

Friday @ the Center: June 6, 2008

!! Last Call: June Mini-Course Offering !!

If you are interested in enrolling for any of the June faculty mini-courses, act soon! Registration for "Designing Good Writing Assignments for your Classes" closes at **5 p.m. on Monday, June 9**, while registration for "Christian Formation," "Introduction to Women's Studies," and "Teaching and Researching with Multicultural Sensitivity" closes on **Wednesday, June 11, at 9 a.m.** Both full-and part-time faculty are eligible to enroll for any of the courses. Each course runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and participants will receive a \$100 honorarium, a free book, lunch, and the stimulation of learning with their colleagues. Contact Anna Dufault (adufault@spu.edu) ASAP if you wish to take one, two, three, or all four of this excellent courses.

Get a taste of what all first-year students at SPU encounter in "U Foundations: Christian Formation," led by SOT professors Sara Koenig and Jeff Keuss. Join Director of Campus Writing Tom Amorose to explore "Designing Good Writing Assignments for your Classes," or learn about how scholars define and analyze the impact of "gender" with Professor Jennifer McKinney, Director of the Women's Studies Program, in a mini-version of "Introduction to Women's Studies." Finally, don't miss the back-by-demand expansion of an earlier Diversity Committee Brown Bag workshop, "Teaching and Researching with Multicultural Sensitivity," led by SPFC professors Dave Stewart and Karen Quek.

- *University Foundations 1000: Christian Formation.* June 16 and Sept. 17.
- *Designing Good Writing Assignments for Your Classes.* June 17 and Sept. 19,
- *Introduction to Women's Studies* June 18 and Sept. 10
- *Teaching and Researching with Multicultural Sensitivity.* June 19 and Sept. 12.

Check on Course Evaluation Progress

Students have until Sunday, June 15 at 11:59 pm to complete this quarter's course evaluations. Although they receive some automatic computer-generated reminders, a personal email from you might be especially effective now that final exams are finished. On Monday, I plan to send out something like the following: "Although I can't tell who has and has not participated in the process, the Banner system does tell me that only 25% of the students in this quarter's Christianity & Scholarship have completed a course evaluation. Your feedback and comments are very important to me! If you have not yet done your evaluation, could you take ten minutes to do so, soon? I deeply appreciate it."

To check on the current completion rate for any course, log into Banner, go to Faculty & Advisor Menu, scroll down to Banner Course Evaluations, click on the line "To signup, or opt-out, or add additional questions," select the Spring 2008 term, and you will see the number of evaluations that have been completed to date in each course being evaluated.

Seven Best Teaching and Learning Practices

Several faculty have inquired about the origin of the seven best practices for teaching and learning that I mentioned at the recent faculty in-service. The seven best practices are constantly cited in faculty development literature and are based upon a meta-study by Chickering and Gamson published in 1987. Numerous follow-up studies have confirmed the original findings. For a good overview, see A.W. Chickering & Z.F. Gamson (Eds.) *New Directions for Teaching and Learning: No. 47. Applying the Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education.* Jossey-Bass, 1991.

We have a few extra copies of the “1st Annual Best Teaching Ideas Award” booklet that was distributed at the in-service. Please contact Anna Dufault (adufault@spu.edu) if you would like a copy.

Happy Grading, All!



Susan

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