TEACHING CHALLENGES
A HELPFUL WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE FOR NEW FACULTY

On December 4, 22 “new” faculty (teaching at Sewanee three years or fewer) joined us for a workshop on “Teaching Challenges” at the Sewanee Inn. Participants were asked to choose a specific issue or problem from the classroom or related to their professional lives that they wanted help addressing. They then discussed their issues in small groups following a discussion protocol designed to maximize feedback given in a short amount of time.
Participants addressed a wide variety of topics, including time management, assessment techniques, breadth vs. depth, syllabus design, unmotivated students, and more. We would like to host another session in the Spring for those who could not attend this one. We are particularly grateful to Dean Papillon for hosting a happy hour after the Workshop. The CfT is committed to supporting our wonderful junior faculty. If you have ideas for us as we work toward that goal, please let us know.

**How do you Build Rapport?**

**Just Ask Jordan**

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Jordan Troisi, led approximately 20 colleagues from various departments through a “relationship closeness induction task” at our teach & tell on November 20th. Participants worked in pairs and got to know each other with an interview activity that could be used on the first day of class in any discipline at any level. Jordan also led a discussion of the importance of building rapport and how to handle possible pitfalls. In fact, the faculty in attendance were eager to discuss how to handle “controversial” and/or “uncomfortable” moments in the classroom, and we are working on bringing you some programming on this topic in the near future. We also found out that Jordan is afraid of heights, among other interesting tidbits about our colleagues! We thank Jordan for not only sharing his ideas with us but for also modeling dynamic, interactive teaching during his very successful teach&tell.
OUTSIDE THE GATES
UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Visit Atlanta University Center Archives
Application Deadline: January 23, 2015

APPLICATION
The Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library is offering a research travel award to educators, graduate students, and independent researchers who would benefit from access to the manuscript and archival holdings in the Archives Research Center. The awards are to support teaching, research, and scholarship that will broaden awareness about these unique resources.

You may find something that interests you on this page. Click on the title to find out more information online.

The collections of the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library’s Archives Research Center reflect the diverse contributions, achievements, and experiences of African Americans and the African diaspora. The Archives Research Center contains over 105 manuscript, photograph, and book collections that are accessible to the public. Archival holdings include:

- Atlanta University Presidential Records,
- Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection,
- Tupac Amaru Shakur Collection,
- Voter Education Project Organizational Records,
- Walter Rodney Papers,
- Neighborhood Union Collection,
- Gardner C. Taylor Collection,
- Maynard Jackson Mayoral Administrative Records,
- Atlanta Student Movement Collection,
- C. Eric Lincoln Collection, and
- Countee Cullen-Harold Jackman Memorial Collection

The award will be made based on estimated travel expenses not to exceed $1,500. The awardee research period is for April 1 through November 21, 2015. Contact travelaward@auc.edu or 404-978-2052 for questions.

Project Zero: Atlanta
May 8-10, 2015

With an over-arching theme of Think-Create-Innovate, the Atlanta conference will invite educators to reflect deeply on ways to build and sustain engaging, enriching, and rigorous learning opportunities; to encourage problem-finding and problem-solving; and to develop the disposition to act to make the world a better place. In exploring tools, strategies, and frameworks developed at Project Zero, conference attendees will participate in both large and small group sessions, each addressing one or more of the following strands:

Educating for Global Competence: How do learners demonstrate global competence? How do educators ensure that learners in their charge explore complex issues of global significance through multiple perspectives?
Encouraging Creativity and "Maker Thinking" in Children: What can we learn from the practices of teachers in the arts and in the maker movement? How might we encourage creativity and DIY habits of mind that are relevant to all disciplines?

Growing Up in the Digital Age: What are the civic, moral and ethical opportunities and challenges afforded by the digital age? How are the meanings of local and global citizenship and civic action shifting? What are the implications for civic education?

Making Learning and Thinking Visible: How can visible representations of thinking be used as a force for student learning? How do we document and assess student and teacher learning in order to further our own learning? How do we help learners develop dispositions that support thoughtful learning across school subjects?

8th SoTL Commons Conference
March 25-27, 2015 at Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah, GA

This conference has an international scope but an intimate feel: Listen to high quality presentations from nationally and internationally recognized speakers. Join in conversations and collaborations on SoTL with a community of scholars from around the world.
Conference strands include:
- Online learning
- Teaching with technology
- Assessment
- Academic and professional development
- Learning theories and pedagogy
- Student Voices in SoTL

12th Annual Teaching Professor Conference
May 29-31, 2015 in Atlanta, GA

Year after year, college faculty mark the end to the spring term by attending this conference. It’s the perfect venue to reflect, recharge, and rejuvenate while gaining a wealth of instructional ideas and valuable insights.

The three-day conference is packed with learning opportunities designed to enrich your teaching practice. There are preconference workshops that provide hands-on learning, plenary sessions keynoted by nationally-recognized experts, carefully selected concurrent sessions on a range of relevant topics, poster presentations highlighting the latest research, and all sorts of occasions for informal interaction.

ELI Annual Meeting 2015
February 9-11, 2015 in Anaheim, CA

Designing our Thinking: Crafting New Directions for Digital Engagement is the theme of the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative Annual Meeting 2015 in Anaheim, California, and online. ELI’s annual meeting is the premier event for those committed to the advancement of learning through the innovative application of technology. This year will be no different as ELI will feature Ted-Style presentations, Learnshops, preconference seminars, and top-notch general session speakers, along with numerous opportunities to network and discuss current trends and issues within higher education teaching and learning. The overall program will result in a diverse array of presenters, perspectives, different levels of experience, and a variety of institutional types.

Did you miss out on seeing Jordan’s talk? Were you there but didn’t get the handouts? No worries! The video and handouts are all available electronically through the Center for Teaching’s Google Drive. Just click HERE to access the files.
UPDATE: CFT TASK FORCE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR LAST MEETING

We crafted a new mission statement for the Center for Teaching. We have also worked extensively on a strategic plan for the Center, with short- and long-range goals in mind. This semester, we will invite the faculty for input on the strategic plan through a combination of surveys, town hall meetings, and social gatherings. We hope to share this strategic plan near the conclusion of the Task Force.

Also, we are continuing to research best practices at aspirant and peer institutions. We are in the planning stages of gathering information from these institutions. Plans to interview directors of similar centers, both through phone conversations and in-person visits, are underway.

Finally, we are also working on the Center for Teaching's web presence. A new webpage, using the TerminalFour platform, is under construction.

We are excited about this work and will keep you updated on our progress. **As a reminder, the members of the Center for Teaching Task Force are Rae Manacsa, Tam Parker, Heidi Syler, Jeff Thompson, & Jordan Troisi.**

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**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Did you like this newsletter? Was it informative? Was it a waste of your time? Could we deliver this information in a better fashion? Let us know how we can improve it or if you see something that you think should be featured.