

December

Vol. 1 No. 12

**December
Calendar of Events**

—
Dec. 6

10:30-11:30 a.m.
Technology TLC with Cheri Toledo

—
Dec. 10-14

Finals Week

—
Dec. 18

Grades Due to iCampus Portal

—
**Early Reminders for
January**

—
Jan. 7-11

Faculty Prep Week at CTLT

—
Jan. 9

University-Wide Teaching & Learning
Symposium
8:30 a.m.-4:50 p.m.
DoubleTree Conference Center

—
Register NOW!
www.teachtech.ilstu.edu

December 2007 Issue

Before you leave campus for your winter break, register to attend the 2008 Teaching & Learning Symposium, January 9... (p. 2)

The College of Arts and Sciences announces its 2007 College Teaching Awards....(p. 3)

The Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology seeks applications from those interested in filling a new position, Coordinator-Online Instruction...(p. 4)

As the semester draws to a close, Opscan shares some reminders about scoring final exams... (p. 5)

New to The LINK: *Ask the CTLT Staff!* This month, Assistant Director Claire Lamonica responds to a question about designing course attendance policies...(p. 6-7)

Meet the CTLT! Coordinator Mayuko Nakamura brings her passion for Educational Technology to her work at the CTLT...(p. 8)

Holiday Greetings from the staff at the Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology...(p. 9)

DID YOU KNOW?

You can now register online for the seventh annual Teaching & Learning Symposium. Registration is free and includes lunch. Visit the CTLT online to register at www.teachtech.ilstu.edu.

"Education is too important to be left solely to educators."

Francis Keppel

For Information/Registration:
www.teachtech.ilstu.edu



2008 Symposium Celebrates Past, Present and Future of Teaching at ISU



Start the spring semester with a celebration of teaching and learning at the 8th Annual Teaching & Learning Symposium, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008, at the DoubleTree Conference Center in Bloomington. This year's Symposium will include a keynote speech by Dr. Ken Bain, author of *What the Best College Teachers Do*; a poster session; 29 faculty-led break-out sessions; the announcement of the 2007-08 Outstanding University Teachers; a table fair featuring the Redbird Outreach program; a luncheon; a closing reception; and an "invitation only" workshop on "The Promising Syllabus" led by Dr. Bain.

Registration for the Symposium is now open at www.teachtech.ilstu.edu. Sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue until 4:50 p.m. The closing reception begins immediately following the last sessions and continues until 6:00 p.m.

In honor of ISU's Sesquicentennial, the theme of this year's event is *Gladly We Learn and Teach: Past, Present, and Future*. "This is our way of recognizing Illinois State's long history of teaching excellence," said CTLT Assistant Director Claire Lamonica. "It's also a way of making visible some of the important research into teaching and learning that goes on in classrooms across our campus every day."

There is no charge for this event, which is open to all ISU faculty and staff. "We're delighted to be able to offer this forum for faculty from every college on campus to come together and learn from each other. We believe it's a unique opportunity, and evidently others agree. This year's Symposium is being co-sponsored by all seven of the University's colleges as well as a number of other campus units and some local businesses as well," said CTLT Director Patrick O'Sullivan. The 2007 Symposium attracted more than 250 faculty and staff, including more than 100 presenters. "We'd really like to top that mark this year," said Lamonica. "Our goal is to make every year's Symposium even bigger and better than the one before."

CAS Announces College Teaching Award Winners

The College of Arts and Sciences has announced its College Teaching Award winners for 2007. This year, Julie Jung from the Department of English, Margaret Nauta from the Department of Psychology, and Lisa Szczepura from the Department of Chemistry were presented with Outstanding College Teaching Awards.



"My primary goal as a teacher is to help students develop what I call a 'revisionary consciousness,' a kind of attitudinal flexibility that garners a *willingness* to listen to and contend responsibly with other points of view," writes Julie Jung in her teaching philosophy. Among her primary goals in her classes is to help students learn to revise their writing by becoming aware of the importance of making connections. Jung writes, "They begin to think of revision as an attitude—a willingness to hear perspectives with which they disagree, and perhaps never before considered."



Margaret Nauta, from the Department of Psychology, believes that successful teaching involves "establishing a strong instructor-student relationship; stimulating interest; and offering diverse, developmentally appropriate, and distributed learning experiences." Nauta's teaching philosophy highlights her commitment to shaping students' learning by combining in- and out-of-class experiences. She writes, "I believe I have been able to help some students develop professionally by modeling intellectual curiosity."



"Effective teachers should provide students with the necessary tools to succeed, as well as motivate them to learn and inspire them to achieve excellence," says Lisa Szczepura. She works with many first year students in the General Chemistry program and has even started an innovative workshop to improve the success rate of underrepresented minorities in the sciences. Szczepura believes that working with students from diverse backgrounds is not only exciting, but it enables her to see things from different perspectives. She believes it helps her communicate the material more effectively, hopefully reaching a broader audience.

In addition to announcing this year's Outstanding College Teaching Awards, the Committee also announced its nominees for the University Teaching Awards. For Outstanding University Teacher Category I: Gregory Ferrence (Chemistry) and Stephen Hunt (Communication). For Category II: Laura Trendle Polus (Communications). For the Teaching Initiative Award: Katherine Ellison (English), Alycia Hund (Psychology), and Amy Wood (History). For Graduate Student Level I: Carey Applegate (English) and Sarah Dirks (Communication). For Graduate Student Level II: Kristen Pesavento (Biology) and Ardis L. Stewart (English).

DID YOU KNOW?

Veterans Services at Illinois State is available to assist all veteran-students with matters pertaining to education, grants and scholarships. Visit www.registrar.ilstu.edu/veterans to learn more about assisting our veteran-students.

"It's what you learn after you know it all that counts."

Harry S. Truman

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www.teachtech.ilstu.edu



DID YOU KNOW?

The last Friends of the Milner Library mini book sale for 2007 will take place on Tuesday, December 4 from 1-3 pm on the main floor of Milner Library. All proceeds are used to purchase items for the library.

"It is not so important to know everything as to appreciate what we learn."

Hannah More

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CTLT Position Announcement Coordinator, Specializing in Online Instruction

The Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology is pleased to announce the creation of a new position: Coordinator, Online Instruction. The coordinator will work closely with the Director, Assistant Director and staff in executing existing programs and in creating new services and resources in support of full and partial online instruction.

Required Qualifications:

- Master's degree
- Minimum 3 years successful college-level teaching experience, including partial or fully online courses
- Experience with instructional design and workshop development
- Experience using a range of instructional technologies and a strong interest and aptitude for mastering newer technologies useful for online instruction
- Participation in college or university initiatives in teaching and learning
- Effective verbal, written, and web-based communication skills and strong team membership and collaboration skills

Preferred Qualifications:

- Doctorate
- WebCT and/or Blackboard technology experience

The position is a full-time, 12-month Academic Professional (AP) one-year contract, with the possibility of renewal. Salary is competitive, based on qualifications and experience. Anticipated employment start date is February 1, 2008.

Application screening is expected to begin December 17, 2007. To apply for this position, please visit <http://www.jobs.ilstu.edu/>.

DID YOU KNOW?

Illinois State University Planetarium's annual holiday show, *'Tis the Season*, runs Nov. 30 through Dec. 15. This recounts Christian, Jewish, Egyptian, Roman, Celtic, Nordic, and Hopi historical, religious, and cultural rituals practiced during the winter solstice. To learn more, visit www.phy.ilstu.edu/planet.html

"Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's own character lies in their own hands."

Anne Frank

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Reminders about Opscan and Final Exams

As the end of the semester draws near, the staff at Opscan would like to remind faculty of a few important items pertaining to end-of-semester exam scoring.

- Opscan will not provide printed individual student feedback sheets during finals week. We can provide these results electronically if the faculty or staff member has set up in advance a password that we can use to encrypt the results.
- Because of the greatly increased volume of jobs in Opscan during finals week, faculty and staff should be prepared to wait. The wait time could be as long as two hours, assuming all our equipment stays in top working order. Please be patient during this time.
- Faculty and staff who have never given an Opscan test before should read up on how to use the forms, how to fill out a job request form, what kind of output we can produce, etc. before coming to the Opscan Office. Information about the sheets, weight sections, and a sample job request form can be found at <http://www.teachtech.ilstu.edu/services/opscan/opMan2.php> and at <http://www.teachtech.ilstu.edu/services/opscan/opMan3.php>
- Opscan will have extended hours during finals week to accommodate the greater number of scoring requests.

Monday, December 10	8:00 am - 5:30 pm
Tuesday, December 11	7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Wednesday, December 12	7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Thursday, December 13	7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Friday, December 14	7:30 am - 4:30 pm

For additional information about Opscan services, please contact Vicki Bush, Opscan Manager, at 438-7534 or Tom Silvia, Opscan Operator at 438-8737.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can view the balance of your Redbird Card, add money to the card, and view all transactions by visiting iCampus and clicking on the Financial tab. For more information, visit <http://www.comptroller.ilstu.edu/redbird-card-office/>.

"Teaching is the highest form of understanding."

Aristotle

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Ask the CTLT Staff



Dr. Lamonica

Ask the CTLT Staff is based on questions received by CTLT staff members over the course of each semester. If you have a question related to teaching and learning, send it to us at teachtech@ilstu.edu. We'll make sure you get an individual answer as soon as possible, and questions of general interest will be shared in *The LINK*.

This month's question is from a faculty member in the College of Business and is answered by Assistant Director, Claire Lamonica.

QUESTION: *I'm designing my spring course syllabi, and I heard that ISU has a policy against attendance policies. Is this true?*

According to ISU's 2007-08 Undergraduate Catalog, "The attendance regulation of the University is based on two principles. First, students are expected to attend class regularly; and second, students are primarily responsible to the instructor in matters pertaining to class attendance. Every student will be held responsible for class attendance and **successful completion of academic work**. Attendance regulations are intended to **encourage student maturity** and are based on the assumption that academic success is the student's primary goal in college." (emphasis added)

Research (<http://www.mnsu.edu/cetl/teachingresources/articles/classattendance.html>) also suggests that attendance policies can be beneficial to students. Attendance policies have been shown to increase student attendance, and increased student attendance can be tied to greater academic achievement. Thus, the question becomes, "How do I craft an attendance policy that 'promotes the successful completion of academic work' and 'encourages student maturity'?"

Attendance policies contribute to "the successful completion of academic work" when they make explicit references to the ways in which class attendance will allow students to be more fully engaged in the intellectual work of the course.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can stay connected with what is happening at Milner Library through your iPod?

Go online at <http://www.library.ilstu.edu/page/1091> to download the latest news as well as archived Podcasts today.

"The secret of education is respecting the pupil."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Ask the CTLT Cont'd

Frankly, if a student can miss a lot of classes and still earn an A in the course (when matters of attendance are set aside), that's probably more of a reflection on the course than the student. As Mark Taylor (<http://www.teachtech.ilstu.edu/MarkTaylorWorkshops.php>) pointed out during his appearance on campus last spring, time spent in class has to offer some kind of "added value" for the student. That is, class time should be designed to provide learning opportunities that can't easily or reasonably be duplicated outside of class. If students can't possibly engage in "the successful completion of academic work" without attending class, they are more likely to make good decisions about attendance.

Attendance policies that encourage student maturity allow students to exercise some discretion and apply their own best judgment to matters of attendance while making them responsible for the logically occurring consequences of their decisions.

An attendance policy that states "if you miss X classes, your grade will be lowered by X amount," could be seen as discouraging student maturity by treating students like children who must do what they're told "because I say so." Such policies are probably the most susceptible to challenges as well. What if a student has A's on all his/her course work and then misses a week of class because a parent dies? Unfortunately, bad things can happen to good students, and once we've published policies like these, we may feel compelled--ethically, if not legally--to enforce them uniformly, whether we want to or not.

Do the attendance policies for your course(s) meet these two criteria? If not, you may want to consider revising them and trying a new approach—just for one semester. After all, you can always restore your original policy in future semesters if the new one is not a success.

And remember, the Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology is happy to provide support for faculty engaged in this kind of professional undertaking. Let us know (teachtech@ilstu.edu) if you'd like a member of our staff to review a draft of your new attendance policy and provide formative feedback. We're also happy to provide examples of ISU faculty attendance policies that meet the criteria identified above.

DID YOU KNOW?

Illinois State's AACSB accredited program in the College of Business ranked 75th and 41st among public universities in the 2007 *BusinessWeek* magazine survey. This means the College is among the top 20% of AACSB accredited business schools.

"No man can be a good teacher unless he has feelings of warm affection toward his pupils and a genuine desire to impart to them what he believes to be of value."

Bertrand Russell

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Meet the CTLT Staff: *Mayuko Nakamura*



Name: Mayuko Nakamura
 Title: Coordinator
 Education: M.A. in Applied Linguistics, Teacher's College, Columbia; B.A. in Spanish Linguistics, University of Oregon
 Family: She has two children: Emily, who is 6 and Mia, who is 3.

Mayuko Nakamura has been working as a program coordinator in the CTLT for over a year. "Educational technology has been my passion for the past 14 years," says Nakamura. "It's always exciting to see a 'convert,' —someone who is previously uncomfortable with technology— learn a new tool and see all the possibilities of enhancing teaching with it. That's the most rewarding moment of my work."

"The online/blended course review consultation is my favorite program at CTLT," says Nakamura, "because it is a growing field and more ISU faculty are interested in teaching in blended/online courses." Nakamura also says that the best thing about her job is working with faculty, learning about what they do in class, and talking about all different kinds of pedagogical possibilities. She is also happy with the balance of research and administrative duties that her job provides.

When asked about her biggest challenge, Nakamura states, "Getting to know ISU, the systems, the processes, and the structures, is still challenging. I'm new to ISU, so I am still learning about all of that." But the most important thing she has learned in her job at the CTLT is to make decisions about programs or recommendations to professors based on research. "Always look to see what has been done and said in that field," she says. Overall, Nakamura says, she enjoys learning from the work and from people who work with her.

DID YOU KNOW?

ISU's Green Team is committed to supporting environmental sustainability on campus. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend their monthly meetings. To learn more, visit the Green Team website at www.greenteam.ilstu.edu/

"To be able to be caught up in the world of thought—that is to be educated!"

Edith Hamilton

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www.teachtech.ilstu.edu



We wish you a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to greeting you at two important events in January!

January 7-11 — Faculty Prep Week
January 9 — Teaching & Learning Symposium