

The Center for Teaching and Learning



Volume 1, Issue 3

Spring 2006

Our Mission

Dedicated to building a learning-centered community, and to improving student learning by supporting faculty in ways that make teaching a more satisfying, and productive activity, the Center for Teaching and Learning coordinates, consolidates, enhances, and expands existing faculty development services at Western Oregon University. The Center offers:

- Individual assistance and confidential consultation to faculty.
- Campus discussion groups and workshops to promote a multidisciplinary exchange of insight.
- Practical advice on the integration of innovative pedagogies designed to improve instruction.
- Support for research, scholarship, and creative activities, as well as other related professional development activities.
- Support for joint student-faculty research and the scholarship of teaching.
- Assistance in integrating instructional technology to improve teaching.
- A collegial environment of shared purpose and mutual support to cultivate a conversation about teaching and learning on campus.

Inside This Issue

- Institutionalizing Undergraduate Research and the 2006 Academic Excellence Showcase (Winningham and Dutton) 2
- Celebrating Teaching 3
- Technology Resource Center 4

Great Teaching All Around Us

by Niki Young, Director, Center for Teaching and Learning

As I was walking on campus today I observed a great deal. For example, students in a theatre class were leading their blindfolded partners around campus. The experience of being deprived of one sense can allow one to more fully experience their other senses, which was one of the aims of the assignment. Later, I observed



a student walking backward along the sidewalk, with a group of people who were walking normally. This was not a continuation of the theatre class but rather a WOU Advocate giving a campus tour to a prospective student and her family. The legendary detective Sherlock Holmes admonished Dr. Watson in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's, *A Scandal in Bohemia*: "You see, but you do not observe." How often do we take time to notice the incredible teaching and learning on our campus?

In my role as Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning I have been privileged to sit in on a wide variety of classes taught at WOU, by adjunct faculty, tenured faculty, and by staff who instruct students as part of their other assigned duties. I can attest that there is a whole lot of learning going on at Western. Over the past six months I have attended classes in anthropology, art history, chemistry, dance,

(Continued on Page 3)

The Technology Resource Center: What Can It Do For You?

If there's something you want to do with technology, and you can't find it anywhere else on campus, there's a good chance you can get help at the Technology Resource Center. Located on the second floor of the Instructional Technology Center (IT204), the TRC is a support lab open to faculty, staff, and students. There are a number of ways to take advantage of what the TRC has to offer:

Use specialized equipment. Large document scanning, digital video creation, and high quality poster printing are all things that can be done in the lab. Need to copy a mini DV to VHS? Or make a hundred duplicates of a CD or DVD? You can do those things in the TRC as well. Generate PDFs, scan 35mm slides, and laminate posters up to two feet wide. Use specialized software like Adobe Photoshop or Adobe Illustrator for all your graphics needs.

Get training and support. While people are certainly free to use the lab on their own, one of the advantages of the TRC is the full time staff available to help with any

(Continued on Page 4)

Institutionalizing Undergraduate Research and the 2006 Academic Excellence Showcase

by Robert G. Winningham, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Psychology, and Bryan E. Dutton, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology

The Center for Teaching and Learning's (CTL) support for undergraduate research activities among Western Faculty has been instrumental in promoting student-based scholarship across Western's campus. Recently CTL has funded small grants and sponsored Western's membership in the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR). In October of 2004, CTL sent us to a CUR sponsored workshop on institutionalizing undergraduate research. We returned to campus convinced that the benefits to be garnered from this process would serve Western extremely well.

Shortly after the workshop a faculty taskforce, with broad institutional representation, was formed with guidance from CTL. This grass-roots taskforce recognized that undergraduate research needs to be defined in its broadest sense, to include research, scholarship, and creative activities. Institutionalization of undergraduate research, or in other words, to make undergraduate research part of a structured and well-established system will provide the infrastructure necessary to support these activities across campus. A Program for Undergraduate Research Experiences (PURE) was created to serve as the vehicle for meeting the objectives and goals that were emerging as the taskforce completed its mission. The taskforce recognized many potential benefits for institutionalizing these activities, including:

For the Institution -

- enhanced distinctiveness
- enhanced ability to recruit and retain students and faculty
- external grant support
- accreditation
- positive public awareness

For students -

- quality faculty interaction
- deeper understanding of discipline content and process
- appreciation for knowledge
- real world experience in preparation for careers and/or additional education

For faculty -

- quality student interaction
- increased resources to support research
- professional development



For the Western community -

- increased contact with the community
- workforce/economic enhancement
- enhanced awareness of issues affecting Western and the community

The taskforce developed a multi-faceted proposal that was submitted to Western's Provost and President in spring, 2005. The Administration's favorable response has led to partial implementation of some of the taskforce's goals. Among PURE's program goals is the development of dissemination activities such as a student-focused conference. This goal was formulated to better disseminate the wealth of student research already being conducted through student-faculty collaboration. The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi has traditionally celebrated Student Academic Excellence, but the event had been reduced from a weeklong event to a single day, often not well attended because it interferes with classes. Therefore, the taskforce is collaborating with Phi Kappa Phi, to organize the 2006 Academic Excellence Showcase.

On May 31st, and as part of Western's Sesquicentennial celebration, student academic excellence will be celebrated. The entire day will be dedicated to the presentation of student scholarly activities, which include, but are not limited to original research papers, projects, artwork, performances, and upper-division course projects, presentations, and papers. In order to demonstrate the importance of student scholarly pursuits at Western, the Faculty Senate is encouraging the faculty to cancel their classes, while at the same time requiring students to attend their peers' presentations. The ultimate goals are to provide an opportunity for presenters, giving them experience that will be useful in furthering their education and careers, and to familiarize the entire student body, faculty and the community at large with the breadth and importance of the scholarship that is being conducted across campus.

An Academic Excellence Showcase Planning Committee, including faculty and staff from across campus, is organizing this event. In order to ensure the highest level of participation the Showcase Planning Committee has enlisted faculty volunteers, representing academic disciplines across campus, to serve as session chairs.

With tremendous support from faculty campus-wide, the Showcase is poised to be a huge success. We personally look forward to learning about all the excellent scholarship Western's students are conducting across campus. We hope you will embrace this opportunity to celebrate our students' accomplishments and successes.

For more information about the Academic Excellence Showcase, please visit: www.wou.edu/showcase

(Continued from Page 1)

education, geography, health, music, political science, and physical education, to name just a few. Here is just a sampling of what I have observed:

The faculty and staff at WOU are passionate about what they do. Our faculty spend a great deal of time preparing engaging and meaningful materials to aid student learning. Many faculty prepare their own original PowerPoint slides, presentations and problems so that students can access educational materials that are not cost prohibitive or restricted by copyright. Faculty engage students visually with multimedia, including slides, maps, photos, streaming audio and video clips to reach diverse learners. In virtually every class I visited I saw faculty and students utilizing technology in innovative ways to promote learning.

Not only are our faculty and staff passionate about teaching, they are also passionate about students, and make a wealth of experiences and opportunities available to them, both in class and out of class. Students at Western are able to engage in the political process, through their writing and speaking, testimony, and participation in peaceful protest, which opens their eyes to issues of social justice. Our students are making a difference in their communities and in the world through activism, and altruism, and programs such as Alternative Spring Break.



This spring the Center for Teaching and Learning is celebrating teaching. Throughout the month of April, on the 3rd floor gallery of Hamersly Library, the CTL is displaying posters highlighting the accomplishments and teaching of our adjunct faculty. I hope you will make a stop in the library this month to look at the photos and read about the teaching philosophies and accomplishments of this talented and diverse group. We will formally acknowledge all those honored at a reception to be held from 3:30 to 5:30 in the library on May 4, 2006. This event is open to all and I hope you will attend and show your support for these faculty.

Recognizing and talking about excellence is an important part of building community. In another exciting initiative, our campus is recognizing student excellence, with a first-ever academic showcase. This event will celebrate student research and scholarship. Bryan Dutton and Rob Winningham describe this event more fully in their guest column.

When I walk on our campus I see significant and meaningful learning occurring. I hope we all take the time to observe what is happening on campus and to talk about it with one another.

Celebrating Teaching Excellence

The Center for Teaching and Learning is celebrating the contributions of adjunct (non tenure) faculty in a showcase of Teaching Excellence in the 3rd floor gallery of Hamersly Library. To *celebrate* is both to “honor” and to “hold up for public notice,” and both meanings describe this event. Our Celebration of Teaching Excellence captures moments of excellence through photographs, narratives, descriptions, quotations, and student work and reflections. These moments are shared with the campus on posters displayed the gallery.



Each poster in the collection is unique. All of the posters tell viewers something about the faculty at Western, revealing how they approach teaching, why they love teaching, and the way they interact with students. “Everybody is a story,” observes Rachel Naomi Remen, and “Everyone’s story matters.”

In this exhibit you will meet faculty from across the disciplines, and from both colleges. Some of these faculty have been at Western Oregon University for many years, while others joined the faculty recently. You will learn about their professional activities, community involvement and the passion they share with their students. You will learn about the many ways these faculty are making a difference in the lives of our students through their passion, commitment and teaching excellence.

Adjunct (non tenure) faculty often received little public recognition for the work they do. We hope to change that with this exhibition, which highlights the extraordinary work of adjunct faculty. We invite you to read and reflect on these stories of excellence and to join the University community on Thursday, May 4, 2006 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm as we come together in Hamersly Library to celebrate and honor our colleague’s teaching excellence.

Upcoming CTL Events

- Self and Writing Teaching Circle Book Group, discussion J.M.Haile’s *The Way of the Teacher* Monday, April 24, Noon
Center for Teaching and Learning (ITC 210)
- Nuts & Bolts of Academic Advising
Wednesday, May 10, 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 11, 10:00 a.m.
Center for Teaching and Learning (ITC 210)
- CTL Excellence Celebration
May 4, 2006, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Hamersly Library



The Technology Resource Center

IT204 | 838-8965 | www.wou.edu/trc | trc@wou.edu

A unit of the Center for Teaching and Learning, the *Technology Resource Center* is a teaching and technology support lab located in IT204. Our mission is to provide technology support and resources to faculty, staff, and students. No appointment is necessary. Our equipment can be used on a drop-in basis. Some of the services we provide include:

- Consultation on instructional technology and information resources
- Individual tutoring or small group classes on various software packages
- Assistance in developing web pages and online classes
- Collaboration in the production of multimedia solutions

Staff

Scott Carter, Instructional Technologist

503-838-8848 | carters@wou.edu

- Web and WebCT support and training
- Software and technology assistance

Sue Payton, Coordinator of Productions

503-838-8967 | paytons@wou.edu

- Graphic, Web and desktop design
- Software and technology assistance

Resources

- Specialized software for doing graphics work, Web design, and digital video editing
- Flatbed, slide, 35mm film, and 11 x 17 flatbed scanners
- Digital cameras, camcorders, drawing tablets, laptops, LCD projectors, and audio recorders for checkout
- Color printing up to 42 inches wide
- CD & DVD duplication
- Lamination, die-cuts, paper cutters, markers, paint and other tools for creating two-dimensional artwork
- Video taping rooms equipped with mini DV cameras, VCRs, and audio recorders
- VHS tape to tape duplication station
- 35mm slides from electronic files
- Color overheads
- Central campus fax
- VHS, mini DV, CD, DVD, and mini disc tape sales
- Construction paper, butcher paper, and posterboard sales

Services

- Training on a variety of software products (Dreamweaver, Excel, Photoshop, etc.)
- Academic Web design, support, and instruction
- Desktop and graphics design of academic projects (posters, presentations, etc.)
- WebCT and distance education support
- Collaboration in the production of multimedia solutions

(TRC - Continued from Page 1)

technology-related projects. This help is available on a drop-in basis, or can be scheduled in advance. Learn to create Web pages, edit digital video, or get help with a variety of software products.

Checkout technology for use outside the lab.

Need a digital camera? How about a digital camcorder? Much of the equipment housed at the TRC is available to faculty, staff, and students for short duration checkout, typically three days. Although copies are limited, we also have laptops, LCD projectors, drawing tablets, and digital audio recorders.

For a more detailed list of resources and services, take a look at the list on the left. If you're not sure if the TRC can help with your technology project, give us a call at 838-8965. If we can't help you, we'll try to find someone who can.

Upcoming Workshops

May 1: The Basics of Creating a Personal Web Page at WOU

Learn to use Dreamweaver to create and update Web pages located in your "public_html" folder. Time: Noon to 1pm. Location: HL108. *Instructor: Scott Carter*

May 15: Dreamweaver Level II: Tips and Tricks

Already mastered the basics? In one hour you'll learn how to create anchor links, thumbnail images, background images, and a few other things that will take your Web pages to the next level. Time: Noon to 1pm. Location: HL108. *Instructor: Scott Carter*

Creating and Editing Digital Video with iMovie (One-on-One sessions)

Learn to create movies with iMovie that can be put on DVD, VHS, or Quicktime. In one hour you will tape some video with one of our cameras, import it into iMovie, edit it, and then export it into a number of formats. Please contact Scott Carter (carters@wou.edu or 838-8848) to schedule a one-on-one session. Time: Open. Location: IT204. *Instructor: Scott Carter*

All group workshops, which are open to faculty and staff, take place in Hamersly Library 108 from 12pm until 1pm.

Preregistration is required to ensure that you can attend. However, individual training sessions of 45 minutes can be scheduled at any time. Please reserve a session by calling the Technology Resource Center at 838-8965.