

Teaching & Learning @ Penn State York Newsletter

Fall 2013 Vol. 8 Issue 1

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Welcome back to a new academic year!

This year, I've finally gotten my act together and included **updates from the Nittany Success Center, Advising and Career Development at Penn State York, and PSY Library**, key partners in the teaching and learning process! Be sure to check out their updates at their individual tabs!

In the past year, I was able to attend several really excellent conferences, and I wanted to share what I've learned through this newsletter and also through sessions this fall and spring, so read on and stay tuned!!! Please get in touch if you have an idea for a workshop, or if you'd like to present something yourself. There is always room for more!!!

Last June, thanks to a grant from the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence, I was able to attend some really wonderful sessions at the **Lilly Conference** in Bethesda, MD and present

the experience from last fall's paired college reading/psychology course. Below are some of the highlights.

Teaching as Performance was a highlight and favorite! **Leslie Felbain** is head of the MFA Performance Program at the University of Maryland, College Park. She led a very interesting session on how different aspects of performance – like being grounded, using articulation effectively, and being authentic – can improve classroom presence. She has kindly agreed to drive up early in the fall for a lunchtime session with us. I would like to encourage strong attendance, as this is something really interesting and special to which we might not normally have access. I'll keep you posted.

Round Robin Technology Session is a really fun and efficient way to be exposed to lots of educational technologies in a short amount of time. Presenters are stationed around the room. Participants divide themselves evenly among the presenters. At the sound of a bell, presenters begin. They have 7 minutes to present a technology and how they are using it in their class. They must give participants a chance to try it out. The bell rings at the end of 7 minutes and people move clockwise to the next station. This process repeats until all the stations have been visited. This was a high energy session that people really enjoyed. Participants got lots of ideas in a very efficient time frame. Get in touch if you have a 7-minute idea you'd like to share at this event. We need both presenters and participants to make it successful!

Culture Bump was another session of interest at Lilly. The researchers behind Culture Bump define it as occurring when *two or more people enter a situation with different expectations about a behavior. It can be caused by: communication styles, behaviors involving the use of time, space or speaking, physical objects such as clothing or artifacts, or even the architecture or decor of a location.* The session gave practical instructions on becoming aware of culture bumps and positively navigating them when they occur using language and strategies that felt natural and egalitarian.

The last day of the conference was packed with great sessions, including one on **Transformative Teaching** by **Tamara Rosier** which really caught my attention. I can't imagine many people who teach who don't also expect students to be changed as a result of their classes. This notion of transformation and my role as an instructor in that process has been on my mind all year as a recurrent theme, appearing most recently in our lifelong learning project of the summer/fall. Along these lines, I want to **highlight Dr. Cora Dzubak's recent**

article on the **role of reflection in learning. Take a look!** It contains excellent background and solid rationale for incorporation into your teaching.

In preparation for a fall pilot on our campus, my head has been full of work with the **Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory (ELLI)** which we'll be integrating into the paired LL ED 005(College Reading) and BiSc003 Environmental Science courses in just a few weeks! With the **help of Barb Eshbach and Jorge Santiago-Blay**, we had a really great kick-off **training here in July** with 26 faculty and staff from 6 campuses and one faculty member from E-Town (whom I met at the Lilly Conference!) As a result, projects are now happening at York, Mont Alto, Berks, and maybe Hazelton in the fall semester. York participants were: **Annie Haines, Karen Sheehe, Sukhdeep Gill, LeighAnn Myers, Chuck Gaston, Andrew Caldwell, Fulgentius Lugemwa, Kerry Magni, Jorge Santiago-Blay, Barb Eshbach, Cora Dzubak, Patrick Tanner, and Rauthild Orleth-Diener.** **Read more** about our pilot which also includes the use of **adaptive learning technology** in the section on faculty projects.

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) is a skill set that I've been trying to build since we had Maryellen Weimer on campus several years ago. It is a good fit for many faculty who find themselves asking questions about what works (and doesn't) in the classroom. In her August 17th blog post for Magna Publications, Weimer summarizes an SoTL article recently published in *Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Language, Composition, and Culture* (2012), providing a very clear description of what an SoTL project looks like.

This is such a useful piece of scholarship. It illustrates everything that so justifies teachers making systematic, scholarly inquiries into aspects of instruction of concern to them. There's an intriguing question. "My students aren't very good readers. Why is that? What strategies are they using when they read?" [Substitute your own question here.] There's an exploration of relevant research. Are things known about reading strategies that might be useful? There's an interesting and robust methodology used to gather data. Analysis of the data is systematic. And what emerged from the data is discussed. We are privy to what the researcher learned—what surprised her—and we find out what she plans to do about the results and what she recommends we do. All this and the article is written in a style that is easy and interesting to read. This is one of those articles not to miss for multiple reasons.

If you have an interest in doing SoTL projects, let me know. I am interested in starting a group in the fall to meet regularly to discuss possible projects and processes. **Read Weimer's entire blog post** and the article it summarizes at the reference below.

Manarin, K. (2012). Reading value: Student choice in reading strategies. *Pedagogy, 12* (2), 281-297.

Excellence in Gateway Courses

The **John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education** (group that pioneered the work on the First Year Experience, Foundations of Excellence programs) sponsored the first annual **Conference on Excellence in Gateway Course Completion** April 13-16 in Indianapolis, IN. I was able to attend this wonderful conference and learned many things that could be useful to us on campus.

What are "gateway" courses and why do they matter?

Gateway courses are those courses that are:

- credit bearing
- at the foundational level (either developmental or entry to major)
- high risk to students (high D,F,W,I rates 30% or greater)
- high enrollment (institutions define what this means to them)

These courses have the greatest impact on student success (and institutional retention rates). Not surprisingly, retention in these courses is strongly correlated with successful degree completion. The conference topics looked at **maintaining high standards while supporting students in these courses through re-design**. **Read more** including examples in different content areas and a video of one of the keynotes, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, President of UMBC, who will be **speaking on campus August 28th at the Pullo!** Don't miss it. He is dynamic and inspirational!

I hope everyone has a great semester. Get in touch if you need anything. Please read on in the other sections – lots of important updates and information of interest related to teaching and learning!!

Thanks for your support, and as always, get in touch with ideas and/or topics you'd like to present or see happen on campus related to teaching and learning. Use the comment section below or e-mail me directly scs15@psu.edu.

Faculty Projects Summer/Fall

Kudos to the faculty going above and beyond the call of duty with special projects from the summer and upcoming fall:

Part-time Faculty Fellowship

Joe Royer (IST), **LeighAnn Myers** (CN ED), **Harry Payne**(ASTR), and **Andrea Angstadt** (BIO) joined **Deirdre Folkers** and me for our first (hopefully) annual summer Part-time Faculty Fellowship. With some funding from my Teaching & Learning with Technology group at UP, we were able to put together a 5-session program that covered topics such as lesson planning, engaging students through active learning and motivation, assessment, and classroom management. A highlight for the group was a panel discussion about what works with veteran faculty members **Fred Haag, Noel Sloboda, Kerry Magni, Andrew Caldwell, and Deirdre Folkers**. Participants were exposed to new educational technologies and completed practical assignments that supported the development of their fall courses. The group plans to continue to meet during the fall semester for on-going sharing and support. All are welcome! Congratulations to the group for all their hard work!!!

Course in College Teaching

Congrat's to Maureen Muller who completed the Schreyer Institute's Course in College Teaching, traveling to Hazelton to do it this summer! She also completed OL 4000 Course Re-Design.

Maureen joins a long list of our Penn State faculty who completed either the Schreyer version, or a local offering of the Course in College Teaching – Parts I and II!!

Should we alums meet???

Mobile Media Pilots

Fred Haag's (ART) and **Jim Crivaro's** (KINES) proposals were both chosen for the summer mobile media pilots. Students received iPod Touches for use during their summer sessions.

Carla Rapp, our Media Commons trainer came to give them training on how to use the devices. They also received training on how to set up Penn State Blogs which they used in both classes to reflect on their work/learning, supported by multi-media illustrations. In both cases, students and faculty reported positive experiences with their projects.

Project Descriptions

Art 100: For their final projects (which they work on over the course of the semester), students study one artist of their choosing. They will create a portfolio of their own artistic work reminiscent of the style of their chosen artist. Students will gather both artistic work and several reflective audio and/or video essays on their course blog (using GarageBand and/or Tellagami, and Sites.psu.edu). Using instructor prompts to guide the reflections, students will describe their creative processes throughout the semester. Students present their blogs to the class at the end of the semester.

KINES Wellness: Students study different aspects of healthy lifestyles – from the food they eat, to exercise and stress management. Students wrote about their struggles and strengths in a blog, using video and images to support their narratives.

Media Commons has a website with all [past mobile media projects](#) (including the initial pilot with Mike Jarrett's project!)

LL ED005/Bi Sc 003 Course Pairing SoTL Project

Barb Eshbach, Jorge Santiago-Blay, and I (with assistance from **Cora Dzubak** and **Loren Brewster in the initial planning stages**) are working on a fall Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL)project with our paired reading/environmental science courses.

TITLE: *Using Adaptive Learning Technology and Reflective Exercises to Improve First-Year Success in a Paired College Reading/Environmental Science Course*

You can read in greater detail as your interest dictates at this [blog posting](#). We hope to measure student success both in terms of the course content and in their growth as lifelong learners, using analytics from the adaptive learning technology and the Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory (ELLI).

Penn State Video Pilot

It's not too late to throw your hat in the ring to help pilot a new video storage service at Penn State

Information Technology Services is seeking faculty interested in participating in a fall 2013 pilot of the Video at Penn State service.

Video at Penn State is a pilot solution for uploading, managing, and streaming video and audio content on the web. Using this tool built on the MediaCore platform, participants can upload lectures, sample videos, podcasts, and other pieces of media for students to readily and easily access. Students can also submit multimedia assignments using this technology.

In addition to features such as tagging and commenting, Video at Penn State offers a high level of access control by allowing faculty to manage collections of content specific to individual courses and groups. This dynamic tool works to enhance how video is used and distributed in the classroom. For more information, visit <http://video.psu.edu/>.

If you are interested in participating in the pilot, please complete the brief online form at <http://bit.ly/16xAq9a>. For any questions, email video@psu.edu.

Andy Landis is thinking about applying for the pilot to make chemistry videos, and I'll be using it for my LL ED course. Join us!!! Sign up at the link and let me know you are participating, so we can share what we are learning.

Blog Projects

In addition to the summer ART and KINES projects described above, blogs are growing in popularity! Very versatile and functional tools, blogs can be used for reflection, portfolios, web page design, writing assignments, etc.

This term, **Carrie Ann Frolio** and **Jean Marie St. Claire Christman** are using them in their HDFS 401/402 classes for student portfolios.

Jane Sutton will be using them with her students in upper division CAS courses integrating elements for the teaching international project.

Synchronous Online Courses Launching this Fall!

Jeff Warner and Loren Brewster have been working on a pilot that is unique to the York Campus. Courses are being offered synchronously and online through the "Online Studio" set-up in Grumbacher ISTC. Terry Allison piloted the concept last year, tutoring math via WebEx in real time to students at a distance. This grew into the two fall offerings that are being piloted this fall: MIS 204 and MGMT 301 on Saturdays, targeting adult learners who are interested in completing their degrees. The faculty member will be in the studio with a technical assistant who can moderate the WebEx space if students at a distance have difficulties.

Video Learning Network (VLN)

If you haven't seen the VLN classroom in Romano 103, you should stop by! Read more about the **VLN at Penn State York (including the VLN course schedule)** and its role in helping the campus add new adult learners to our ranks! **Karen Sheehe** is coordinating the program and can answer questions as needed. **Jeff Warner** is a veteran instructor in the program and will continue to teach his MIS 204 this fall. **Jorge Santiago-Blay** has been working with an instructional designer from Penn State Outreach to redesign a VLN version of Bi Sc 003, Environmental Science which will be offered for the first time this fall via the VLN.

The VLN Program recently **won the Association for Continuing Higher Education's (ACHE) Northeast Metropolitan 2013 Exceptional Program Award** for excellence in credit programming. Congratulations to **Jeff Warner** for being a key figure in getting the program off the ground and to **Karen Sheehe** for managing the next phase in the process.

Media Commons Corner

The number of projects using the Media Commons equipment has slowed in recent semesters. Perhaps now is the time to think about a multi-media project for spring. It isn't too early to start talking to our trainer, Carla Rapp, or me about project ideas.

To get started, check out the Media Commons **newly designed website**

Plan to attend the **Media Commons Tailgate** October 4th at UP

Questions about how to assess a multi-media project? See Harvard's Bok Center for Teaching & Learning post on **Evaluating Multi-media Assignments**

Carla's training schedule fills quickly, so if you are still thinking about a fall project, you'll need to contact her ASAP at cmr38@psu.edu . Please copy me as well, so I know what's happening. Thanks!

World Campus Online Teaching Certificate

Kudos to **Joan Smeltzer, Nancy Servatius, Jorge Santiago-Blay, and Maureen Muller** who all recently completed the 5-course sequence to earn the Certificate for Online Teaching. Send me a note if you also completed it. I know many of you are in process now. Let me know, and I'll make sure your efforts are mentioned!

OL 2000 will be offered four times this fall as follows:

- September 9 (one week later due to Labor Day holiday)
- October 7
- November 4
- November 25 (to be complete before holiday break)

Faculty Development at the World Campus has a new website! Go here to register

<http://sites.psu.edu/wcfacdev/>

How can I Teach for the World Campus?

People often ask how they can teach online for the World Campus. First, you need to complete the 5 course sequence for the certificate. Then the process is to start with your DAA (FT Faculty) or ADAA (PT Faculty). Faculty hiring to teach for the WC happens through the Colleges at UP. This link takes you to a chart with contact information <http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/teaching-opportunities-with-world-campus> I won't pretend to say that getting access to teach is easy. For some reason, it is hard to crack this nut. So be aware of that as you sign up to take the courses towards the certificate. It is by no means a done deal to finish up and get a gig.

Fall Workshops

I'll wait until the dust settles on committee scheduling, etc. before I carve these dates in stone...but just to keep your interest piqued, here's what is tentatively on tap for fall. Please DO get in touch if you have other ideas, wishes, or want to present something yourself!

* **Teaching as Performance** – I attended a really great workshop at Lilly Conference by a professor at U. of MD College Park who has kindly agreed to come in early fall, so stay tuned!!! This should be something really different and interesting.

Leslie Felbain, is head of the MFA Performance program at the University of Maryland, College Park. She led a very interesting session on how different aspects of performance – like being grounded, using articulation effectively, and being authentic – can improve classroom presence. I would like to encourage strong attendance, as this is something really interesting and special to which we might not normally have access. I'll keep you posted.

* **Round Robin Tech Lightening Rounds** that I described for possible orientation activity – look for it in the fall – let me know if you are interested in presenting (7 minutes only!) – we can do a few or one big one, depending on the volunteers we get...

* **Helping Students Become Lifelong Learners** – some tips and tricks learned from our summer program

* **Brown Bag Fridays (other day?)/Conversations in Teaching** – Bring your lunch and join a general pedagogical discussion – what's working/what's not – once a month???? What topics do you want to tackle? Scholarship of Teaching & Learning? Assessment? Classroom Mgmt? Tech Integration? Student Engagement? Course in College Teaching Alums/PT Fellows Meet and Greet? Want a different day?

* **Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Interest Sessions:** Want to learn more about (or advance a current) SoTL project leading to publication? Get in touch with your interest. A fall interest group will begin soon!

Reminder of other training options:

A. Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence offerings at UP– Offers a great variety of workshops now in F2F and online (via Adobe Connect or Polycom) versions. Check out the offerings at <http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Events> If there is anything that you see offered online that you'd like to gather and chat about, let me know and I'll arrange it!

B. ITS Training Services – Many of these offerings are available online via Adobe Connect. Check out the current listing at <http://its.psu.edu/training/>

C. Lynda – Technical training of any sort – at your own pace. <http://lynda.psu.edu/> There are still some log-in issues for PT faculty – they say after the first pay check gets into the system, that you should have access. Keep me posted if otherwise.

D. Adobe Connect - Below are the next sessions for our Meeting@PennState (Adobe Connect) demonstrations for August and September. The demonstrators plan to highlight the simplified interface of Adobe Connect while displaying the standard features. No registration or RSVP necessary.

*Tuesday, August 20, 2013, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m

*Thursday, September 12, 2013, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Here is the link to the meeting room: <https://meeting.psu.edu/r54559680/>

Please come when you like, learn about the new enhanced features, learn about different ways to use Meeting@PennState, and ask questions. A handout is also available through our Training Services site: Getting Started with Adobe

Connect: <http://its.psu.edu/training/handouts/AdobeConnectTheBasics.pdf>

If you have any questions or problems entering the meeting room, help is available by emailing meeting@psu.edu.

Nittany Success Center Updates

Below are updates on the NSC, and I've included a link to Dr. Dzubak's most recent article on the role of active reflection in learning!! Enjoy!

From the Desk of Dr. Cora Dzubak, Director of the Nittany Success Center

It was a busy year in the Nittany Success Center (NSC) during 2012-2013. There was a total of 492 students who had contact with the NSC for tutoring, study groups, testing, or for individual consultation with professional staff. Of those who participated in 1:1 tutoring or study groups, 47% received a grade of A or B in the course. There were 1795 contacts between students and **peer tutors**, and 675 contacts between students and professional staff. The primary goal for 2013-2014 is to increase the number of students who use our services and to assist each one in becoming a successful and autonomous learner. It is worthy of mention that the Nittany Success Center tutor training program is nationally certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). As one of the requirements, a minimum of ten hours of tutor training is provided each semester.

Each semester, approximately one half of the students receiving tutoring came in to seek assistance with a Math class. Many students register for the one credit Math 97 tutorials offered by the campus, but the NSC continues to provide drop-in Math tutoring four days a week at Noon. Late afternoon (4:00 – 6:00pm) drop in Math is also being provided this Fall. All writing tutoring is provided by appointment and is supplemented by the Online Writing Lab (OWL).

Any student may request tutoring assistance and an effort will be made to provide a 1:1 peer tutor who has completed the course, received a grade of "A", and received faculty recommendation. Faculty is encouraged to independently contact the NSC (Dr. Cora Dzubak or Donna Godfrey) to request that a study group be formed to support student learning in a course. Students with disabilities are to meet with Cora Dzubak (CMD14@psu.edu and 771-4013) in order to receive accommodations. Students for whom English is a second language may also be encouraged to meet with Dr. Dzubak who will schedule writing tutoring with a professional writing tutor, as needed.

We look forward to working with our students, faculty and staff this year! You are encouraged to refer students to us, whether for tutoring or for assistance with study skills, time management, organization, testing anxiety, or just to drop by and chat. Drop by anytime if you have a suggestion or would be interested in working with us.

Please take a moment to read Dr. Dzubak's excellent article published at the Association for the Tutoring Profession, *A Purposeful Pause: The Role of Active Reflection in Learning* <http://www.myatp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/A-Purposeful-Pause.pdf>

Penn State York Library Updates

Look for more updates when Barb returns from important home duties, but in the meantime, I can report two important pieces of news from the library:

- **Congratulations to Barb Eshbach** for being named the new Head Librarian of the Penn State York Campus! This is a tenure track faculty position, so Barb will be busy with library duties as well as her own research on the role of the libraries in student success. We congratulate you and wish you success – your success will be our own!
- **Welcome to Stephanie Diaz**, new Reference and Instruction Librarian!

A message from Barb:

Please join me in welcoming Stephanie Diaz, our new reference and instruction librarian, who started on campus Thursday, August 15.

Stephanie obtained her Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) from the University of South Carolina and comes to us from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina, where she was the reference/instruction librarian and an active promoter of the library. I think she is the perfect fit for our campus as she shares the University Libraries' dedication to providing student-centered library services.

We will be co-teaching the library instruction sessions at the beginning of the fall semester, so please email both of us with your scheduling requests. We're happy to collaborate with you in teaching your students the library research and information literacy skills they will need to succeed academically, so, even if you haven't scheduled library instruction before, think about how we can help!

Stephanie's contact information is:

[717-771-4024](tel:717-771-4024)

sad35@psu.edu

Thanks for your support!

Barb

Advising & Career Development Updates

From the desk of Jane Emery, Director of Advising & Career Development with Andrew Caldwell, Career Services Coordinator

Academic Advising & Career Development Events – Fall 2013

FOR ADVISERS:

- **Advising Basics: Walk-in** – Mon, Sept 23, Tue, Oct 22, Wed, Nov 20, 11 – 1 pm Advising & Career Development office.
Stop in and ask questions in regard to advising and/or career issues. Not sure how to read degree audits or do academic reviews? Have an advisee with specific issues? All questions are welcome.
- **DUS Fall Conference**, Penn Stater Conference Hotel, September 18
Updating the Advising Toolbox: Understanding the Complex Needs of Today's Students. See – http://www.dus.psu.edu/advisers/conf_fall13.html – for details and registration
- **Conversations in Advising** – Thurs, Oct 17 at noon, Location TBA
What tools do we use in advising, what other tools do we need? Advisers will share what works and what doesn't work. What, how and why do we keep records and how is this data used?

FOR ADVISERS AND STUDENTS

- **Check in With Your Adviser Week** – Sept 23 – Sept 27
- **It's all about Your Network: Using LinkedIn to Boost Your Career** – Monday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m. -AND- Tuesday, September 10 at NOON
LinkedIn is a powerful tool for career exploration, professional development as well as networking for jobs and internships. During this workshop, held in a computer lab on campus,

participants will have the opportunity to create a LinkedIn profile and/or explore ways to use their profile more effectively.

- **Stand Out in a Crowd: Career Fair Tips and Strategies Revealed** - Wednesday, September 11 at NOON -AND- Thursday, September 12 at 6:00 p.m.
Resume preparation, researching employers, composing an effective 30 second introduction, and other strategies will be discussed to make the most of the upcoming local and regional career fairs. This workshop is free and open to the Penn State York community.
- **Fall Career Days** at Bryce Jordan Center, University Park – Sept 17 – 19 <http://careerfairs.psu.edu/fall/>
- **For First Year Students Only** – Tue, Oct 29 at noon, location TBA. Getting ready for meeting with advisers, scheduling classes and educational planning.
- **For Sophomores Only** – Thurs, Nov 7 at noon, location TBA. Discussion of entry to major, change of campus, career planning for sophomores only.

Newsletter Archives

This page contains links to all previous newsletters

<http://www2.yk.psu.edu/sites/scs15/teaching-learning-resources2/teaching-learning-psy-newsletter/>

Teaching Resources

Return to the Penn State York page containing teaching resources

<http://www2.yk.psu.edu/sites/scs15/>

Thanks for your support and interest!

Suzanne