

# teaching

The Teaching and Learning Center of Wake Forest University

2012 Annual Report



The Teaching and Learning Center is pleased to share with you our accomplishments from the 2011-2012 academic year, and to invite you to check out our website, www.wfu.edu/tlc/, for our upcoming Fall 2012 offerings.

The 2011-2012 academic year saw many new events added to our roster, especially in our New Instructor Series for graduate students, TAs and postdocs. For faculty, we added the Instructional Development Series, which provided great practical ideas and tools for immediate use in the classroom, in workshops like the Interactive Lecture or Designing and Using Rubrics (see p. 6 for complete list). Our book groups continued to be enormously popular, with this year's reading including *Teaching for Critical Thinking and Academically Adrift.* "Pedometers and Pedagogy" was nominated as a finalist in the Professional and Organizational Development Network's annual Innovative Faculty Development Workshop competition this past October, and it will be featured in the Wake Forest Alumni Magazine this coming fall.

"So Many Choices, So Little Time!", a new 4-day teaching-with-technology program that we offered in June, was well attended and well received by the 15 or so faculty who came to anywhere from 1 to 4 days of workshops around different pedagogical needs and the technologies that support them.

As you will see herein, the Teaching and Learning Center has something for everyone, whether you only have an hour or a whole career to devote to thinking about your teaching. We are here to support, encourage, help, and cheer you on to great happenings in the classroom. Come by and see us in Reynolda 307 and be sure to check out our website for what's coming!

Sincerely,

The Teaching and Learning Center Staff

#### MISSION

The Teaching and Learning Center is a resource center for all Wake Forest University faculty throughout all phases of their careers. The TLC offers funding, workshops, individual and departmental consultations, learning communities and retreats to bring together faculty to share research-based expertise, explore innovations and discuss the challenges of learningcentered teaching both in and across the disciplines.

# **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- Participation is voluntary
- All records are confidential
- All practices follow the ethical guidelines established by the Professional and Organization Development Network

# TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER STAFF



Managing Director

Sue Rupp Faculty Co-Director



Deborah W. Snyder Administrative Coordinator

Andrew Engel (until 6/2012) Instructional Developer

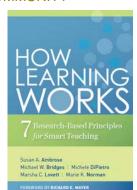
# TLC COMMITTEE

The Teaching and Learning Center Committee is a university committee, with representation from the five divisions in the college, the Department of Education, the Z. Smith Reynolds Library, and the graduate and professional schools (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, School of Law, Schools of Business, School of Divinity, and School of Medicine). The committee members from the five divisions in the college are elected by the faculty, while representatives of the Department of Education, the Z. Smith Reynolds Library, and the graduate and professional schools are appointed. The managing and faculty co-directors of the Teaching and Learning Center attend committee meetings, with the faculty co-director serving as chair and secretary. In the 2011-2012 academic year, the Teaching and Learning Center Committee met monthly, for a total of eight meetings.

| Kristin Bennett   | Education                            |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Robert Bliss      | Schools of Business                  |
| Brook Davis       | Theatre and Dance                    |
| Steven Giles      | Communication                        |
| Dwayne Godwin     | Graduate School of Arts and Sciences |
| Hugh Howards      | Mathematics                          |
| Veronice Miles    | School of Divinity                   |
| Monique O'Connell | History                              |
| Lauren Pressley   | ZSR Library                          |
| Catherine Ross    | Managing Director, TLC               |
| Sue Rupp          | Faculty Co-Director, TLC             |
| Kendall Tarte     | Romance Languages                    |
| Rebecca Thomas    | Dean's Office                        |

## NEW FACULTY LEARNING COMMUNITY

Every fall semester Catherine Ross invites new faculty members (within his/her first two years) at Wake Forest to join together to create a peer support and mentoring group. The group will meet every other week throughout the fall semester to talk about teaching, share classroom problems and ideas, and to observe some senior faculty



in their classes and talk with them about teaching. We also read How Learning Works to jump-start our conversations and to get ideas. While the conversations will vary depending on the interests of the group, we will most certainly engage in lively discussion on the practice of teaching!

Meeting times and dates will be determined by the group. Please email Catherine Ross (rossce@wfu.edu) if you would like to participate or if you have any questions.

# **Participant Comments**

Participating in the New Faculty Community at the TLC was one of the highlights of my first year at Wake Forest. Through our readings and discussions I gained an expansive toolkit of teaching strategies and a new-found confidence in my abilities as a teacher and mentor.

- Hana Brown, Sociology

In practical terms, hearing about how others structured their class time and their assignments gave me new ideas to try out. The book was helpful too - it got me thinking about why things were or weren't working, rather than just blaming myself or the students.

- Heather Welland, History

#### FACULTY FELLOWS PROGRAM

The TLC Faculty Fellows program seeks to create a partnership between the faculty and the TLC to deepen the engagement with teaching in the disciplines. Through this partnership, faculty can expand their expertise on teaching in their disciplines and share that expertise with their departmental and disciplinary peers.

# Purpose

Those faculty who are selected as fellows will gain professional recognition for the innovative and thoughtful work they are doing in promoting teaching excellence within their disciplines. The TLC will gain deeper insights into how disciplines can build on learning research. Faculty Fellows can serve any number of roles: working with TLC staff on projects to enhance the teaching and learning resources within their departments and divisions, creating their own faculty development initiatives, acting as informal advisors on TLC programs and services, offering discipline-based workshops; and serving as TLC contacts for



Dr. Laura Aull Professor of English



Dr. Teresa Sanhueza Assoc. Professor of Spanish

other faculty on campus and for colleagues elsewhere.

#### Award

Fellows will receive a stipend of \$2,000 for the summer planning work. Up to \$1,000 additional reimbursement funding may be requested for books, materials or other expenses associated with this project.

#### **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS**

The TLC Book Discussion groups meet every other week (~4-5 times), in both the fall and spring semesters, with new books each time. All participants receive a free copy of the book (the group decides hard copy or electronic version).

Participation is limited to 12 per group and registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration information, the dates, times and locations are available on our website.

The Fall 2012 groups will run between late September and early November. Participants will choose from one of the following books.

Teaching Naked: How Moving Technology Out of Your College Classroom Will Improve Student Learning Jose Antonio Bowen, 2012

Facilitator: Catherine Ross, rossce@efu.edu

"Technology is profoundly changing education. If students are going to continue to pay enormous sums for campus classes, colleges will need to provide more than what can be found online and maximize "naked" face-to-face contact with faculty. Teaching Naked shows how technology is most powerfully used outside the classroom and when used effectively, how it can ensure that students arrive to class more prepared for meaningful interaction with faculty." (Amazon website)

College: What It Was, Is and Should Be

Andrew Delbanco, 2012

Facilitator: Sue Rupp, rupp@wfu.edu

"As the commercialization of American higher education accelerates, more and more students are coming to college with the narrow aim of obtaining a pre-professional credential. The traditional four-year college experience--an exploratory time for students to discover their passions and test ideas and values with the help of teachers and peers--is in danger of becoming a thing of the past." (Amazon website)

# PEDOMETERS AND PEDAGOGY

We all know that getting outdoors and exercising are good for both our bodies and our brains, but we also know how hard it is to get away from the desk to take that walk or even just to stretch and breathe deeply! The TLC offers you an excuse to get outside and get walking while you talk about teaching. Catherine Ross and Dee Oseroff-Varnell will be your "walk and talk" leaders and will meet you in front of the Z.S.R. Library for a 30-40 minute walk around campus. You can bring a teaching question or vexation with you or we will provide topics for discussion as we walk. All you need are comfortable shoes! Check for updated meeting times on our website, no registration required.



# **NEW INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOPS**

The Teaching and Learning Center's New Instructor workshops are specifically designed to target the needs of post docs and teaching assistants on both the Reynolda and Bowman Gray Campuses. 2011-2012 workshops included:

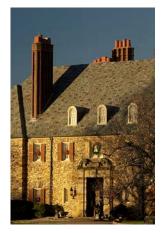
- Microteaching: Video, Critique and Reflection
- An Introduction to Learning Objectives
- Introduction to Reflective Teaching
- Writing a Teaching Philosophy
- Creating Active Learning in a Lecture-Based Class
- Grading and Learning Assessment
- Classroom Management
- Teaching in a Diverse Classroom

# INSTRUCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Each workshop in the Teaching and Learning Center's Instructional Development series centers on one specific challenge in course design or pedagogy and provides faculty with concrete teaching strategies and tools for use in their very next class. The series is deigned to complement the long-term, inquiry-based faculty development model of the TLC's Book Discussion Group (p. 5), and Pedagogy (p. 5). 2011-2012 workshops included:

- Structuring and Assessing Group Work
- Rubric Design
- The Interactive Lecture
- Getting Students to Do the Reading
- Structuring Effective Online Discussions in Face-to-Face Classes
- The Pedagogy of Google Docs

## GRAYLYN TEACHING RENEWAL RETREAT



The Graylyn Teaching Renewal Retreat was held May 29 - June 1 at the Graylyn Estate of Wake Forest University. In addition to the eight Wake Forest faculty participants listed below, twenty-two other advanced career faculty participants from Elon University, NCA&T University, UNCG, and Salem College came together to focus on teaching renewal.

| Carole Brown       | Biology                              |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Eric Carlson       | Physics                              |
| Tracey Banks Coan  | Wake Forest University School of Law |
| Sam Gladding       | Department of Counseling             |
| Sol Miguel-Prendes | Romance Languages                    |
| Ronald B. Neal     | Department of Religion               |
| Mary Pendergraft   | Classical Languages                  |
| David Phillips     | Interdisciplinary Humanities         |

# Participant comments

It was a great, life changing, renewing, experience. One of the best conferences I have ever attended on any topic!

Overall, this was a wonderful, enriching, and transformational experience.

It is a great idea to gather people from several institutions and disciplines to get different views and to share common experiences.

It is good to see so many people committed to good teaching... sometimes I have felt very alone in my passion for teaching.

# SO MANY CHOICES, SO LITTLE TIME

The new workshop series, "So Many Choices, So Little Time: Which Instructional Technologies Will Work in My Class and Not Make Me Crazy?!," is aimed at providing faculty with both the information on technologies to support teaching practices, and the opportunity for faculty to develop and implement their ideas in a supported, small group environment.

Each workshop centers on a specific instructional challenge and includes discussion on supporting technology options.

- Improving Student Collaboration
  Google Docs, Google Sites, Wikis, and WordPress
- Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom Sakai, Voicethread, WebEx, Online Forums, Learning Object Creation Tools, and Google Docs
- Assessing Student Learning Sakai - Assignments, Quizzes and Surveys, Graded Discussions, Poll Everywhere, Evirx, and WordPress
- Utilizing Social Media in Teaching Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus, Diigo, and Wifffiti

# TEACHING DEVELOPMENT FUND

This funding (up to \$1,500 in an academic year) assists faculty in enhancing teaching skills, or in developing innovative teaching projects.

| Margaret Bender     | Anthropology                      |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sandra Dickson      | Documentary Film Graduate Program |
| Jack Dostal         | Physics                           |
| William Fleeson     | Psychology                        |
| Daniel Fogel        | WFUSOB                            |
| Claudia Francom     | Romance Languages                 |
| Judy Kem            | Romance Languages                 |
| Marcelo Pereira     | Romance Languages                 |
| Heidi Robinson      | Counseling                        |
| Jorge Abril Sanchez | Romance Languages                 |
| Teresa Sanhueza     | Romance Languages                 |

#### TEACHING INNOVATION AWARDS

The TLC offers up to 5 Teaching Innovation Awards each academic year. The purpose of the awards is to recognize the effort that goes into creating or redesigning courses to promote student learning in innovative and demonstrable ways. The recipients receive a cash award of \$1,000 and are honored at a TLC luncheon where the awards are presented. Look for the call for applications early in the spring semester.

# 2011-2012 Awardees

| Laura Aull      | Department of English           |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Lisa Blee       | Department of History           |
| John Curley     | Department of Art               |
| Jack Dostal     | Department of Physics           |
| Teresa Sanhueza | Department of Romance Languages |





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