

# Friday @ the Center: November 18, 2005

## On-Line Course Evaluations Update

Faculty have until midnight this Sunday (Nov. 20) to choose a different evaluation form or to deactivate a course for on-line course evaluations this quarter. You can do this on the Faculty and Advisor Menu in Banner. In accordance with Senate action on Tuesday, students will receive an email notification of the courses they are to evaluate on Monday, November 28, and will have until midnight of Sunday, December 11, to complete their evaluations. Faculty encouragement of student participation in this process is an essential key to response rates. Take the time to talk to your class about how their input is important to you, and watch for more suggestions from the Instructional Development Committee about encouraging good response rates. Finally, a viral advertising campaign directed at students will begin spreading after Thanksgiving. Better students catch this bug than the flu!

## Ten Things to Do or You can Kiss Your Class Goodbye

Number 9 from Washington State Carnegie Professor of 2004, Luke Reinsma: "**Give students essay topics for their exams a week in advance.** At the risk of caving into mediocrity, it's often useful to distribute the essay questions for exams a week in advance, and then invite students to get together in study groups to prepare for the essays. Of course, they'll think you're a sap for removing the element of shock and awe that unanticipated essays provide, but the real value of an exam comes in its preparation. And if you can get students thinking and talking collaboratively about these essay topics a week—instead of an hour—in advance of the exam, then there's something less like cramming and more like learning going on."

## Grant Opportunities

- INTERNAL: The Women's Studies Program has a limited number of Lilly-funded **Course Creation** (\$1500) or **Course Revision** (\$500) grants available for faculty. Complete guidelines and an application form are available at: <http://www.spu.edu/depts/csfd/programs/documents/CourseRevisionApplication05-06.pdf>. Please be aware that **new course** proposals must be pre-approved by your department Chair and must receive UPEC approval (and a course number) before they can be funded. In addition, all courses included in the Women's Studies minor must be taught at least **every other year**. **Deadline: Feb. 1, 2006.**
- EXTERNAL: The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) awards up to 3 grants of \$15,000 enabling scholars to meet, share research, critique each other's work and plan for future individual or collaborative research projects related to a common theme. Approved projects will create scholarly networks that hold promise for dissemination of scholarly results in high quality academic venues, thereby introducing Christian voices into contemporary academic conversations beyond the Christian academy. See [www.cccu.org/projects/ig](http://www.cccu.org/projects/ig) for application forms and criteria. **Deadline: Feb. 1, 2006.**

## New Journal on Teaching

A new online journal—the *Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning for Christians in Higher Education* has recently been launched by Oral Roberts University. This interdisciplinary journal provides a forum for Christian educators to share documented teaching practices that enhance and promote learning. The uniqueness of this journal is that documented

changes in learning can be attributed not only to innovative teaching practice, but also to the integration of Christian faith, whether directly or indirectly. For more information about the ***Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning for Christians in Higher Education*** or for submission and reviewer guidelines, visit the website at [http://sotl\\_ched.oru.edu](http://sotl_ched.oru.edu).

Happy Thanksgiving!

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