

Friday @ the Center: March 17, 2006

Last Call: Teaching 101 Workshop

There are still a few spots open in the "Teaching 101 Workshop," to be held Saturday, March 25, from 9-2 p.m., in the Library Seminar Room. Coffee and lunch will be provided. Contact Susan Gallagher (gallaghe@spu.edu) by **Monday, March 20, noon**, to register.

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!

Teaching Consultations Available for Spring Quarter

A great opportunity to receive helpful feedback on your teaching in a formative rather than an evaluative context is to request a Teaching Consultation. Two experienced colleagues will meet several times with you during spring quarter, review your syllabi and other teaching materials, observe classes, interview students, and assist you in developing effective teaching strategies. See <http://www.spu.edu/depts/csfd/teachingops.asp> for more information.

Spring Book Circles

Faculty Book 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 examines 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.

Teaching Tips: Quiz on Syllabus

Back by popular demand, a teaching tip will conclude each issue of *Friday @ the Center* for the remainder of the academic year. This week's suggestion: rather than spending 20 minutes on the first day of class reading the syllabus to the students, why not pass it out and announce that there will be a quiz on it on the second day of class? Tell your class that the syllabus contains extremely important information for the class, which is indicated by the fact that there will be a quiz on it. Make the questions easy: one I always ask is, "What's the main point of this class?" And a good syllabus should convey that to anyone who reads it. Another favorite: where is this class supposed to gather in case of an emergency?" After the quiz on the second day, you can run through the correct answers, which again highlights the importance of this information.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Susan

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