Center for the Advancement of Teaching
Xavier University of Louisiana

Newsletter
Spring 2001

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Note: This newsletter is also available on-line at
http://www.xula.edu/Administrative/cat/news/

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Note: See also "Web Authoring Workshops" at the end of this listing.

Electronic Classroom Orientations

If you would like to use the electronic classrooms (Library Rooms 501, 502, and 532A) in the Center for the Advancement of Teaching, please plan to attend one of the two orientation sessions led by Ms. Janice Florent, the Center's Technology Coordinator.

DATE: Thursday, January 11, 2001
TIME: 2:00-3:30 PM
LOCATION: Library 501

DATE: Friday, January 12, 2001
TIME: 10:00-11:30 AM
LOCATION: Library 501

Searching the Internet Part I: Basic Tools and Strategies

Ms. Vera Walker (Communications Department) will lead this mini-workshop in which you will be introduced to simple and efficient ways to search the Internet.

DATE: Wednesday, February 14, 2001
TIME: 12:00-12:50 PM
LOCATION: Library Room 534A
RSVP: Call ext. 7512 or arheins@xula.edu

Fostering Critical Thinking & Mature Valuing Across The Curriculum

Sophistication in thinking is prerequisite to many of the goals of liberal and professional education. We will examine two major frameworks for fostering critical thinking: cognitive science (mental models and misconceptions, novice v. expert distinctions, models for thinking about thinking) and intellectual and ethical development (especially Belenky et al. (1997) Women's Ways of Knowing), and explore the implications of each for classroom practices. An underlying theme will be that, often, critical thinking can be fostered best by increasing the ratio of support offered for a given level of challenge.

The workshop will involve mini-lectures alternating with writing and small- and whole-group discussions of applications to your own teaching.

Workshop presenter: Dr. Craig E. Nelson, Indiana University

When: Saturday, February 17, 2001, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
                                    Continental breakfast at 8:30 AM
                                    Lunch provided

Where: Library 501

Please RSVP to arheins@xula.edu or by calling Arriana at ext. 7512.

DR. CRAIG E. NELSON is Professor of Biology and of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. Dr. Nelson has taught introductory biology, evolution and ecology courses, intensive freshman seminars (*e.g*., Biology, Critical Thinking and Real Life), and several

interdisciplinary and honors courses (*e.g*., Environmental Science and Policy; Ideas and Human Experience; The History of Everything Except Civilization). Dr. Nelson has been a part of a three course liberal arts learning community (Knowing, Knowledge and Their Limits: Literature, Psychology, and Biology).

Dr. Nelson has directed the Graduate Programs in Zoology, and in Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology. He was the first Director of Environmental Programs in IU's then new School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Dr. Nelson's biological research is in evolution and ecology. His studies of Latin American amphibians were based on fieldwork in 13 countries and were supported by the National Science Foundation. His research questions include: Do tadpoles die for their siblings? Do amphibians feed or exploit ponds? When, from a male frog's viewpoint, is stealing a mate preferable to persuasion? Why should an orchid scare its pollinators? And, why should hot eggs become females in turtles? Dr. Nelson has over 70 publications and is currently directing 5 Ph.D. theses.

Dr. Nelson has received much acclaim for his teaching, including the Chancellor's Lecture on Great Teaching award from Vanderbilt University and the President's Honor for Teaching from Northwestern University. He served as a Sigma Xi National Lecturer from 1993-1995, and is currently a Carnegie Scholar with the Carnegie Foundation for the Improvement of Teaching. In the 1990's, Dr. Nelson gave over 290 invited workshops at national meetings and other institutions.

Dr. Nelson was IU's nominee for Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Professor of Year in 1999 and 2000. In November 2000, Dr. Nelson was one of four faculty members selected from out of nearly 500 nominees to receive the "U.S. Professors of the Year" award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, which sponsors the prize jointly with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This award is the only national one give to college and university professors in recognition of their teaching. Dr. Nelson won the "Outstanding Research and Doctoral University Professor" award.

Examples of Dr. Nelson's scholarship of teaching include:

"Effective Strategies For Teaching Evolution And Other Controversial Subjects." In: The Creation Controversy and the Science Classroom. National Science Teachers Association (2000).

"On The Persistence Of Unicorns: The Tradeoff Between Content And Critical Thinking Revisited." Chapter 14 in B. A. Pescosolido and R. Aminzade (eds.): The Social Worlds of Higher Education: Handbook for Teaching in a New Century. Pine Forge Press (1999).

"Tools For Tampering with Teachings Taboos." Chapter 4 in W. E. Campbell and K. A. Smith (eds.): New Paradigms for College Teaching. Interaction Book Company (1997).

"Student Diversity Requires Different Approaches To College Teaching, Even In Math and Science." American Behavioral Scientist 40:165-175.

Critical Thinking And Collaborative Learning. Chapter 5 in K. Bosworth & S. Hamilton (eds.): Collaborative Learning and College Teaching. Jossey-Bass (1994).

"Creation, Evolution, or Both? A Multiple Model Approach." Chapter 9 in R. W. Hanson (ed.): Science and Creation. Macmillian (1986).

Searching the Internet Part II: Advanced Tools and Strategies

This mini-workshop, led by Ms. Vera Walker (Communications Department) will introduce you to advanced tools and strategies for searching the Internet. You will have an opportunity to refine and improve your Internet searching knowledge and skills. Attendance at "Part I: Basic Tools and Strategies" IS NOT required in order to attend this mini-workshop.

DATE: Wednesday, March 7, 2001
TIME: 12:00-12:50 PM
LOCATION: Library Room 534A
RSVP: Call ext. 7512 or arheins@xula.edu

With Minds Wide Open: Confronting the Barriers to Effective Communication in the Classroom

The university classroom should be a vibrant and wholesome learning environment, but the educational process is often short-circuited by elements that have little to do with course content. The effectiveness of student and faculty interactions may often determine the motivation and readiness of students to learn and participate in class discussions. This workshop will examine some of the barriers to learning and consider such important issues as communication style, gender, ethnic, generational, and geographical differences, sociolinguistic considerations, and attitudes towards the disabled.

The objectives of the workshop are to:
- enable participants to assess and improve their skills in dealing with potential barriers to communication in the classroom
- suggest resources and teaching techniques that will stimulate learning and discussion
- exchange ideas and experiences on dealing with diversity in the classroom
- engage in practical exercises and discussion of case studies to improve awareness and sharpen problem-solving skills.

Workshop presenter: Dr. Frank B. Jones, Tennessee State University

When: Saturday, March 10, 2001, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
                         Continental breakfast at 8:30 AM
                         Lunch provided

Where: Library 501

Please RSVP to arheins@xula.edu or by calling Arriana at ext. 7512.

DR. FRANK B. JONES has taught college for over 18 years at such institutions as Indiana University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and, most recently, Tennessee State University. For the past seven years, he has taught graduate courses on research, regional and urban dialects, and multicultural education. He has guest lectured and given workshops at Volunteer State College, Augustana College, Lawrence University, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Indiana University at Purdue, Delaware State College, several federal agencies, churches, and elsewhere. Dr. Jones has worked as a rehabilitation counselor for two years at Jewish Vocational Service and served as Director of the African American Cultural centers at Indiana University and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Dr. Jones received his Ph.D. in Folklore, with minors in African Studies and Linguistics. His undergraduate major was in French. He received Language Certificates from the Sorbonne in Paris, the University of Aix-en-Provence, and The Goethe Institute in Berlin. He is a former

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Peace Corps volunteer who taught English and German in Chad, Africa and developed an Africanized English textbook for use in the Chadian schools.

Home on the Web: Opportunities and Challenges of Online Learning Communities

A virtual conference hosted by The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching & Learning March 26 - April 6, 2001
Free to all Xavier University faculty, staff, and students. Xavier is an affiliate member of The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching & Learning.

Conference Theme

The virtual conference will address issues related to teaching and learning on-line, such as:
- What is an on-line learning community?
- How are on-line communities different from other kinds of learning communities?
- What are the limitations and challenges in creating and sustaining a learning community in cyberspace?
- What teaching and learning strategies make the most effective use of new technologies to help build community?

Conference Format

The virtual conference will be held over a two-week period, March 26-April 6, 2001. There is no registration fee; students and entire classes are encouraged to participate.

Conference activities will take place via listserv, the Web, and synchronous (chat) events. In addition to major "keynote" papers, the conference will feature "concurrent session" papers that will be posted on the conference website.

Xavier University Events in Connection with the Virtual Conference

The Center for the Advancement of Teaching will host one or more informal discussion sessions that will build on topics and issues related to the virtual conference, and to teaching and learning at Xavier. You'll hear more about this later in the spring 2001 semester.

Making the Most of Teaching, Learning and Technology in Higher Education: Connected Education, Collaborative Change, and Compassionate Pioneers

The Center for the Advancement of Teaching is hosting a live national interactive satellite teleconference sponsored by the Virginia Tidewater Consortium.

DATE: Friday, March 30, 2001

TIME: Luncheon buffet at 11:30 AM
                Teleconference 12:00 – 2:00 PM
                A brief discussion will follow.

WHERE: Gold/Rush/Drexel rooms, Student Center

RSVP: Campus ext. 7512 or arheins@xula.edu

Featuring

Steve Gilbert, President, The Teaching, Learning, and Technology (TLT) Group
Steve Erhman, Vice-President, Director, The TLT Group
Randy Bass, Director, Center for Electronic Projects in American Culture Studies; Executive
Director, Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship, Georgetown University

A similar videoconference titled "Changing Practices in Evaluating Teaching" was held last year.
The many faculty members and administrators who attended found it to be useful and interesting.
In fact, one faculty member wrote, "This was an informative and comfortable experience. I
thoroughly enjoyed the entire effort." We encourage you to attend as much or as little of the
teleconference as you can.

Web Authoring Seminars & Workshops: Spring 2001

Note that all seminars list two sessions, one on Tuesday and another on Thursday. These are NOT redundant! You must attend BOTH sessions to complete the seminar. Some seminars list a Saturday alternative.

All seminars are on the 5th floor of the Library building in Lab 532A. Please preregister for seminars on the Web at:

> **http://www.xula.edu/Administrative/cat/vote/**

INTRODUCTION TO THE WEB

> Tuesday January 23 AND Thursday January 25, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
> > or
> Saturday January 27, 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

This is designed to be a "ground zero" entry level course and is appropriate for anyone who wants to learn basic information about the Web.

INTRODUCTION TO HTML

> Tuesday January 30 AND Thursday February 1, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
> > or
> Saturday February 3rd, 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

An introduction to the basic concepts of HTML, with guidelines on how to 'mark up' a document for the World Wide Web.

USING HOMESITE (new!)

Prerequisite: Introduction to HTML (or by special arrangement)

> Tuesday February 13 AND Thursday February 15, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
> > or
> Saturday March 3rd, 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

An introduction to HomeSite 4.5, a Windows-only Web authoring software package. Attendees will get a copy of the program thanks to the Office of Technology Administration.

USING BBEDIT (new!)

Prerequisite: Introduction to HTML (or by special arrangement)

> Tuesday March 13 AND Thursday March 15, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

An introduction to BBEdit, a Macintosh-only Web authoring software package. Attendees will get a copy of the program thanks to the Office of Technology Administration.

Contact:

For more information, please contact Bart Everson: bpeverso@xula.edu, Campus ext. 5164

WebBoard: A Teaching and Learning, and Faculty Committee Communications Tool

WebBoard Conference© was made available to the Xavier community in spring 1998 through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. WebBoard is a Web-based communications software that provides an organized means for accessing, submitting, and retrieving electronic messages. Several Xavier faculty members have used WebBoard in courses for on-line discussions and "virtual" office hours via WebBoard's live "chat" feature. Some faculty members have also used WebBoard for committees as an effective way to communicate with committee members. You can learn more about WebBoard at the Center's website (http://www.xula.edu/Administrative/cat/webboard/about.html).

All Xavier faculty members are welcomed to use WebBoard. If you have not seen the board, we invite you to preview the site. Just point your Web browser to http://doe.xula.edu:8081/~CAT and log on as "New User." Feel free to post a test message to the "CAT Demo" conference. If you would like a board for your course, complete the application on our website at http://www.xula.edu/Administrative/cat/forms/wbrequest.html.

If you decide to use WebBoard in, for example, a class, we suggest that you:
- Set a minimum student participation requirement
- Encourage (require?) students to read all messages
- Participate in discussions with your students
- Post a mini-lecture or PowerPoint presentation to focus the discussion
- Provide a handout with your board address and access directions
- Allow students to access your board before you make the conference private
- Remind students that usernames and passwords should not include spaces or symbols
- Make sure your conference attachment settings allow students to post assignments
- Archive messages to avoid a cluttered look
- Customize your board with color

For more information about WebBoard, contact the Center's Instructional Designer, Ms. Gayna Stevens Credle at ext. 5070 or gcredle@xula.edu.

Projects with schools in the New Orleans Public School District

Gumbo LALA

 Check out the project's website at
http://www.xula.edu/Academic/as_college/educ_dept/GumboLALA/gumbo_lala.html. Although our student Webmaster, Shane Bruno, has more to add to the site, he is off to a great start.

Our partner school in Los Angeles, 6th Avenue Elementary School, is also developing a website that will include information on the Gumbo LALA project. Visit the site at
http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/6th_Ave_EL/.

The Gumbo LALA project has donated four Alpha Smart Pro 3000's
(http://www.alphasmart.com/products/index.html) to classes at Ben Franklin Elementary School that are involved in the project. The AlphaSmart 3000 is a portable keyboard or note taker that is compatible with any Macintosh or PC. It enables the user to practice keyboarding, and to write and electronically store reports, essays, and notes without having to be at a computer.

McDonogh 35 Senior High School

Several Xavier faculty members responded to the call for workshops from the staff development coordinator at McDonogh 35 Senior High School. Two Xavier faculty members will work with students and faculty of McDonogh 35 in the spring 2001 semester as resource persons in various curriculum development projects and extracurricular activities.

Lusher Elementary

Eighteen teachers from Lusher Alternative Elementary School came to Xavier on a recent Saturday morning for staff development workshops. They joined an online community for teachers at kiko.com, created Web pages, and perused a browser tutorial. See the Web page designed for this training and some of the teacher-created products at http://www.xula.edu/Administrative/cat/schools/lusher/training-001209.html. There is also a photo album at
http://www.xula.edu/Administrative/cat/schools/lusher/album/.

Tenure and Promotion at Xavier

Xavier's faculty and administrators have worked hard over the past several years to review and rewrite the University's tenure and promotion policies and practices. We have written an overview of the history of these efforts, as well as their outcomes. This document is on-line at
http://www.xula.edu/Administrative/cat/facdev/tenure/index.html.

We are especially hopeful that this document will not remain static, but instead that it will be up-to-date, accurate, helpful, and contain relevant resources. To avoid the former and ensure the latter, we need your input on this on-line resource. We welcome questions that may be added to the "Frequently Asked Questions" section, and resources to be imbedded in appropriate sections throughout the document. We sincerely invite your comments on any portion of the document.

We would like to give special thanks to Ms. Elizabeth M. Rhodes, the Center's School/University Liaison; Elizabeth was instrumental in making this document a Web resource. We would also like to thank Drs. Deidre Labat (Vice President for Academic Affairs), Elizabeth Barron (Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs), and José Bautista (Associate Professor, Business Department) for their assistance.