Link Advising to Teaching to Create an Education

By Jennifer Stewart, Continuing Lecturer, English and Linguistics

On Friday, March 28, faculty, staff, and administrators from various departments at IPFW and Ivy Tech participated in the CELT/OAA-sponsored conference, “Linking Advising to Teaching, Learning and Scholarship.” The keynote speaker was Marc Lowenstein, Dean of Professional Studies, at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. “Advising is a function that facilitates and is essential to student learning,” Lowenstein noted.

Lowenstein posited helping students to “creatively organize their education. This is a synthetic act of identifying one’s learning goals and, as one goes through the curriculum, one organizes the curriculum around these goals.” He stated that it is the responsibility of advisors to help students see how their education works for them—how disciplines and courses build a holistic education. This view, he declared, is starkly different from the “fill in the bingo sheet” mindset some students currently have about their academic advising.

According to Lowenstein, the advising bingo sheet isn’t a list, but a web: “A student taking a prescribed curriculum can create a [curriculum] by understanding the connection between the courses they take—seeing the linkages makes education exciting for students.” He called on attendees to recognize that the IPFW Baccalaureate Framework is a good start to a creative education, but the advisor’s duty is to reinforce the linkages, even if it’s not what the student expects from the meeting.

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Grant News

Remnant Trust Grant Deadline is April 18, 2008

In Spring 2009, IPFW will host an exhibit of 50 documents from the Remnant Trust. The Remnant Trust is a public educational foundation that shares selections from its collection of original and first edition works with public and educational institutions. Seven first-round winners of $500 Curriculum development grants have been named by the IPFW Remnant Trust Curriculum Development Committee: Brenda Groff, Organizational Leadership and Supervision, Rachel Hile, English and Linguistics, Ramesh Narang, Manufacturing and Construction Engineering Technology, Duston Moore, Philosophy, Erik Ohlander, Philosophy, Gary Steffen, Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology, and David Liu, Computer Science.

A second round of proposals is sought for curriculum development in existing courses, a new course, or seminar based on the following criteria:

- Innovative integration of Remnant Trust texts with technology
- Interdisciplinary teaching
- Multidisciplinary teaching
- Learning Community development
- Service or Experiential Learning
- Outreach to K – 12
- Diversity
- General Education course
- Honors Program course

All creative ideas will be considered for award. Applications from all disciplines are encouraged. Deadline is Friday, April 18, 2008. For information contact Professor Matthew Kubik, kubik@ipfw.edu. A description of the program, a list of themes, and application procedures can be found at http://www.ipfw.edu/celt/grants/grants.shtml.

Summer 2008 Instructional Development Grants Awarded

The CELT Advisory Board is pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 Summer Instructional Development Grants. A total of $10,000 was awarded to four faculty: Michael Columbia, Chemistry, for “Transforming the (Continued on page 3)
“Advising is like teaching,” he contended, “teaching is focusing on an organization and progression of material distinguishing main points and details, discovering how it connects to prior learning, helping students to discover the logic of the material presented. An excellent teacher helps students understand how it all fits together; an excellent advisor helps students understand how education is created.”

Lowenstein asserted that a good advisor:
- helps students put the curriculum in perspective
- compares and contrasts the modes of thinking throughout the disciplines
- sequences students’ learning experiences and emphasizes that education builds upon itself
- makes students conscious of the interrelations among disciplines
- assists students in understanding how their courses complement each other

Ultimately, Lowenstein called for an advising culture change. He maintained that advising sessions should be less about filling in the blanks and more about helping students develop a learning plan and learning goals. He stressed that when advisors make this change, advising, and thus learning, becomes intentional. He emphasized that advisors can help students shift their view of education from a fill-in-the-blank, to-do list to an activity they are actively involved in.

After Lowenstein’s keynote, the conference hosted three break-out sessions. Break-out sessions included:
- “Documenting Student Learning Outcomes in Scholarship and Advising,” facilitated by Irwin Mallin and Marc Lipman. This session showed attendees how to document advising as teaching and suggested how this evidence may be used in the reappointment, promotion and tenure processes. Mallin offered “Advising is like teaching,” he contended, “teaching is focusing on an organization and progression of material distinguishing main points and details, discovering how it connects to prior learning, helping students to discover the logic of the material presented. An excellent teacher helps students understand how it all fits together; an excellent advisor helps students understand how education is created.”

Quick Tips for Distance Teaching Page Now Available

The CELT web page now features a collection of video links that present some favorite teaching tips of 11 instructors at IPFW who use technology in their classrooms or who teach online.

The short video clips, which play with QuickTime or iTunes, provide commentary by:
- Adam Dircksen, from the Department of Communication, who explains that he spends the first week of his online classes going over the mechanics of the course. A quiz at the end of the week ensures the students have read the syllabus and know what’s expected of them.
- Dr. Stella Batagiannis, from the School of Education, who uses Blackboard Vista 4 in her face to face classes to foster more discussion as well as to host supplemental learning material.
- Dr. Ramesh Narang, from the School of Engineering, who uses Blackboard Vista 4 to provide class documents and supplemental materials.
- Cathleen Carosella, Reading and Learning Skills Coordinator, who feels that discussion boards, with active involvement from the instructor, are the key to student success in an online class.
- Dr. Rachelle Darabi, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, who notes that online students need a lot of self motivation; she sends letters to students before class to begin...
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Laboratory Portion of CHM 120”; Yihao Deng, Mathematical Sciences, for “Enhancing Statistics Learning with Online Modules and eLearning System”; Sharon Egly, Audiology and Speech Sciences, for “Teaching a Fundamental Clinical Skill”; and John LaMaster, Mathematical Sciences, for “Authentic Online Assessment with Maple TÀ™ in Multiple Sections of College Algebra and Trigonometry”. The winning faculty will attend a half-day institute before starting work on their projects and will give presentations about their course transformations during the Spring 2009 semester.

Mobile Teaching Environment Participants Named

CELT has funded the purchase of a laptop computer for teaching for six faculty as part of the Mobile Teaching Environment project. With a seventh proposal pending, MTE funds are now exhausted. The purpose of MTE is to provide faculty who are regular users of mobile computing stations or of non-Windows environments in the classroom with a reliable platform for the development and delivery of instructional materials. With the laptop, the faculty member may develop materials on the same hardware that will be used to present them. Because of increased confidence in the reliability of the machine, it is hoped that the faculty member will be more likely to explore new ways to use the technology in teaching. MTE project participants include: Suining Ding, Interior Design; Iskander Hack, Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology; Joseph Khamalah and Jim Moore, Management & Marketing; Suzanne Rumsey, English and Linguistics; Jens Clegg, International Language and Culture Studies; and Nancy Virtue, International Language and Culture Studies. Participants were chosen based on the extent to which their needs matched the project rationale, and on a first-come, first-serve basis. As part of their participation in the project, members of the MTE cohort have agreed to make themselves available to colleagues to present their projects and share their experiences. Please feel free to contact them or CELT with any questions you may have.

DECCO grant deadline is June 30, 2008

In January, Distance Learning awarded four DECCO grants under the revised online course development grant program. Funded proposals include: Dan Coroian, Mathematical Sciences, for MA 229 Calculus for Managers and the Social Sciences (to innovate in an existing online course); Marcia Dixon, Communication, for COM 212 Interpersonal Communication (new online course); Brenda Groff, Organizational Leadership and Supervision, for OLS 324 Advanced Word Processing, Desktop Publishing, and Presentation Graphics (new online course); David Liu, Computer Science, for CS 274 Data Communication (new online course); and Worth Weller, English & Linguistics, for J210 Visual Communication (new online course). Most of these courses will be offered in Spring 2009.

Designated faculty and staff from the DECCO coordinating committee make funding decisions based on the quality of the development plan, and alignment with institutional goals of widening access to course offerings and improving student learning. Priority consideration is given to general education courses, required major courses and courses required for a certificate, minor, or degree program, courses in high demand, and courses that have a potential for sustainable enrollment. The next round of proposals are due June 30, 2008, for courses to be offered starting Summer 2009. For a description of the grant program and application materials please go to http://www.ipfw.edu/dcs/dlcoursedev/ (bottom of the page) or go to the Grants page of the CELT web site.

From the Director...

As Spring 2008 hurtles to a close, CELT is looking forward to a busy summer. Plans are in motion to expand Studio M to 12 workstations in the Walb 221A location. Studio M will close on June 25th and re-open on the first day of class. CELT is very excited about the possibilities for greater teaching and learning opportunities that the bigger facility will create. Contact John Ladd now at Studio M to help you plan for your students to use Studio M in your Summer or Fall 2008 syllabus.

CELT has also set September 12 as the Grand Opening of Studio T², the new name that the CELT Advisory Board has chosen for the faculty multimedia lab run by CELT since 2004. The event will feature refreshments, presentations by faculty, and showing of digital works. CELT invites faculty and staff who have created digital works (graphics, photography, animation, 3-D modeling) to loan or donate their creations to CELT for display in Studio T². We are open to a variety of display modes: screen savers, in a digital picture frame, and as work mounted on the wall. The work need not be related to teaching, but CELT would be pleased to have attractive, high quality, instructional and research-related graphics to display as well as interesting and attractive non-academic digital works. Contact Darlene Miller at millerdj@ipfw.edu or 481-6309 if you are interested. (CELT cannot insure works displayed on the walls.)

I want to again thank all faculty and staff who have helped CELT execute its workshop and conference program in 2007-08. Without you, we could not offer the rich variety and high quality professional offerings that we do. I especially want to thank CELT’s Teaching Fellows. Requests for their teaching consultation services have doubled and continue to grow. CELT hopes to add two new Fellows in the Fall to replace outgoing Fellows. I strongly encourage faculty who are committed both to excellent teaching and to sharing their expertise to apply for a Teaching Fellow position. We need more Fellows and CELT will accept applications on a rolling basis. To learn more, see http://www.ipfw.edu/celt/grants/fellowships.shtml or contact Mary Ann Cain, Senior Fellow, at cain@ipfw.edu.

And while I am encouraging you to get involved in creating a favorable climate for reflective practice, please note that nominations for the CELT Advisory Board are being requested. This year, the Board can consider applications from any department or school. Go to the What’s New menu of the CELT web site to find out how to apply.

If I don’t see you, have a great summer!

-Gail
Upcoming Events

Conferences
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
April 28: Advising as Teaching with Irwin Mallin, Communication

Faculty Showcase: Success with Service Learning
Friday, April 18, 12 - 1:15 pm, in KT 119
Presenters: IPFW Faculty members

Teaching with Technology
“Walk-in Wednesdays”
Every Wednesday from 9 am - 12 pm or 1 pm - 4 pm in KT 214

Workshop Instructors: Darlene Miller, and John Ladd, CELT

Registration is required for all CELT events.
You may register to attend at www.ipfw.edu/celt

Faculty Spotlight

Ahmed Mustafa, Biology, received the “Students’ Choice Award for Teaching Excellence” at the Student Achievement Celebration, held April 2, 2008. Mustafa was recognized for going beyond the basic requirements of teaching to inspire students to excel during the 2007-2008 school year, by making himself available to students, engaging them, and making a positive impact on his classes and on individuals. Previous winners have been: Barbara Resch, Music (2006) and Vincent Maloney, Chemistry (2007). This award has been in existence for 3 years. Nominations are accepted for in February. The selection committee is made up of IPFW students and staff.

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warning them that keeping up with an online class is often not easy without the two or three times a week motivation that teachers routinely give in face to face classes.

- Dr. Benton Gates, from the History Department, who feels that establishing “community” early in an online class is critical.

- Dr. Solomon Istorho, from the Department of Geosciences, who asks his students to post portraits and bios to improve interactivity in an online class.

- Dr. Carolyn Stumph, from the Department of Economics, who uses Blackboard Vista 4 discussions to cause students to interact with each other “in a scholarly way.”

- Eric Vitz, from the Department of Communication, who provides a quiz about the syllabus which the students must complete successfully before they can access the rest of the course.

- Scott Vitz, from the Department of Communication, who advises that instructors keep in mind that students take Internet courses for their flexibility.

- Worth Weller, from the Department of English and Linguistics, who uses a simple form of podcasting to make global comments to his classes’ weekly discussion topics. “This saves a lot of time yet provides some interactivity that the students find really cool,” he reports.

The video links may be accessed at: http://www.ipfw.edu/celt/technology/quicktips.shtml

by Worth Weller, from the CELT blog