THE MANTLE

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Welcome

Maurice Eftink, Associate Provost, CETL Interim Director

I am convinced that all faculty members have some innate desire to teach and to share their journey toward knowledge with others. Like many of my colleagues, I made a decision to go into academia right after receiving my PhD and I recall making that decision based on a combination of my desires to do research and to teach the next generation of students. Well, I probably didn't express that in those grandiose terms, but I knew that I wanted to work with students.

While I am convinced that all faculty members have a desire to teach, I think it is fair to say that we did not enter our first teaching position with a well-developed set of pedagogical skills. I remember just winging it, often keeping one lecture ahead of the class, hoping that I was not losing my audience, and trying to borrow from the best styles of some of my favorite instructors. After three decades in front of classes, I wonder how green I must have seemed those early years. Yes, I really wore plaid bell bottom pants to class on occasion.

My guess is that my story is not much different from yours. I was in love with my discipline of biochemistry, I wanted to explore this discipline as best I could, and I wanted to share this passion with students, to hopefully inspire a few of them to become biochemical researchers. But I had no clue about things like learning and teaching styles and the levels of Blooms taxonomy. I was prepared to do research and had to pick up teaching skills on my own.

Well, thankfully we are now more attuned to the need to provide support for faculty. The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, in particular, is dedicated to providing support for faculty to hone their teaching skills. Whether you are a new faculty member or a graybeard like myself, I hope that you will avail yourself of programs offered by CETL.

We began this fall with a workshop for graduate instructors and we will again have our popular series of Faculty Development Luncheons. We think we have an interesting set of speakers lined up for this year and it is always enjoyable to share a meal with colleagues from around campus. CETL will also have a series of workshops, specifically designed for new faculty, to highlight UM policies and instructional practices. Feel free to contact the CETL office about any issues related to teaching or suggestions for programs.

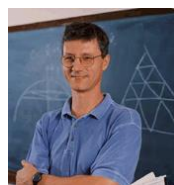# THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

CETL Advisory Board

The CETL Advisory Board is comprised of 12 faculty members, 1 graduate student, and 1 CETL staff member. Meetings are held on a monthly basis during the fall and spring semesters. The purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide faculty input and to help guide CETL's continued development. Members serve a three year term and represent a wide range of departments and schools across campus. Please feel free to contact any one of our board members to share ideas or suggestions on how we can improve and promote teaching and learning at UM.
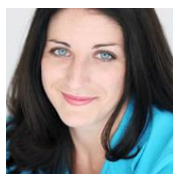
Will Berry (2016)
Assistant Professor of Law
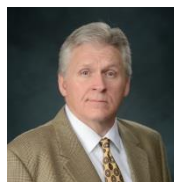Law Center
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Amanda Wansa Morgan (2017)
Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts
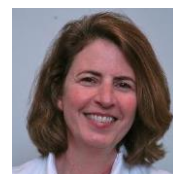110 Isom Hall
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Debora Wenger (2016)
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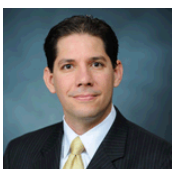**Nancy Wiggers** (ex officio), Chair
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(year term ends)

Meet the Staff

The staff is comprised of 2 Learning Specialists, a Senior Staff Assistant, and an Interim Director. Also, a number of graduate and undergraduate student workers are hired each semester to assist with various programs.

Nancy Wiggers, PhD
Learning Specialist - nwiggers@olemiss.edu
Some of Dr. Wiggers' responsibilities include working with faculty, running the Supplemental Instruction program, chairing the Advisory Board and managing the online EDHE 202 class.

Rebekah Reysen, PhD
Learning Specialist - rhreysen@olemiss.edu
Some of Dr. Reysen's responsibilities include running the EDHE 202 and EDHE 101 classes, overseeing the graduate student instructors, and providing student consultations.

Drs. Wiggers and Reysen also coordinate in-class study skills presentations and Peer Leader Training for departments.

Sarah Hill
Senior Staff Assistant - shill@olemiss.edu
Some of Sarah's responsibilities include coordinating the Faculty Development Luncheons and Advisory Board meetings, producing the Mantle and eMantle newsletters, and maintaining the CETL website.

Maurice Eftink
Associate Provost – eftink@olemiss.edu
Dr. Eftink serves as Interim Director supporting programs and staff as well as overseeing administrative tasks. He also serves as liaison between the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and other offices on campus.

Peer Leader Training

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning offers a Peer Leader Training Program to departments. Peer Leaders are an important part of the collegiate experience and a valuable asset to the University of Mississippi. We leave the hiring up to you but we can train your students to become Peer Leaders.

Peer Leaders help students by providing friendship and guidance and sharing personal insight about how to be successful in college. They help with study habits, academic planning, time management, networking, and developing effective communication skills. They also help other students become aware of all of the great resources that the University has to offer.

The benefits of sponsoring Peer Leaders in your department are that your students develop better organization, time management, study, communication, and networking skills. Your student may also develop positive relationships that can last a lifetime!

What does Peer Leader Training entail?

- Students who are hired by your department to become Peer Leaders must complete the Peer Leader Training through the CETL.

- Peer Leader Training will require a 10 hour commitment, which includes 2 hours of in-person training and 5 hands-on hours of tutoring. Additionally, some outside work is required, including a portfolio, case study, and/or quiz(zes), which may take approximately 3 hours to complete.

For more details about the Peer Leader Training Program, please contact us at cetl@olemiss.edu.

Connecting Through Conversations

Nichelle Boyd-Robinson, Associate Professor of Teacher Education
2014-2015 CETL Provost Fellow

Let me start this article by stating how honored I am to have been chosen as the first CETL Provost Fellow. I have been with the University for nine years and am also a proud alumnus. I am an associate professor of teacher education and teach at our Southaven campus. My research interests are: closing the achievement gap for African American children, keeping the principles of the Civil Rights Movement relevant with pre and in-service teachers, and more recently researching effective teaching strategies for students in struggling rural schools. I conducted a semester long study with the Boys and Girls Club, a small rural elementary school and two urban elementary schools during the Spring 2014 semester to determine materials, resources, and teaching strategies that work best with students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. The two urban schools were included to determine if rural teaching and learning needs mimic needs in urban schools or if rural schools have their own unique set of needs. I love developing and conducting research projects, writing manuscripts, presenting at conferences and working with K-12 teachers to improve instruction for students, but my first love is teaching and preparing future teachers.

I am so excited to have the opportunity to implement my project this year and cannot wait to get started. The project that I presented to the search committee involves co-teaching across disciplines and utilizing technology to make this happen effectively and efficiently. My vision of this project involves bringing instructors across schools and colleges together to have grand conversations about a topic that would cross all disciplines of the instructors involved in the conversation. I know this may seem like "been there done that" but these will not be typical lecture type talks given by guest speakers. Instead, these will be authentic conversations between colleagues, each bringing to the conversation a discipline-specific perspective of a particular topic.

I envision a TED talk format where two to three instructors will discuss the topic within 15 – 30 minutes with one instructor serving as the moderator for the discussion. After video recording the conversations between the instructors, I will upload them to the CETL website by topic so that they can be accessed by our instructors and students as well as others searching the web. Instructors involved in the conversation will integrate these conversations into their class instruction with their students.

The most complicated part of the project begins at this point. Once the students view the conversations and debrief with their instructors in class, the students from all of the classes will have the opportunity to interact with each other and the instructors from the video for even further discussion of the topic. These additional conversations will be video recorded and added to the CETL website as well. The complicated aspect at this point is determining the best format to bring the students and instructors together for further conversation. This is where the effective and efficient use of technology comes into play.

One goal with this project is to provide the opportunity for instructors from different disciplines to get to know more about each other's research and teaching interests to possibly form research and writing partnerships across disciplines. Another goal is to provide a platform to showcase our instructors' expertise while adding more depth to the lessons that are presented to students. A final goal is for each instructor to gain new respect for and insight into other disciplines. I am looking forward to bringing this project into fruition and meeting and working with new people across campus. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at ncboyd@olemiss.edu. Please include your name, school/dept., and topics you would like to discuss with other instructors. My hope is that this project will improve teaching and learning for UM instructors and students as well as enhance technology use for instruction.

Online Design and E•Learning
We expand teaching and learning boundaries

Anne Klingen, Director of Online Design and eLearning

The University of Mississippi's online offerings are growing exponentially. With over 140 online courses available for fall 2014 and the number growing each semester, the University decided to create a group – the Department of Online Design & eLearning – that focuses on the special issues related to online teaching and learning. You may recognize some of the names and faces of ODeL as it is an offshoot of Ole Miss Online within the Division of Outreach.

> "...we develop online instructors...."
> – Dr. Anne M. Klingen

Online Design & eLearning's main goal is to ensure that online instructors here at UM can create online content that is engaging, pedagogically sound, adheres to UM academic policies, and satisfies legal requirements, such as copyright law or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Dr. Anne M. Klingen, Director of ODeL explains. "ODeL has a new mission that is very different from the old. As part of OMO, we focused on developing online courses; but now we develop online instructors.

The reorganization has made it possible for ODeL to concentrate on what the staff really excels in – teaching the design and development of online materials and assessing the effectiveness of online instruction.

There are well proven pedagogies and techniques that can make an online course more successful. We want to share this information with online instructors to ensure the best learning experience for their students."

Testing
ODeL also coordinates all the proctored testing for online courses through the Distance Education Testing Lab (DETL) which is located in Kinard. In addition, DETL works with the web-based proctored testing company ProctorU which allows UM students to take their test anywhere in the world, as long as there is an adequate Internet connection.

Many instructors considering online courses express concern about student identification and verification processes. ODeL and ProctorU have established student identification and verification processes for university courses that meet the requirements of the US Department of Education regulations.

For more information about proctored exams, contact Catherine Hultman or visit the Online Design & eLearning web page, and browse for DETL information. (cmhultma@olemiss.edu, http://elearning.olemiss.edu/)

Reviewing
ODeL has also created a new online course quality review program in conjunction with a faculty focus group. A small pilot was conducted in spring 2014 and a beta roll-out of the program will take place this fall. The design of the online courses will be evaluated by faculty and instructional designers. "The purpose of these reviews is to help the online instructor gain insights into online teaching and perhaps get a fresh perspective of their work" explains Dr. Klingen. "The process is in no way tied to teaching evaluations, but is just another way to help our instructors deliver quality online offerings."

For more information about the Online Design & eLearning Department, contact Anne Klingen at annek@olemiss.edu or visit their website at: http://elearning.olemiss.edu/.

Workshops for Students

The DIY Learning Tools Workshops are a semester-long series open to all Ole Miss students. These workshops are designed to show students how to create their own learning tools. Students may attend any one, or all, of the workshops. Space is open for 12 students per session.

The techniques shown in the workshops help students to (1) reflect on how they learn and (2) practice alternative study techniques for more effective and efficient learning.

The workshops are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 3:00 pm in Hill Hall, room 117.

Time Management
September 2 & 3, 2014
October 14 & 15, 2014
October 21 & 22, 2014

Note Taking
September 9 & 10, 2014
October 28 & 29, 2014

Reading Notes
September 16 & 17, 2014
November 4 & 5, 2014

Mapping Strategies
September 23 & 24, 2014
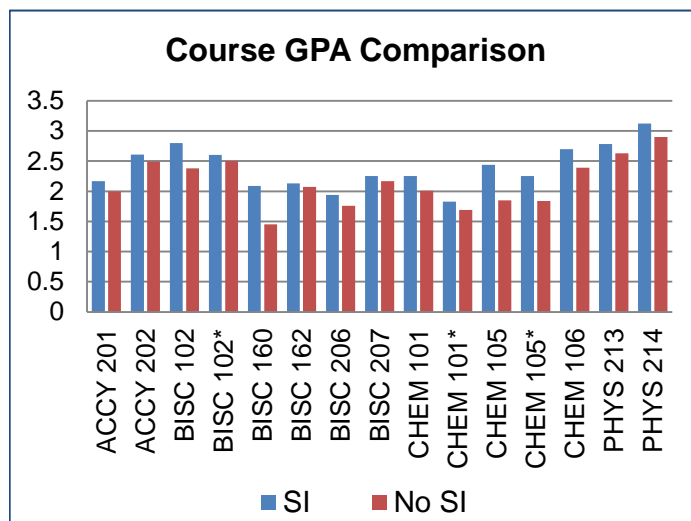November 11 & 12, 2014

Test Prep Plans
September 30 & October 1, 2014
November 18 & 19, 2014
December 2 & 3, 2014

Registration is required and is available on a first come, first serve basis. Please feel free to recommend this service to your students and direct them to our website to register.

Supplemental Instruction (SI)

Supplemental Instruction is a set of weekly review sessions that are run by students who have recently taken the course and earned high grades. These SI leaders have been selected by their professors. During an SI session students will compare notes, discuss readings, develop organization tools, and predict test items. SI is used in historically difficult courses and is open to all students.

SI had a successful 2013-2014 school year. Students who chose to attend SI earned higher grades than those who did not attend. We are looking forward to another successful year with the addition of a new course, Math 262, and additional sections of BISC 102.

This May, we had to say goodbye to several of our SI Leaders who graduated and moved on to graduate school or employment. Each one noted that including their experiences as SI Leaders proved wonderful additions to their school and job applications. We are sad to see them leave, but are proud of what they have accomplished. This year we welcome several new SI Leaders who began their training on August 20th. We are looking forward to another great year in SI.

For more information about SI please contact Dr. Wiggers at nwiggers@olemiss.edu.

Course GPA Comparison

SI | No SI

*These courses are offered both fall and spring.

FTDC Services

Penny Rice, Instructional Technology Specialist, Academic Computing

The Faculty Technology Development Center (FTDC), located in Weir Hall, room 101, is the place to go for your faculty technology needs. Offering training, assistance, and technical support, the FTDC helps enhance faculty use of technology in classrooms, laboratories, and online applications, such as Blackboard. The FTDC houses a wide variety of Apple and Windows-based computers, document and slide scanners, DVD duplicators, and video digitization stations. The staff at FTDC provides assistance with all things Blackboard, as well as offering training on a variety of software products.

Need assistance with an area in myOleMiss? FTDC can help. Want to use clickers in your classroom? They can help with that too, along with attendance scanner management, TACIT, iTunes U, test scanning, Weir computer lab reservations, and much more.

Technology Enhancement Week, a week filled with technology related workshops, is hosted annually by the FTDC and is open to all faculty, staff, and graduate instructors. This year, Technology Enhancement Week will take place during the week of September 8-12, 2014. Registration, when available, will be posted on the IT Training website. (http://ittraining.olemiss.edu/)

If you need Microsoft, Adobe, or antivirus software for a departmental computer, look no further than the FTDC for a list of all software that is available for purchase through the FTDC software management interface. (http://www.olemiss.edu/ftdc/software.html)

So the next time you have a technical problem, don't sit there feeling frustrated, give the staff at FTDC a call. We can help.

FTDC Contact Information
Phone: 662-915-7918
Email: ftdc@olemiss.edu
Location: 101 Weir Hall

CETL Services for Faculty

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 by continually improving teaching. We provide services and perform functions in three areas: support services, program coordination, and inter-disciplinary facilitation.

Some of the most popular services we offer include: Classroom Observations, Individual Consultations, Coordination of Peer Leader Training, Study Skills for the Classroom, and Orientation for Graduate Instructors.

More detailed information about the services we offer can be found on our website. We are happy to offer assistance where we can so please feel free to call on us.

CETL Contact Information: **Hill Hall, Room 105**
Ph: 662-915-1391 • Fax: 662-915-1591
CETL@olemiss.edu • www.cetl.olemiss.edu

Faculty Development Series

Each year the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning hosts a series of Faculty Development Luncheons (FDL) with presentations by University faculty and staff as well as speakers from other institutions. Luncheons are held in the Union Ballroom, 4th Floor next to Subway. Doors open at 11:45 AM and the presentations usually begin at 12:00 noon. A brief Q&A will be held at the end of the presentation. RSVP is required so that we can plan accordingly.

This year there will be a follow-up session immediately after the luncheon. These sessions are designed for those who would like to discuss this topic further with the presenter as well as other faculty.

The fall schedule has been posted on our website and the spring schedule will be released at a later date.

Tuesday, October 7, 2014
Topic: **Information Literacy**

Speaker: **Dr. Kelvin Thompson**, *Associate Director*, *Center for Distributed Learning, University of Central Florida*

Thursday, October 30, 2014
Topic: **Blackboard vs other LMS Systems**

Speakers: **Jimmy Ball**, *Deputy Chief Information Officer for Academic Technology* **Penny Rice,** *Instructional Technology Specialist*

Wednesday, November 19, 2014
Topic: **Connecting through Conversations**

Speaker: **Nichelle Boyd-Robinson**, *Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education, CETL Provost Fellow*

New Faculty Sessions

This fall the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning will be hosting three sessions for new faculty joining UM this year. More dates may be added. All sessions will be held in Hill Hall, room 117. Registration is required so please RSVP online at: www.cetl.olemiss.edu/faculty

Friday September 19, 2014 at 12:00 PM
Lunch will be provided.

Topic**:**   **Lessons Learned in Studying Seven Years of Teacher Evaluations**

Speakers: Maurice Eftink, *Associate Provost*

Kathy Gates, *Chief Information Officer, IT*

Monday, October 20, 2014 at 3:00 PM
Refreshments will be provided.

Topic: **Flipped Classroom Experiment**"

Speaker: Kate Kellum*, Associate Director of Institutional Research & Assessment and Assistant Professor of Psychology*

Friday, November 14, 2014 at 12:00 PM
Lunch will be provided.

Topic: **Academic Conduct**"

Speaker: Lori Wolff, *Professor of Leadership & Counselor Education and Director of the Center for Educational Research & Evaluation*

This newsletter is created by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.