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CENTER FOR TEACHING &  
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We're on the Web  
<http://www.stlawu.edu/ctl>

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# CTL News

*The Newsletter of the Center for Teaching & Learning*



## Where is the Center?

The earliest conversations among faculty about creating a center to initiate, coordinate and house resources for professional development emerged from the same breaths drawn to talk about campus climate issues and the desire for a greater sense of community among faculty. Having "some place to go" on campus that is intended for casual use by faculty but could also meet professional needs was an exciting component to envisioning a resource center. Imagine having a space that could accommodate faculty seminars, books and journals, IT workshops, and wine and cheese gatherings. The Center for Teaching and Learning represents an effort on the part of numerous faculty and staff to combine efforts and resources to offer St. Lawrence faculty coherent and accessible opportunities for exchanging ideas about teaching practices here and in higher education more generally.

While progress is evident in those areas, the effort has not yet resulted in one of the original and coveted goals: dedicated space. For now, the answer to the most frequently asked faculty questions, "Did you find a space?" and "Where are you?" remain a simple "Not yet" and "Have you checked out the Web site?" respectively.

As the advisory board continues to explore location options with a 2002-2003 academic year move-in date, members also continue to plan and offer valuable programming and resources that are mentioned throughout this newsletter and more fully described on the web at <http://www.stlawu.edu/ctl/programs.htm>. Among other resources, the web site highlights internal and external faculty development options including the new Center Associates Program, the Oral Communication Institute and an up-to-date listing of pedagogy conferences. Have you

## Mission Statement

checked it out?

*The St. Lawrence University Center for Teaching and Learning promotes improved student learning through facilitating excellence in teaching practices and supporting a wide range of faculty professional development activities. The Center aims to further the creativity, risk-taking, collaboration, and professional renewal among faculty members at all stages in their teaching careers. Specifically, the goals of the Center are to expose faculty to current knowledge and practice regarding teaching and learning; provide a forum for formal and informal exchanges of ideas and expertise; and stimulate, support, and reinforce pedagogies that optimize student*



## Announcing the Oral Communication Institute for Faculty

### *learning.*

St. Lawrence University is the recent recipient of a William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Liberal Arts Grant to support a faculty development initiative on the teaching of oral communication skills. The program begins in January 2002 and will be coordinated by Val Lehr from the Government Department and Traci Fordham-Hernandez from the Sociology Department. The institute's curriculum will include theoretical perspectives and hands-on teaching practices.

The Oral Communication Teaching Fellows Institution's primary goal is to further our collective work on the development of critical thinking skills in students by helping them develop speaking and listening skills necessary for productive and reflective discourse. The institute will allow faculty to reflect on what our culture teaches students about

oral communication and explore how discourse can help students to better understand their own perspectives and those of others. In addition, the institute's curriculum will encourage faculty discussion and evaluation of oral communication assignments that we currently use and facilitate the planning of new strategies and assessments that will be implemented in future courses.

Each participating faculty member will be provided with all reading materials and a \$2,500 stipend. The working groups will meet for a three day workshop in January, followed by four evening seminars in the spring and subsequent assessment meetings in the fall when the new strategies are implemented in classrooms. The complete grant proposal and the brief application form are available on the Center for Teaching and Learning web site <http://web.stlawu.edu/ctl/>



## Center Associate Grants Offer New Resources for Faculty

### [programs.htm](#)

The Center Associates Program is one of the CTL projects funded by the new Mellon Foundation grant. The program offers faculty members opportunities to provide leadership across the campus in the area of pedagogical innovation. Faculty members are encouraged to develop new teaching practices and pedagogies they have wished to pursue but for which they have not previously found the time or funding. Faculty receiving a Center Associates grant will choose between a course release and a summer stipend. In addition, money will also be available for purchasing resource materials.

Center Associates will play an integral role in the mission of the Center for Teaching and Learning by developing and disseminating new approaches to teaching and learning and by joining the advisory board that shapes programming.

The Center Associates program will begin in the summer of 2002 but the application review will begin early in the spring semester. The full description and application guidelines for the Center Associates Program are available on the CTL web site <http://web.stlawu.edu/ctl/programs.htm>. The awards will be announced

## The Fall 2001 Shop Talk Series

*The Shop Talk series offers another forum wherein faculty can come together to discuss pedagogy and related classroom issues in workshops and informal discussions led by members of the faculty. Brief proposals for future Shop Talks should be submitted to Liz Regosin at [eregosin@stlawu.edu](mailto:eregosin@stlawu.edu). Following is the Shop Talk series schedule for the fall.*

**“Rethinking Accountability: From Culture of Distrust to Culture of Respect”** by Laura Rediehs, Department of Philosophy, Monday, September 17, 4:30-5:30, UC 222.

It is common to think that we need to grade students and have students grade our teaching in order to maintain high standards of rigor in learning and teaching. But is it possible that some systems of grading and evaluating are harmful and actually generate a culture of distrust that undermines our most important educational goals? We will discuss the nature of accountability on our campus and reflect upon its positive and negative impact for students and faculty alike.

**“Can We Talk? Discussing the Role of Discussion in Classroom Teaching and Learning: A Workshop”** by Traci Fordham-Hernandez, Department of Sociology, Wednesday, October 24, 12:00-1:00, UC Formal Lounge.

What kinds of pedagogical strategies and techniques enable vibrant, active, and engaged class discussions? In what ways might we sabotage our own efforts? Bring your most exhilarating and horrifying class discussion moments. We will address the importance of class discussion to learning and will “workshop” methods of incorporating more productive dialogue in our courses.

**“Tangled in the Web: The Internet and Academic Honesty”** by Steve Horwitz, Department of Economics and Associate Dean of the First Year, Wednesday, November 28, 12:00-1:00, UC Formal Lounge.

New information and communication tools pose new problems, and exacerbate old ones, in maintaining standards of academic honesty. Technological responses to these problems put us in an arms race we cannot win, so instead we must try to improve the pedagogy of writing and research instruction to help students make more responsible use of sources, both electronic and paper. Bring your ideas and pedagogical strategies for addressing academic dishonesty.

*Desserts and beverages are provided at all Shop Talks.*



## Pedagogy Conference Options Now Listed on the Web

University funds for faculty travel allow for attendance at one conference annually whose proceedings directly address classroom teaching and pedagogy. The pedagogy funds are not intended for application toward disciplinary conferences that may help a faculty member develop the content of a course, rather, the conference itself must deal with the delivery and presentation of content: strategies, theories and techniques. Conferences that focus on technology and

teaching, problem-based and other student learning strategies may also be appropriate for the pedagogy funding.

One new service offered by the CTL is a regularly updated web site that describes a variety of future conferences that are eligible for pedagogy travel funds. For this information, please go to [www.stlawu.edu/ctl/confann.htm](http://www.stlawu.edu/ctl/confann.htm).

## The Technology for Teaching Transition

Just over 3 years ago St. Lawrence received a \$300,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon foundation to support creative pedagogy projects that utilized technology. Since that time, almost 50 Technology for Teaching Projects (TTP) have been funded and implemented. Much good work has been accomplished and more work will be done this academic year, which is the final year of the Mellon technology grant.

Over the summer there was much thought and discussion about a transition for the TTP which would allow these creative initiatives to continue into the future. As a result, the various groups involved have

decided that now is the time to move the TTP Steering Committee (chaired by Rita Goldberg) under the auspices of the new Center for Teaching and Learning (also Mellon funded!). Thus, the Center for Teaching and Learning now has two new subcommittees, one chaired by Professor Goldberg, which will continue to handle proposals for innovative uses of technology, and one chaired by Bart Harloe, which will focus on campus-wide efforts to foster research literacy. We expect that funding will be available in the future to continue these important initiatives.



## Beyond Blackboard Basics

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, a professional Blackboard trainer visited the University and conducted a half-day training session designed for the faculty “power user”. This session targeted the use of Bb collaborative teaching tools, including the discussion board, drop box, group pages, email, and virtual classroom. The trainer provided information on the functionality of each tool, while demonstrating its practical use. Although many of the faculty in attendance had used collaborative tools in one sense or another, exposure to the full range of these collaborative tools was highly beneficial. Perhaps the most valuable part of the training was the conversation that occurred among faculty regarding efforts to integrate these technologies into the SLU teaching and learning environment.

Following the training session, each faculty participant agreed to co-facilitate a workshop for less experienced Blackboard users on campus, and to continue the conversation about the use of Blackboard tools in providing resourceful assistance to new users. The list of SLU faculty serving as Bb resources can be located

online at <http://it.stlawu.edu/docs/bbhelp2.html>.

Following the training session, four faculty-to-faculty Blackboard presentations have been scheduled throughout the fall semester. This is a relatively new approach to Blackboard training on this campus-utilizing faculty who are experienced with the program to get beyond the mechanical “how to’s” and to address more of the pedagogical “why’s”. This particular workshop series is a result of cooperative efforts between the TTP (Technology for Teaching Project), the CTL (Center for Teaching and Learning) and IT (Information Technology) that began last spring with a Blackboard Colloquium. We intend to continue these collaborative efforts and are planning additional events related to Blackboard pedagogy throughout the academic year.

For more information on technology related workshops for faculty and access to online registration, please visit <http://it.stlawu.edu/training.html>.

## CTL Diversity Subcommittee Seeks Faculty Input

The diversity subcommittee is looking for your input! We want to know what would assist you in addressing diversity issues in your classroom. As well as providing opportunities for faculty to continue discussions about teaching and diversity, we will coordinate efforts with the Hewlett Pluralism and Unity Project to organize practical workshops that address diversity and teaching issues.

Currently arrangements for two workshops are underway. Plans are in the works to bring Dr. Lee Warren from Harvard University's Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning to campus for a

workshop this spring. Dr. Warren's workshop will be on conflict management in the classroom, specifically addressing issues of gender and race. For the second event we have invited Augusto Boal to give one of his "Theatre of the Oppressed" workshops. Boal's workshops seek to transform learning into an embodied pedagogy through praxis and dramaturgical method. Participants address issues of race, class and gender particular to the community in which the workshop takes place.

Please send any suggestions you might have to Erin McCarthy, [emcarthy@stlawu.edu](mailto:emcarthy@stlawu.edu).



## Mark Your Calendars

*If you want to learn more about the on line course delivery and management system, join colleagues for a full day of Blackboard training opportunities on Wednesday, January 9, 2002.*

Morning presentations will highlight interesting and innovative use of Blackboard by SLU faculty. The afternoon meeting will offer concurrent sessions addressing a variety of technology and teaching issues including risks associated with collaborative tools, distributed learning, and whether classroom technology saves faculty time. Pre-registration information will be available after Thanksgiving break.

### Looking for Teaching Ideas?

The American Association for Higher Education (AAHE) provides faculty with a range of opportunities for pedagogy conferences, grants, and teaching and learning resources.

**Location:** <http://www.aahe.com/>

The Teaching, Learning, and Technology (TLT) affiliate of the AAHE offers information and resources for integrating technology and teaching.

**Location:** <http://www.tltgroup.org/>

For a list of other web sites related to faculty resources and the development of classroom pedagogies, visit the CTL Web site.

**Location:** <http://www.stlawu.edu/ctl/>



*St. Lawrence University is grateful to the Mellon Foundation for its support of the Center for Teaching and Learning over the next three years.*

## **Advisory Board Center for Teaching and Learning 2001-2002**

The Center for Teaching and Learning voluntary advisory board is comprised of faculty and staff members representing a variety of disciplines and participating based on their enthusiasm and interest in the Center's purpose and programming. This year's board members are listed below.

**Patti Frazer Lock**  
Professor  
Mathematics Department

**Bart Harloe**  
University Librarian

**Assis Malaquias**  
Assistant Professor  
Government Department

**Esther Oey**  
Assistant Professor  
Education Department

**Liz Regosin**  
Assistant Professor  
History Department

**Carine Ullom**  
Modern Languages Department  
Instructional Technology

**Rita Goldberg**  
Professor  
Modern Languages Department

**Steve Horwitz**  
Associate Dean of the First Year  
Associate Professor/Economics Dept.

**Erin McCarthy**  
Visiting Assistant Professor  
Philosophy Department

**Artur Poczwardowski**  
Assistant Professor  
Psychology Department

**Sondra Smith**  
Coordinator of Training  
Information Technology

**Kim Mooney**  
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs  
Director, Center for Teaching and Learning  
Associate Professor Psychology Dept.

