

Friday @ the Center: Sept. 5, 2008

Welcome to the 2008-09 Academic Year!

Between Michael Phelps, Barack Obama, and Sarah Palin, it's been hard to think about students, syllabi, and schedules hasn't it? But the cooler air and the reception of the annual Day-of-Common-Learning-Breakout-Session plea should have put everyone on alert that the new academic year is here. May you all have the necessary energy, creativity, and excitement to make this an excellent year of teaching, learning, and scholarship!

Teaching 101: Art or Science?

All full-time, part-time, or adjunct faculty, but especially those in their first few years of teaching, are invited to attend the CSFD's annual fall workshop, Teaching 101: Art or Science? This brief introduction to teaching will be held on Friday, Sept. 19, from 9-2, and lunch will be provided. If you wish to participate, please email me by noon, Sept. 17.

Grant News—Congratulations to

Dan Bishop and **Jan Brown**, Center for Professional Education, who have obtained a grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust for over \$300,000 for a three-year pilot program aimed at understanding and effectively meeting the professional development needs of Christian K-12 educators in the northwest.

Elaine Scott, Engineering, who received a National Science Foundation grant of \$48,000 for support of "Collaborative Research: Professional Development Gateways in Social Learning Settings," in collaboration with Denise Wilson, University of Washington, and Rebecca A. Bates, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Crafting a Syllabus:

The course syllabus provides a prime opportunity to let students know how excited you are about a course, how much you want to help them learn, and what they can expect during the quarter—both from you and from themselves. A good syllabus will pique students' interest by demonstrating to them the relevance, importance, or fascination of the topic. It will clearly spell out in detail the course objectives, procedures, and policies. But it also can convey a sense of welcome and support. For inspiration, take a look at the sample syllabus available at <http://www.spu.edu/depts/csfd/teachingops.asp>, which also models all the basic information that every syllabus should include (academic honest, emergency procedures, disability announcement, course evaluation procedures, inclement weather policy, etc.).

Camp Casey, here we come . . .



Susan

Susan VanZanten
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