



Friday @ the Center: January 13, 2006

Have a Brilliant Student?

Encourage him or her to attend the Center's annual Major Fellowship Meeting on Monday, Jan. 23, at 7:30 in the Science Building Room 112. This informational session discusses such major fellowship programs as the Fulbright, Rhodes, Mellon, Goldwater, and Truman, among others. SPU students are strangely passive when it comes to applying for these opportunities (compared to SU, PLU, or UPS students), but faculty encouragement and support can play a powerful role in changing this culture, I believe.

Food for Thought:

“New professors launching their first courses often master material only a short time ahead of their students and need to spend more time in content learning than more experienced colleagues. By virtue of their own current struggles to learn, many new professors relate easily, almost intuitively, to students' needs. Inexperience thus actually becomes an asset. On the other hand, **older professors** who have remained active in their own growth gain internalized mastery of content and metacognition. They need not struggle with the fundamentals that new teachers must spend time on . . . Such intellectual development, however, can come with a frustrating decrease in ability to reach students, who cannot comprehend the deep connections that such professors now wish to explore. Experience brings with it the increasing necessity to devote more attention to seeing the needs of students, because understanding these needs no longer will come as easily or intuitively as before. When we perceive our students as not so engaged or prepared as those we encountered earlier in our careers, we should realize that the perception can result from our own changes. As **full professors**, we should not depend on what worked well in the past.” From “Perceiving Education's Temporal Temperaments,” by Edward Nuhfer, *The National Teaching & Learning Forum*, Vol. 15, 2005.

SPU Factoids:

This quarter *Friday @ the Center* will experiment with a new feature—a weekly SPU fact with implications for our learning community. I invite faculty to contribute their comments, observations, and suggestions about the weekly fact on Fac/Net.

Lecturing at SPU: 60% of our faculty report that they use “extensive lecturing” in “most” or “all” of the courses that they teach: 65% of men, and 51% of women. In comparison, 47% of faculty at Protestant 4-year colleges use extensive lecturing, and 48% of faculty at all private 4-year colleges. (2004-05 *HERI Faculty Survey*, 100 respondents)

Seminars in Christian Scholarship:

This summer's offerings in the Calvin College Seminars in Christian Scholarship include: “Faith in the Classroom: Christian Perspectives on Teaching and Learning,” “Liturgical Participation and

the Dynamics of Happiness,” “Liturgy and Politics: Is the Church a *Polis*?” “The Transformation of Christian Worship: Recent History of Protestant and Catholic Practices (1960-2000), and “*Communitas*: A Visiting Scholars Program.” Applications are due Feb. 3. See www.calvin.edu/scs for complete information.

Soggily,



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