

Friday @ the Center: March 10, 2006

Do Men and Women Really Learn Differently?

What do you think? Learn more about what science says and debate the implications at a faculty development dinner and discussion on Tuesday, April 4, from 6 to 9 p.m., in Upper Gwinn. Dr. John Medina, director of SPU's Brain Center for Applied Learning Research, will present and guide our discussion on the topic, "Do Men and Women Really Learn Differently? Implications for Higher Education." Please reserve your seat by March 29 with Becky Crook at bcrook@spu.edu and indicate any special dietary requests. This promises to be a lively and educational evening!

National Teaching and Learning Forum

SPU currently has a free 60-day trial site license for the *National Teaching and Learning Forum*, an excellent newsletter with well-written, practical, and research-based articles about effective teaching and learning. The current issue includes articles called "Do Engineering Faculty Know What's Broken?" and "PRAXIS: Problem-Based Literature Courses," as well as a column on the role that nutrition plays in learning, and another essay on "The Teacher as Improviser." To access the site go to <http://www.ntlf.com/FTPSite/>. There you will be asked for our username and password when you want to access a particular issue. You can access the current issue as well as all past issues. Our username and password are:

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These are CASE Sensitive! Please check the *NTLF* out, and send me your feedback.

Teaching 101 Workshop

The Center for Scholarship and Faculty Development will offer a basic overview of teaching for newer teachers as well as seasoned pros who would enjoy talking about teaching. "Teaching 101" will be held on Saturday, March 25, from 9-2 p.m., in the Library Seminar Room. Coffee and lunch will be provided, and the topics that will be covered include

- What is Good Teaching?
- Who are your Students?
- Facilitating Learning: Course Planning
- Facilitating Learning: Rapport
- Facilitating Active Learning
- Lecturing and Learning.

Contact Susan Gallagher (gallaghe@spu.edu) to register. There is a minimum of 6 and maximum of 12 participants.

Spring Quarter Faculty Book Circles

Get out of your office this spring! Gather with colleagues every other week for lively conversation in a Faculty Book Circle. Book Circles are informal groups of 4-8 faculty members, with no pre-assigned leader. I will ask one member to serve as an informal coordinator.

Circle 6 will read and discuss *Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria*, by Beverley Tatum, a developmental psychologist in racial-identity development. The book discusses some of the distinctive social dynamics faced by black students educated in predominantly white environments and will help us continue to work on diversity and reconciliation. Two circles read this book last quarter, giving it rave reviews. Circle 7 will offer another opportunity to challenge your teaching habits with its consideration of *Leaving the Lectern*, by UW Professor Dean McManus.

If you are interested in participating in either of these Circles, please send me an email to that effect by noon, March 27, along with a list of the usual times during a week in spring quarter that you would be available to meet. Depending on the level of interest, there may be more than one Circle formed for each text.

On-line Course Evaluations

Nag, nag, nag. Whoops, I meant—encourage, encourage, encourage.



Susan

Susan VanZanten Gallagher
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