SOTL: Alive and Well at IPFW

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) is a faculty-driven initiative whose goal is to promote research into teaching practices and student learning in today’s higher education. This “research-based activity aimed at deepening and broadening the foundation of teaching practice…focuses on pedagogical practices and the behavior of students as the objects of investigation, and often relies on research conducted in a number of disciplines, or in an interdisciplinary fashion” (IU Bloomington Library Services).

SoTL originated at the Bloomington campus in 1998, after interested faculty and administrators wondered how to best improve undergraduate learning and therefore encourage faculty inquiry that would build interdisciplinary communities within the university to support that inquiry. According to the SoTL web page (http://www.indiana.edu/~sotl), its purpose “encourages, supports, and publicizes course-focused research projects that are faculty defined and implemented.”

Instead of focusing on particular learning methods and other issues, SoTL promotes faculty from all disciplines to research a variety of approaches and then reflect about how their students learned from the classroom experiences. In addition, the SoTL approach reinforces the connections among research, teaching and learning.

IPFW has sponsored a variety of conversations and workshops in the past that have followed the SoTL approach as initiated by IU. For example, CELT sponsors annual summer grants for the improvement of teaching. In recent years it has emphasized the importance of, and generally leaned toward awarding proposals that employed SoTL. The Lilly-funded project “Meeting the Challenges of Teaching First-Year Students” in 1999 involved the creation of course portfolios. In addition, various FACET-sponsored conferences have occurred annually and many have recently had a strong research base, both in terms of the work of the presenter and also in what the participants were encouraged to do.

Our own Pat Ashton, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of Peace and Conflict Studies, (shown above) is actively involved in advocating SoTL on campus and says that “our goal is to give research on teaching the same scholarly weight that research in the disciplines has.”  (Continued on Page 2)

CELT OPEN HOUSE ♦ TUES. OCT. 19 ♦ 10 AM TO 1 PM ♦ KT 234

Bring a colleague and come visit the new CELT multimedia lab for faculty, provided through funding from Division of Continuing Studies and the Office of Academic Affairs. Find out about CELT services, and meet the new Director, Gail Rathbun. Grab some munchies and talk with colleagues. See demonstrations at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. of what the new lab can do. Win a CELT door prize. **No registration needed.**

Inside this issue:

| Scholarship of Teaching and Learning | 2 |
| Teaching Online in Higher Education Conference | 2 |
| LEAD Project | 2 |
| Just in Time Teaching | 3 |
| From the Director | 3 |
| Summer Grant Updates | 4 |
| October Workshop Calendar | 4 |

Special points of interest:

- **The Just in Time Teaching Conference.** Find out what it was all about.
- **Meet the new CELT Director.**
- **October Workshop Calendar-Something for everyone.**
SoTL: Alive and Well at IPFW (cont. from page 1)

In order to do this, the research must be public, professional, and peer-reviewed. I’m happy to say that Academic Affairs at IPFW has been very supportive of the effort. The educational process is improved immensely when we bring the tools of theory and research to bear on our teaching. By being theory-framed and evidence-based, we can more efficiently and effectively ratchet up the quality of the educational experience for our students.”

Last academic year, Pat led two different SoTL discussions for faculty, including those from the professional schools as well as A&S. The goal was to talk about how individual faculty could conduct SoTL research.

The scholarship of teaching and learning has also been associated with Indiana University’s Mack Center for Inquiry on Teaching, supported administratively by FACET. It was established to “stimulate inquiry in the scholarship of teaching and learning to recognize, honor, and increase the influence of that scholarly inquiry, and to foster change with the underlying goal of promoting excellence in education at Indiana University, in the United States and internationally” (IUPUI FACET website).

The Mack Center’s mission focuses on four components: Inquiry on college teaching and learning, faculty development, dissemination of SoTL information, and community building. The Mack Center, named for P. A. Mack, former IU Trustee and lifelong advocate for teaching excellence, has developed into a systemic center that welcomes all IU faculty to apply for its Mack Fellowship program.

Access The Mack Center site at the following address for further information: http://www.facet.iupui.edu/activities/MackCenter.html.

Pat Ashton, the only IPFW Mack Center Fellow, reflects that as a Fellow, “I have been able to participate in deepening and extending the conversation about the scholarship of teaching and learning. We rarely get to talk about research across disciplines as happens around SoTL at the Mack Center. I am very impressed with the high quality of the subsequent Fellows’ projects, as well as the supportive environment in which they have been developed and carried out.”

The Mack Center, has assumed sponsorship of the Journal of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (JoSoTL). Founded in 2001 at Indiana University South Bend, JoSoTL is an electronic journal that “encourages all instructors to engage in the discussion of the Scholarship and Teaching and Learning...and to become involved in the sharing of knowledge and learning about the teaching-learning process.” This on-line journal serves as a forum for the discussion and publication for research in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

For more information about SoTL, the Journal of SoTL, the Mack Center and applying for a Mack Fellowship, contact Patrick Ashton, at askton@ipfw.edu.

-Karol Dehr
Contributing Author, Pat Ashton

TOHE Conference

On behalf of Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne, the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching invites you to participate in the 2004 international online conference, Teaching Online in Higher Education (TOHE). This year's focus will address the politics and ethics of online teaching.

Offered entirely via the Internet, the conference will be held November 10 - 12, beginning at 8:00 a.m. GMT-5:00 and concluding at 7:00 p.m. GMT-5:00. Beginning October 22, 2004 participants will be able to read accepted papers in preparation for the conference.

Selected papers will also be considered for publication in Innovate, a bimonthly, peer-reviewed online journal that focuses on the creative use of information technology (IT) to enhance educational processes (see http://horizon.unc.edu/innovate/guidelines/).

The cost of participation in the conference is $50 per person, due by November 8. The program committee will accept abstracts for papers until October 22 and as scheduling and space permit. Make plans now to join your colleagues around the world as we discuss Politics, Ethics and Online Instruction, November 10-12, 2004.

LEADing the Way to Innovation

The LEAD project grants (Leading Educational Application and Design) are awarded by the Office of Academic Affairs, which encourages IPFW faculty and their departments to submit proposals that develop, model, and evaluate innovative uses of technology to enhance student learning and provide faculty with a professional development opportunity.

The office of the VCAA has recently awarded $9,400 to the team of Dr. Terri Swim and Dr. Alice Merz, Educational Studies, and $1000 to Dr. T. Neil Moore, SPEA, in LEAD Project funding. The awards will provide these faculty the opportunity to engage in scholarly research, create changes in teaching practice and disseminate their innovative teaching strategies throughout IPFW and beyond.

The purpose of the Merz-Swim project is to investigate the impact of using various forms of technology to authentically assess, document and enhance students’ learning of mathematical content and pedagogy. The use of technology in this project will enable fast turnaround for multiple formative feedback opportuni-

(Continued on Page 3)
They say you can't go home again. But if home is Indiana, you can, I found out. My family has spent the past four years teaching and living at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, in order to be close to my husband’s family. But I spent seven wonderful years in Bloomington before my sojourn abroad, and I’m happy to be back home in Indiana. IPFW has given me and my family a very warm welcome.

I am very pleased to be working with the nine dynamic and committed faculty who make up the CELT Board. Board member Karol Dehr, Associate Director of Writing, is the editor of the new CELT Newsletter. Yvonne Zubovic, Mathematical Sciences, leads the formative reciprocal Peer Review program. Pat Ashton, Sociology, heads up the Mack Fellowship Program (featured in this issue) and scholarship of teaching and learning activities. Current and former Board members lead workshops and other faculty development events. Faculty development would not be happening at IPFW without the dedication of these wonderful colleagues. Board members’ names and contact information appear on the back of this issue.

On the CELT web site (www.ipfw.edu/celt/wkshpcon.htm) you will find a full schedule of events that provide you with opportunities to exchange ideas with other faculty, learn more about innovative teaching strategies, and develop professional skills. CELT also welcomes Limited Term Lecturers and distance teachers to its programs. CELT encourages departments to ask for customized versions of its workshops to better meet the specific needs of their teaching staff.

We are especially excited about our new CELT instructional development lab for faculty. With support from the Office of Academic Affairs and the Division of Continuing Studies, CELT can now offer faculty a state-of-the-art multimedia development lab, staffed by its own designers and technologists. Come to the Open House on October 19 to see demonstrations of what you can do in the new lab. Drop by Kettler 234 for a personal tour, or call 16354 to schedule time with a consultant or to work at a workstation.

There’s always something happening at CELT so be sure to watch our web site, your email, or your mailbox. If you are not already on the CELT listserv, please contact CELT at celt@ipfw.edu. Please feel free to contact me at rathbun@ipfw.edu or 16504 with your ideas or questions about our services.

-Gail A. Rathbun, Director

Lessons Learned “Just in Time”

The August 20th day-long conference on Just in Time Teaching (JiT), presented by professors Andy Gavrin, Physics, and Kathy Marrs, Biology, of IUPUI, was a great success with 50 participants representing a wide variety of disciplines. This CELT/FACET-sponsored event’s goals included how to motivate students, support and sustain active learning, make lecturing more interesting, and integrate technology with teaching.

We learned what JiTT is and isn’t and our presenters modeled the strategy throughout the day. The breakout computer sessions allowed participants to work with other teachers in their own department, and in other cases, to work with colleagues in different disciplines on creating warm-up exercises to use in JiTT-based classes. We finished the day learning about how documenting JiTT could provide the basis for research on teaching and learning.

If you missed the JiTT conference, it will be available on DVD. Please contact the CELT office for access to the recording. Look for more news activities based on this simple and exciting teaching strategy. You may also wish to visit the website specifically designed for the IPFW Conference at http://webphysics.iupui.edu/ipfw04/index.html.

A Message from the New CELT Director

application materials are available from the CELT Grants web page or at the VCAA web site. Full-time faculty, chairs, or directors wishing to apply for LEAD grants should contact CELT or the Office of the VCAA for more information.
In Spring 2004 CELT awarded funding to several faculty members to develop or convert instructional materials.

Jennifer Parker coordinated her creation of a faculty development web site for writing faculty in the department of English and Linguistics with Worth Weller’s development of a web site providing curricular materials to associate faculty and graduate assistants teaching W131 (Elementary Composition). Worth’s project addresses the need to standardize writing instruction across multiple sections and supports the development of best teaching practices by providing practical, useable materials that embody the department’s philosophy of teaching writing. Jennifer’s site, Writing Instructor Research and Development (WIReD), presents a collection of articles, handouts, links, and a calendar of events for writing faculty, particularly for Limited Term Lecturers and Graduate Aides. Jenn and Worth present their projects to IPFW faculty in a CELT Faculty Showcase on October 20.

Glen Gendzel used his grant to develop visual materials to improve student engagement in his HIST 106: America Since 1877 course. Glen has enthusiastically embraced PowerPoint as a way to assemble and display a variety of visuals—pictures, maps, charts. He admits, however, that “concocting” these presentations is like starting all over again with lecture preparations. The grant helped compensate Glen for the extra investment needed to re-design his lectures. Glen learned recently that his work is being used as an example to Danish history professors of how the Danish humanities might enter the IT age.

Watch the CELT Newsletter for more news about the Summer Instructional Development Grant program. Consult the Grants page on the CELT web site for information about this and other funding opportunities, as well as past award recipients.