

## Friday @ the Center: April 18, 2008

### New Center Star!

Check out the newly updated "Center Star" on our website at <http://www.spu.edu/depts/csfd/index.html>.

We are currently highlighting one of the Center's programs for students. A full list and description of our student programs can be found under the link "Student Resources" on the webpage.

### Grant Writing Myths: #3

**Myth 3: "Successful grant writing requires connections, and I don't have any."** Henson says, "Connections can help but they aren't required. What's required is the ability to craft a quality proposal that will convince grant givers that you will give the most and best in return for their money. You can do this by keeping one eye on the foundation's request for proposals (RFPs) to make sure that you have addressed each of its goals in your application." Gallagher adds, "You do have connections. Working at a smaller institution such as SPU provides you with more opportunities to make connections with those people on campus who can assist in writing a grant. While she clearly cannot design your research proposal or come up with ideas, our grant writer, Laura Lundahl, can provide an expert eye in assessing your drafts to help make sure that you do address all the issues highlighted in the RFP." ("Debunking Some Myths About Grant Writing," by Kenneth T. Henson, *Chronicle for Higher Education*, 2003).

### New Library Book of Interest

Interested in incorporating more diversity into your course content and/or pedagogy?-- check out *Diversity Across the Curriculum: A Guide for Faculty in Higher Education* (Anker 2007). A collection of essays covering a wide range of diversity-related topics, the book opens with a section of essays on broad topics, such as "Practices that facilitate diversity across the curriculum: inclusive classroom assessment." The second section describes the diversity initiatives at six universities. But it's the final three disciplinary sections that provide concrete examples of ways to diversify a particular course in the Humanities (section 4), Health Sciences (section 5), and Natural and Social Sciences (section 6).

### Have a Great Teaching Idea?

Submit it for the newly established annual SPU Best Teaching Idea of the Year Award, sponsored by the Center for Scholarship and Faculty Development and the Faculty Development Committee. Email me a Word document with a brief, one-page description of an effective teaching idea, pedagogical practice, or instructional tool, by May 1. All submissions will be compiled into a document that will be distributed to the faculty at the June 2 in-service and will subsequently be publically available on the Center's website.

Five finalists selected by the FDC will give brief 5-10 minute presentations of their teaching idea at the in-service, and the faculty as a whole will then select the Best Teaching Idea of the Year. The originator of the best idea will receive a \$500 honorarium, and the four runners up will each get a \$50 Amazon gift card. Any faculty member who has taught at least two courses per year for at least two years is eligible to participate.



*Susan*

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