



Friday at the Center: May 27, 2005

Celebrate Faculty Scholarship!

Drop into the Library on Tuesday, May 31, between 10:30 and 3:30 to celebrate our faculty authors. Recently published books and CDs by your colleagues will be on display in the administrative offices on the second floor, and you can enjoy some good food and drink while chatting with the authors. Guaranteed to provide a refreshing break from the end-of-the-quarter rush and an inspiration for those summer scholarly projects! This event is co-sponsored by the Library and the Center for Scholarship and Faculty Development.

The Future of Capstones at SPU

All undergraduate faculty with an interest in the future of capstone courses at SPU are invited to a lunch on June 13, from 11-1, in Weter 201, to discuss the current status of our capstone curriculum. This will be the final event of the Hewlett Capstone Program, which has provided a faculty development training program for the capstone over the past three years. Department chairs, once and future teachers of capstones, and UPEC members are all urged to attend in order to brainstorm about how we might continue to work on the design of this significant component of the Common Curriculum. Any aspect of the capstone is open for discussion, but one particular topic that will be under consideration is the design and value of the Senior Reflection Paper. Please let Marlene McCurley (mccurley@spu.edu) know by June 9, if you plan to attend, so that we can order enough food for everyone.

Course Evaluations Start on May 31

Students will be able to complete on-line course evaluations beginning May 31 and concluding June 6. Please take the time to remind your students to complete the evaluations, and to explain the value of the process for the university as a whole. If possible, provide concrete examples of how your teaching has improved because of constructive input from students. Explain that you are interested in learning about what has worked and what hasn't worked. And remind students that part of their development as Christian leaders, as people of competence and character, is to learn to evaluate both themselves and others. Faculty will be able to access the results of these evaluations through the Banner system after the final grades for the course have been rolled.

Teaching Tips: Final Exams

University policy states that final exams are **not** to be given in the last week of class; they should be scheduled for the exam period, or—if take-home exams or projects—handed in during the exam period. The goal of the final exam is to evaluate how well students have learned the themes, skills, and content that is the most important for the course as a whole. Learning theory suggests that **comprehensive** exams are the best kinds of finals, as they require students to repeat and recall material tested once before and to apply concepts to and make connections among all the materials covered in the course.

Happy Memorial Day Weekend!



SUSAN

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