effective in reaching (and teaching) students. Used early enough in the semester, the TBC can provide instructors with valuable feedback, to allow for the modification of behaviors for improving student learning. By the time students complete the teacher evaluations at the end of the semester, it is too late. Give it a try! Upload the TBC, make modifications as you see fit, give your students a week or two to complete it, and read what your students can tell you about what you are doing well and what needs to be modified.

Course Design and Redesign

Integrated Course Design: Three important components of a cohesive course package are learning objectives, teaching and learning activities, and assessments. Objectives that are clearly communicated, facilitated by learning activities, and appropriately assessed, are more likely to be achieved.

Course Redesign: The National Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT) is a not-for-profit organization that works with institutions of higher education to improve student learning and reduce instructional cost through the use of information technology in a course redesign process. NCAT will be hosting two course redesign seminars this spring: Science and Engineering on March 11th and Social Science on April 18th. If you are interested in attending one of the course redesign seminars, please contact Susan Mossing at 915-5312 or email smossing@olemiss.edu. For more information on NCAT, see www.thencat.org

Graduate Instructor Award Nominations Now Open

The Center is now accepting nominations for the 2010-11 Graduate Instructor Award, which recognizes the importance of the teaching role performed by graduate students. The deadline for nominations is March 25, 2011. For information on how to nominate an exemplary graduate instructor, see http://olemiss.edu/depts/cetl/TeachingAward2011.pdf
CETL Faculty Development Luncheon Series for Spring 2011

**Wednesday, April 6, 12:00-1:00 pm**
Dr. Kate Kellum, Associate Director of Institutional Research and Assessment and Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Mississippi: *Best Practices in Assessment Plans and Reports*; Union Ballroom.

**Friday, April 15, 12:00-1:00 pm**
Dr. George Pullman, Associate Professor of Rhetoric, Georgia State University: *Writing Across the Curriculum*; Bryant Hall. Co-sponsored by the Center for Writing and Rhetoric.

Academic Success Training (AST) Workshops

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning offers Academic Success Training (AST) workshops to assist all UM students to further develop their skills. The Spring 2011 AST Workshops are offered Tuesdays – Thursdays, 4-5 pm, in 201 Hill Hall. They are designed to encourage students to (1) reflect on how they learn and (2) practice alternative study techniques for more effective and efficient learning. Additional information is available at [http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/cetl/AST.html](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/cetl/AST.html). Please refer students who you feel might benefit from these workshops.

- **Time Management** — Mar. 28-31
- **Critical Thinking** — Feb. 28-Mar. 3 and Apr. 18-21
- **Making and Using Notes** — Apr. 4-7
- **Concept Mapping** — Mar. 7-10 and Apr. 25-28
- **Deep Reading** — Apr. 11-14
- **Preparing for the Test** — Mar. 21-24 and May 2-5

SECAC / ALDP

A group of Faculty Fellows – Teresa Carithers, Rich Forgette, and Jason Ritchie – recently travelled to Mississippi State for the Southeastern Conference Academic Consortium (SECAC) Academic Leadership Development Program (ALDP). SECAC, whose mission is to “advance academic excellence and distinction through collaboration of SEC universities,” is a consortium of the 12 SEC Universities. ALDP is sponsored by the Provost Office and faculty and staff in the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning serve as liaisons for the program.

ALDP workshops travel between SEC schools, with UM hosting the workshop in 2009. Past Faculty Fellows have been: Kirsten Dellinger (2008-09), Don Dyer (2009-10), Charlie Noble (2008-09), and Angela Rutherford (2009-2010). For additional information on SECAC-ALDP, see [http://www.secac.uark.edu/](http://www.secac.uark.edu/)
Connexions / Consortium

At a recent Faculty Development Luncheon and associated workshops, Dr. Joel Thierstein, Associate Provost of Rice University and Executive Director of Connexions, shared the efforts of Connexions with nearly 80 faculty and staff. Connexions is the largest repository of open education resources (OER) in the world. Anyone can contribute materials to Connexions free of charge in the form of modules with the understanding that it will be openly shared with the world. Connexions operates under the Creative Commons Attributions license, which allows for the content to be freely shared and to be customizable by other authors creating derivations of the work. The only requirement is that the author(s) be cited when the content is used.

Universities can become involved with Connexions in two ways: (1) by encouraging its faculty and staff to contribute educational content, and (2) by becoming a member of the Connexions Consortium. If you are interested in becoming involved in promoting the use and development of open education resources, please contact Susan Mossing by calling the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning or by emailing smossing@olemiss.edu. Thank you to faculty members that have already expressed interest - Bob Cummings, Charlie Mitchell, Debby Chessin, Robert Mongue, and Mike Mossing.