

Friday @ the Center: February 29, 2008

Course Evaluation Notes & Advice

Faculty have until midnight Sunday, March 2, to make adjustments to the Banner-generated course evaluations that will open to students on March 3. Until this deadline, you are able to select a different form (i.e.; field/internship, rather than classroom), add your own narrative questions, or opt out of the evaluation process. All courses with over 5 students enrolled are automatically assigned an evaluation form. This quarter, due to student request, the time to complete the evaluations has been extended to March 14, the week after finals. This extension appeared to be of particular concern for graduate students. Many faculty members either require (as part of course participation) or offer extra credit to individual students for completing the evaluations. Others give the entire class extra credit if a certain class completion rate is achieved. These strategies tend to increase student participation significantly. Please take the time to explain the importance of course evaluations to your students and urge them to complete all of their evaluations. A few other notes:

- At any time during the open period, a faculty member can check to see what percentage of evaluations have been completed. You cannot, however, see whether an individual student has completed an evaluation or not, nor will you have access to the data and comments until the end of the evaluation period.
- Any student can open an evaluation and submit it without filling out any of the questions. This arrangement gives students the option to choose not to provide input without penalty. (Similarly, when we used in-class forms, there was no way to prevent a student from turning in a blank form.)
- When a student has submitted the evaluation, he or she receives an email confirmation. Some faculty request that students bring this form to the final exam or turn it in with the final paper in order to confirm their participation (for credit, etc.).
- If you want to use the percentage-of-class-participation carrot, you may wish to set a date by which this goal must be reached that is earlier than the conclusion of the open period, depending on your grading schedule and when you plan to turn in your final grades.
- Many faculty use 80% as their targeted completion rate for extra credit.
- For more information on on-line course evaluations, see <http://www.spu.edu/depts/aao/bannercourseevaluation2.asp>.

UW Undergraduate Research Symposium

Three SPU students have been selected to participate in the Eleventh Annual University of Washington Undergraduate Research Symposium taking place on May 16, 2008. The Symposium includes a large poster session and concurrent multi-disciplinary presentation sessions, featuring student work from all academic disciplines. It is a high-energy event, well attended by students, faculty, and community members. SPU will be represented by Tom Carpenter (Psychology), presenting on "Putting Your Faith Where Your Mouth Is: Intrinsic Religious Motivation and Moral Behavior"; Michael Thomas (History), presenting on "Scofield's Notes and Moody's Press: The Rise of Dispensationalist Thought in Late Nineteenth Century America"; and Susan Bilynskij (Classics), presenting on "The History and Transmission of the Trisagion in Eastern and Western Liturgy."

SPU 2008 Meyer Prize Nominee

The scenic and costume design for the SPU 2007 production of *She Stoops to Conquer*, by Don Yanik, Professor of Theatre, has been selected as the SPU nominee for the 2008 Arlin G. Meyer Prize. This prize is awarded annually to a full time faculty member from a school in the national Lilly Fellows Network

(LFN) for a work that highly exemplifies the practice of the Christian academic vocation. This year's prize will be given in the Performing Arts; next year's will be in Music. Each LFP institution can submit one nomination for the final award of \$3000 that will be announced at the Lilly Fellows Program National Conference at Seattle Pacific University, Oct. 10-12, 2008. Congratulations, Don!

Happy Leap Day to all, with thanks to Julius Caesar.



Susan

Susan VanZanten Gallagher
Professor of English
Director, Center for Scholarship and Faculty Development