

February  
2008

# CELT NEWS

Newsletter of the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching

## Learning to Deal with the Ambiguous

By Worth Weller, *CELT Board Member*

Another record turnout was established when the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fort Wayne Teaching Conference was held at IPFW earlier this month. With 222 registered participants and a handful of last-minute walk-ins, the Feb. 8 conference was a collaborative effort of Ft. Wayne area colleges and universities, including Huntington University, Indiana Tech, IPFW, Ivy Tech Community College, Manchester College, Taylor University, and the University of St. Francis. The theme of the conference was "Critical Thinking: Analysis and Evaluation."

Keynote speaker Sharon Hamilton, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs at IUPUI, told the group that critical thinking is the fundamental building block of learning. "If you are not thinking critically, you are not really learning," she said. She praised the content of the conference's program, which focused on a wide array of disciplines, from nursing to the visual arts. "We tend to think of critical thinking in a little box, as if it only occurs in well-defined areas. But an act seemingly as simple as looking at something requires a critical organization in order to take it all in," she noted.

"Look at environmental affairs, another topic of the concurrent sessions," she continued. "Critical thinking does not occur in a vacuum – it occurs in the context in which we live. Our students are going to be the caretakers of the environment, and they have to learn to be able to make wise decisions among a host of competing ideas and less than precise facts," she observed. "That's what critical thinking is – learning how to deal with the ambiguous," Hamilton added.

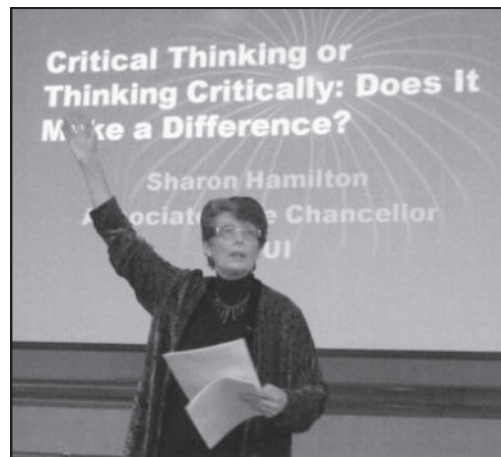


Photo of Sharon Hamilton, taken by Elmer Denman

Altogether the conference hosted 23 sessions covering topics ranging from literature to chemistry, communications, nursing, graphic design, reading, writing, environmental education, mathematics, Alzheimer's disease, library science and students with mild mental disabilities.

Presenters from IPFW included:

- **Irwin Mallin** and **Dave Switzer**, "Approaches to Critical Thinking in Research Methods and Persuasion Courses";
- **Judith Garrison**, **Mary Arnold Schwartz** and **Deb Ellsworth**, "When  $2+1>3$ : Involving Librarians in a Learning Community";
- **Gregory Anderson**, "Critical Thinking: Analysis, Evaluation and Implementation through Freshmen Initiatives";

(Continued on page 2)

## Linking Advising to Teaching, Learning and Scholarship

**Marc Lowenstein**, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and a proponent of academically centered advising, will deliver the keynote speech at a half-day teaching conference open to all IPFW faculty and staff, to be held at the Rhinehart Music Center, on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm. Lowenstein's keynote address at 9:00 am will be followed by 2 hours of concurrent sessions: Documenting Student Learning Outcomes and Scholarship in Advising, led by **Irwin Mallin**, COM, and **Marc Lipman**, Arts and Sciences; How to Reward Advising: Models for Chairs and Supervisors, led by **Kathleen O'Connell**,

AVCFA; and Effective Models for Mentoring, led by **William Bruening**, Philosophy. A hot buffet luncheon will be served by Catablu in the lobby and balcony areas of the RMC, followed by a wrap-up session led by Dr. Lowenstein. Contact Irwin Mallin, 481-6553 or **Nancy Leinbach**, 481-6348 for more information. **Registration is required and will be available at the CELT web site on March 1.**



*Friday, March 28, 2008  
Be Sure to Mark Your Calendars!*

## Learning to Deal...Cont. from Pg. 1

- **Michael Columbia**, “Demonstrating the Scientific Method in a ‘Chemistry and Art’ Course”;
- **Karol Dehr, Sarah Sandman, Mark Sidey and Jennifer Stewart**, “Why Are We Doing This? Reexamining Critical Thinking in the Writing Classroom and Beyond”;
- **Barbara Kirkwood and Sue Keck**, “The Connection Between Emotional Intelligence and Critical Thinking”;
- **Karen Moustafa, Nan Suntornpithug and Bill Todorovic**, “Creating Relevant Critical Thinking Projects”;
- **Luann Watson and Solomon Isiorho**, “Teaching Environmental

Education in Middle School Science: Radical Reflections of a Middle School Classroom Teacher”;

- **Debrah Huffman**, “Critical First Steps: Teaching College Freshmen How to Read Rhetorically”;
- **Judith Garrison and Carolyn Stumph**, “Leveraging Online Library Resources to Improve Undergraduate Student Research”;



- **Robert Lopez** “Visual Thinking: Evaluating Concept Sketching and Rendering”;
- **Patricia Eber and Trent Parker**, “Assessing Student Learning: Applying Bloom’s Taxonomy”;
- **Christine Erickson, Debrah Huffman, Ann Livschiz, James Toole, and George Wralstad Ulmschneider**, “Great Expectations: Connection Between Critical Thinking and Teaching Writing Across Disciplines”;
- and **Beth Kaskel**, “Perceived Uncertainty: Managing Student Uncertainty in the Clinical Setting.”

Conference packet materials will be made available at the conference website. Visit <http://www.fortwayneteachingconference.org/index.htm> for more information.

## Enhancing Teaching and Learning Across the Campus-Support for LTLs

This month CELT News talked with **Hardin Aasand**, Chair, English and Linguistics, **Karol Dehr**, Associate Director of Writing, and **Stevens Amidon**, chair of the Composition committee about the department’s professional development activities in support of Limited Term Lecturers. All of the LTLs in the department of English and Linguistics, with few exceptions, teach writing courses such as W131 and W233. There are from 35-50 LTLs and Graduate aides at any given moment, of which 25% might be new hires.

The Fall orientation dinner promotes a climate of openness and community, say Karol and Steve. The week before classes start in August, the Writing Program holds its “annual meeting” of LTLs. It is also the occasion for signing contracts, which is an additional motivation for LTLs to attend beyond the \$60 each receives for attending. The LTLs participate in several sessions, in addition to having dinner, which address teaching topics that will interest returning LTLs, as well as administrative matters that may be of greater interest to new LTLs.

Karol organizes PEERs, the Professional English Education Roundtables, and the annual orientation. The PEER addresses teaching topics and practices, and is a voluntary activity which LTLs themselves lead. Recent topics included the new W129 course for

freshmen, plagiarism, effective group work, and students with disabilities. Karol and Steve say that the roundtables are not publicized outside of the department, but others are certainly welcome to attend, especially faculty who are making extensive use of writing assignments.

About half of the people applying for an LTL position are asked to take the graduate level C505 Teaching Composition, a 3 credit course, offered in the fall and in the summer. Frequently, the Composition Committee will base the recommendation on the sample syllabus that a candidate presents in the application process. The English department or the Division of Continuing Studies reimburses the tuition for C505 upon completion of the course. In general, the course must be completed before the LTL receives a teaching assignment. Steve and Karol said that most LTLs consider the course a tangible benefit, especially since it helps them earn credit toward a graduate degree.

Another support activity is Steve’s weekly email message to a list he calls “The Usual Suspects”. In it he disseminates administrative information, and teaching topics that open up discussion among the faculty on the list.

A significant component of the department’s professional development program is the teaching portfolio that every LTL assembles in each of the first

three years of teaching for IPFW and every 3 years thereafter. The contents of the portfolio have recently changed to reflect a “more wholistic, formative approach focused on professional development,” remarked Hardin Aasand, department chair. The portfolios now contain: a statement of how the faculty member is meeting the outcomes of the course or courses taught; copies of syllabi and assignment descriptions; and samples of student work reflecting 3 levels of performance. Karol and Steve meet with the LTL to discuss the portfolio. Karol and Steve have also found that meeting with an LTL during the first semester of teaching is more a more way to support the LTL than a classroom observation.

When asked which practice they had found most effective in enhancing teaching, the group cited the organic relationship among the orientation, the PEERs, the C505 course, and the portfolio. Each activity reinforces the others.

In closing, Hardin offered this advice: “Start small. Although we have several people who have been given course releases to do this work, even 2 to 3 faculty who really care about Freshmen can have an impact. We need to pay attention to our LTLs because our students need to have a great experience in their first year.”

by Gail Rathbun

## Faculty Spotlight Shines on CELT Volunteers

CELT depends heavily on IPFW faculty and on colleagues from regional campuses to deliver high quality professional development events. At this time, the CELT would like to publicly acknowledge the contributions of the individuals listed below, the members of the CELT Advisory Board, and the Teaching Fellows. CELT could not do its work without them. Thanks!

**Tiff Adkins, LIB**  
**Stevens Amidon, ENGL**  
**Greg Anderson, CASA**  
**Michael Bendele, PSY**  
**Samantha Birk, CELT**  
**Michael Bosela, BIO**  
**James Burg, EDUC**  
**Cathleen Carosella, CASA**

**Pam DeKonninck, NUR**  
**Jeannie DiClementi, PSY**  
**Michelle Drouin, PSY**  
**Peter Goodman, ECET**  
**Mark Jordan, BIO**  
**Barbara Kirkwood, CASA**  
**John Ladd, CELT**  
**Mary Lehto, ACCS**

**Amy Nitza, EDUC**  
**Adam Pence, CELT**  
**Gail Rathbun, CELT**  
**Barbara Resch, MUS**  
**Becky Salmon, NUR**  
**Hedayeh Samavati, ECON**  
**Mary Arnold Schwartz, CASA**  
**Gary Steffen, ECET**

# THANK YOU

**CELT Advisory Board**  
**CELT Peer Review Committee**  
**CELT Teaching Fellows**  
**Chand Chauhan, MATH**  
**Jeanette Clausen, ILCS**  
**Rachelle Darabi, CASA**

**Linda Lolkus, CFS**  
**Vince Maloney, CHEM**  
**Glenn Metts, MGMK**  
**Darlene Miller, CELT**  
**Glenda Moss, EDUC**  
**Ahmed Mustafa, BIO**

**Carrie Stumph, ECON**  
**Scott Vitz, ITS**  
**Sara Webb-Sunderhaus, ENGL**  
**Guoping Wang, ENGR**  
**Worth Weller, ENGL**  
**Mandi Witkovsky, ITS**

*If your name is not on the list, please contact Stephanie Haneline at x16354, and we will be sure to recognize your efforts in a future CELT News.*

## From the Director...

Despite the snow and cold, semester is gathering momentum.

**Moon-Heum Cho** has now joined CELT as Instructional Consultant/Designer. He will be



working this year on special projects in support of online teaching. He is quickly adapting to Indiana and IPFW, and has already demonstrated his skill at making great Korean snacks!

CELT has instituted Walk-in Wednesdays to enable faculty and staff to drop by without an appointment and get questions answered. Several of you have

taken advantage of this opportunity, and we hope that more of you will visit as the semester unfolds.

**Sam Birk** and **John Ladd** will present "Synergetic Pedagogy: A Tale of Students, Faculty and Multimedia" at Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT) at Purdue on Tuesday, March 4, from 3-4 pm. We have 2 spaces in our van if you want to go on that day. We will be leaving at around 8 am and returning around 6 pm.

The DECCO Faculty Support Committee, composed of **Sam Birk**, CELT, **Eric Vitz**, Distance Learning, **Deb Conklin**, Continuing Studies, **Ben Gates**, History, and **Carol Sternberger**, Nursing, are working on a collection of short videos in which faculty talk about

their favorite online teaching tips. So far, Ben, Sam, Eric, **Adam Dirksen**, COM, **Worth Weller**, ENGL, **Stella Batagiannis**, EDUC, **Solomon Isiorho**, GEOS, **Dina Mansour-Cole**, OLS, **Cathleen Carosella**, ENGL, **Rachelle Darabi**, ENGL, **Ramesh Narang**, MCET, and **Carrie Stumph**, ECON, have contributed to the collection, which will be shared via the CELT web site, and eventually, we hope, on iTunes U. If you want to contribute a 90 second tip, please let me know and we will record it at your convenience.

Stay sane and successful this semester.

*-Gail*

## CELT Advisory Board Members

|  |                |               |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Gail Rathbun</b><br>Director, CELT  | <b>KT 234</b>  | <b>x16504</b> |
| <b>Tiff Adkins</b><br>Reference Librarian, Helmke Library                                      | <b>LB 156</b>  | <b>x16708</b> |
| <b>Michael Bendele</b><br>Continuing Lecturer, Psychology                                      | <b>NF 322</b>  | <b>x16436</b> |
| <b>Chand Chauhan</b><br>Associate Professor, Mathematical Sciences                             | <b>KT 286</b>  | <b>x16227</b> |
| <b>Jeannie DiClementi</b><br>Associate Professor, Psychology                                   | <b>NF 388D</b> | <b>x16397</b> |
| <b>Linda Lolkus</b><br>Associate Professor, Consumer & Family Sciences                         | <b>NF 330A</b> | <b>x16559</b> |
| <b>Jennifer Stewart</b><br>Continuing Lecturer, English & Linguistics                          | <b>CM 273</b>  | <b>x16073</b> |
| <b>Carolyn Stumph</b><br>Assistant Professor, Economics  | <b>NF 340F</b> | <b>x16475</b> |
| <b>Worth Weller</b><br>Continuing Lecturer, English & Linguistics                              | <b>CM 124</b>  | <b>x16773</b> |
| EX-OFFICIO   |                |               |
| <b>Kathleen O'Connell</b><br>Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs                     | <b>KT 174</b>  | <b>x15795</b> |
| <b>Joseph McCormick</b><br>Manager of User Technology Support, Information Technology Services | <b>KT 204M</b> | <b>x15469</b> |



## CELT Teaching Fellows

|  |                |               |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Michael Bendele</b><br>Continuing Lecturer, Psychology          | <b>NF 322</b>  | <b>x16436</b> |
| <b>Mary Ann Cain</b><br>Associate Professor, English & Linguistics | <b>CM 111</b>  | <b>x16759</b> |
| <b>Barbara Resch</b><br>Interim Associate Dean, Music              | <b>RC 149</b>  | <b>x16726</b> |
| <b>Lesa Rae Vartanian</b><br>Associate Professor, Psychology       | <b>NF 380B</b> | <b>x15786</b> |



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[www.ipfw.edu/celt](http://www.ipfw.edu/celt)

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-Worth Weller, Editor  
-Stephanie Haneline, Graphic Designer

## Upcoming Events for March and April 2008

### Conferences

March 4-5, 2008 **Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT) 2008** at Purdue University, West Lafayette. Theme will focus on students: their learning experiences, social experiences, visual and interactive experiences, and online or virtual experiences. The conference program is at <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/tlt/conference/>.

March 28, 2008 **"Advising as Teaching" Conference** at Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW. See page 1 for more information.

August 7-10, 2008 **8th MERLOT International Conference, MERLOT: Still Blazing the Trail and Meeting New Challenges in the Digital Age**, Minneapolis. For more information see <http://mic08.merlot.org>.

### Workshops on Pedagogy

**12 O'clock Scholars Brown Bag Series**  
Every fourth Monday of the month, 12 - 1 pm in KT 101  
**March 24: Teaching in Learning Communities** with Greg Anderson and Learning Community Faculty  
**April 28: Advising as Teaching** with Irwin Mallin, Communication

### Reading Circle: Understanding the Adult Learner

Friday, April 4, 12 - 1:20 pm, KT 119  
Facilitators: Julie Hook, General Studies, and Robin Newman, Center for Women and Returning Adults

### Faculty Showcase: Using the Quality Matters Rubric to Enhance Online Teaching

Friday, April 11, 12 - 1:15 pm, KT 119  
Presenters: Jennifer Caseldine-Bracht, Philosophy, and Lesa Rae Vartanian, Psychology

### Faculty Showcase: Success with Service Learning

Friday, April 18, 12 - 1:15 pm, KT 119  
Presenters: IPFW Faculty members

### Teaching with Technology

#### Exploring Second Life Basics for Educators

Thursday, March 20, 1 - 3 pm, EDT, KT 178  
Webinar produced by Academic Impressions. For detailed information, go to [https://www.academicimpressions.com/web\\_conferences/0308-second-life.php](https://www.academicimpressions.com/web_conferences/0308-second-life.php).

#### Games as Assessments I: Developing digital game-based self-assessment tools

Wednesday, April 2, 12 - 1:15 pm, KT 234 (Multimedia Lab)  
Workshop facilitator: Samantha Birk, CELT

#### Working with Digital Images for the Classroom and the Web, Part I

Friday, April 4, 10 am - 12 pm, KT 234 (Multimedia Lab)  
Workshop Instructors: Darlene Miller, and John Ladd, CELT

#### Games as Assessments II: Developing digital game-based self-assessment tools

Wednesday, April 9, 12 - 1:15 pm, KT 234 (Multimedia Lab)  
Workshop facilitators: Samantha Birk, and Raymond Gildner, Geosciences

#### Working with Digital Images for the Classroom and the Web, Part II

Friday, April 11, 10 am - 12 pm, KT 234 (Multimedia Lab)  
Workshop Instructors: Darlene Miller, and John Ladd, CELT

#### Video Editing from the Desktop

Online workshop begins on Monday, April 14 and will end on Friday, April 25  
Workshop Instructors: Darlene Miller, and John Ladd, CELT

#### Working with Digital Images for the Classroom and the Web, Part III

Friday, April 18, 10 am - 12 pm, KT 234 (Multimedia Lab)  
Workshop Instructors: Darlene Miller, and John Ladd, CELT



**Don't Forget!** Registration is required for all  
CELT events. You may register to attend at

[www.ipfw.edu/celt](http://www.ipfw.edu/celt)