

Friday at the Center: September 30, 2005

Day of Common Learning Updates

For the latest information on the Day of Common Learning, check out our website at <http://www.spu.edu/depts/csfd/dayofcommonlearning.asp>. The titles of the afternoon seminars, along with the presenters, are now listed. We have a great range of topics and presenters from across campus. Please think about creative ways to promote these sessions with your students—ask them to write a paragraph response to a session, to connect a session to a topic you are covering in class, or to compare their own experiences with the content of the session. Several seminars will feature presentations by our own graduate and undergraduate students, so encourage your students to support their peers. As an added incentive, once again the Office of Academic Affairs and Student Life will be sponsoring a raffle in which one graduate student and one undergraduate student will win the cost of their winter textbooks, up to a \$300 maximum. Raffle tickets will be distributed at each afternoon seminar.

Ten Things to Do or You can Kiss Your Class Goodbye

Number 2 on Luke Reinsma's list: Learn your students' names. Pass out a seating chart and then spend an hour or so memorizing your students' names. The photos that accompany your class roster on Banner will help. Your attempt at learning your students' names within the first two weeks of class will be rewarding. No, not like on a course evaluation. Rewarding, rather, as in two people leaning across a table engaged in conversation.

Last Call: Teaching and Learning Circles

Are you interested in talking about teaching? Consider joining a Teaching and Learning Circle, sponsored by the Center. Each small group will meet three times a quarter to discuss a book about teaching, which the Center will provide. Circle One will read *Leaving the Lectern*, by Dean A. McManus, an emeritus professor of Oceanography from the University of Washington. Professor McManus describes how he changed the way he taught—moving from traditional lecture and exams to cooperative learning and student projects. It's a humorous and readable account of a research scientist who was never taught how to teach but gradually fell in love with helping students learn. Circle Two will read *Teaching as Believing*, by Chris Anderson, a professor of English at Oregon State University. A highly personal and meditative book, *Teaching as Believing* traces Professor Anderson's re-commitment to his Catholic faith and his struggles to incorporate that faith into his classroom at a secular institution. If you are interested in joining either of these Circles, please send me an email to that effect by Tuesday, Oct. 4, along with a list of the usual times during a week in fall quarter that you would be available to meet.

Center Brochure

A handy one-page guide to many of the Center for Scholarship and Faculty Development's services will appear in your campus mailbox shortly (if it is not already there). Take a look at the possibilities, and check out more information on the web.

Happy teaching!

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