

Friday @ the Center: October 7, 2005

Kudos for Grant Applications . . .

Given how difficult it is to write a grant application, congratulations are due any faculty member who completes and submits an application. Applying for grants to support research, writing, creating, or teaching is a difficult business, but the very process is extremely beneficial. It consolidates one's thoughts, clarifies focus, prompts initial reading or researching, and encourages us to be intellectually aware. And if you don't apply for grants, you won't receive a grant! We'd like to honor our colleagues' initiative and hard work as well as to give the community a sense of the kinds of grants for which faculty apply by noting such achievements in *Friday @ the Center*. If you submit a grant application, let me know and I'll share your worthy efforts with our community.

Most recently, the applications of Kimberly Segall, English, and Scott Edwards, Marriage and Family Therapy, were named as SPU's two nominees for summer stipends from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Kim is proposing to work on part of a book-length manuscript on depictions of Islam in popular contemporary literature; Scott's project involves studying the process of community building and therapeutic change in families participating in adventure-based therapy. Results of the NEH competition will be announced in March. Congratulations, Kim and Scott!

. . . and Celebrate Grants Received

The School of Theology was recently awarded a seed grant from the Wabash Center to begin a conversation about introducing the Scripture to transfer students. SOT faculty who currently teach UFDN 3001 will meet periodically over the course of the year to discuss their experiences in teaching Scripture to transfer students, in preparation for submitting a more detailed proposal for a major grant concerning the theological education of transfer students. Congratulations to Rob Wall and his colleagues!

Ten Things to Do or You can Kiss Your Class Goodbye

Number 4 on Luke Reinsma's list: **Stick to your syllabus**. All of us know what it's like to get swatted by last-minute committee meetings or changes of plans. Students, too, need security. They need the comfort of knowing what's coming around the corner—deadlines for assignments, papers, and exams. So stick to your deadlines! When you reschedule even one due date or exam day, it jostles everything else: for the rest of the quarter; students will not be confident that what the syllabus says will happen, will happen. (And yes, alert readers may have noticed that I skipped Number 3, which concerned how to design a syllabus.)

Center Brochure

A handy one-page guide to many of the CSFD's services should have been in your campus mailbox today. Take a look at the possibilities, and check out more information on the web.

Enjoy those beautiful leaves. There is an especially stunning tree at the intersection of Third Avenue and McGraw. Check it out.

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