

February Calendar

Teaching Excellence Series

Improve Student Writing and Still Have a Life

- Thurs, Feb. 1; 3:30-4:30 pm
- Thurs, Feb. 22; 3:30-4:30 pm

Increasing the Yield on Your Teaching Investment

- Wed, Jan. 31; 8:30-9:30 am
- Wed, Feb. 14; 8:30-9:30 am

FEBRUARY 2007 ISSUE

Spring Teaching Excellence Series: Student Writing, Teaching Enhancement

Choose one workshop or attend the whole series ... [\(more\)](#)

Six Types of Teaching Support Grants Available Through CTLT

Deadline for applications is Friday, February 9 ... [\(more\)](#)

Instructional Resource Commons Open House March 1st

Visit our new Resource Commons to browse a select set of materials on effective teaching ... [\(more\)](#)

Teaching-Learning Communities Offer Opportunities to Connect With Colleagues

Reflect on teaching goals through discussion with your peers ... [\(more\)](#)

CTLT Website Reorganized

We've restructured to help make site navigation a bit easier ... [\(more\)](#)

Record Attendance at 7th Annual Teaching-Learning Symposium

Thirty sessions, a renown keynote speaker, lunch, and connections with colleagues all across campus made for a rewarding day focusing on teaching ... [\(more\)](#)

Recording Grades From Opscan to WebCT is Fast, Easy

Learn how Opscan works with WebCT to streamline your grading/recording process ... [\(more\)](#)

SoTL Writing Circles

Participate in a SoTL Writing Circles planning session with lunch provided ... [\(more\)](#)

KEEP Web Snapshot Incentives

Create SoTL project snapshots with the KEEP toolkit, earn travel/purchase grants ... [\(more\)](#)

February Instructional Strategies Courses

- Active Engagement and Learning in Large Classrooms
- Gradebooks Made Easy
- Handling the Paper Load Productively
- Introduction to Podcasting
 - Portfolio Assessment
- Plagiarism in the Digital Age
 - Providing Feedback on Documents
- Teaching in Clicker Classrooms
- What Not to Do with PowerPoint

Schedule and Online
Registration on the CTLT
website
(www.teachtech.ilstu.edu)



Spring into Professional Enhancement with the Teaching Excellence Series

The Spring 2007 Teaching Excellence Series is an opportunity either to engage in an extended professional enhancement experience or to sample from a menu of individual sessions. Open to anyone with teaching responsibilities (faculty, staff, graduate students, etc.), the spring series consists of two “strands”: ***Improve Student Writing and Still Have a Life*** and ***Increasing the Yield on Your Teaching Investment***.

In ***Improve Student Writing and Still Have a Life***, participants will seek to answer a number of questions raised by data the University Assessment Office has mined from its examination of combined results of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE). What practices best support developing writers? How can faculty find the time to support student writers? What is the role of General Education in the development of student writers? How can faculty best support student writers in the disciplines? The sessions in this series will meet on four Thursdays: February 1 and 22, March 8, and April 5, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

In ***Increasing the Yield on Your Teaching Investment***, participants will have an opportunity to consider the role of teaching in the ASPT process, to assess their own teaching, to set goals for enhancing their teaching, to formulate strategic plans for teaching enhancement, and to learn strategies for effective presentation of those efforts for annual evaluations. A follow-up series offered in the fall will allow participants to implement their strategic plans, document their efforts and successes, and package the documentation of their work for inclusion in their 2008 ASPT submissions. The Spring sessions will be held one Wednesday each month: January 31, February 14, March 28, and April 11 from 8:30-9:30 a.m.



Faculty engage a topic in a fall workshop.

For a complete schedule of Teaching Excellence Series events with session descriptions and facilitator information, click on link below. All sessions are held in the CTLT Instructional Resource Commons, 301 S. Main, just north of Jimmy John's.

Teaching Excellence Series Session descriptions

February Software Skill Courses

- Basic Access
- Basic Dreamweaver
- Basic FrontPage
- Basic WebCT
 - Basic Word
- Basic Digital Camera
- Basic Digital Photo Editing
- Extending Word Capabilities
- Websites With FrontPage
- Spreadsheets and Charts
- Photoshop Part 1, Part 2
 - SPSS Basics
- WebCT: Quiz Tool

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CTLT Grants for Instructional Innovation

Funding for a wide range of instructional innovation, assessment, and development activities is available in the spring round of CTLT grants. CTLT offers six grant programs ranging from \$200 to \$1,500. **Deadline for the spring round of grants is 4 p.m. Friday, February 9.** Grant programs are:

- **Teaching-Learning Development Grants** provide up to \$1,000 for individuals and up to \$1,500 for teams implementing instructional innovations.
- **Teaching Innovation Evaluation Grants** provide up to \$500 for individuals assessing the effectiveness of innovative instructional practices.
- **Teaching Development Travel Grants** provide up to \$300 supplemental support for travel to teaching-related conferences or workshops.
- **Teaching Community Enhancement Grants** provide up to \$200 to help cover expenses for departments or groups that organize or host a teaching-related event.
- **Faculty-Student Connections Grants** provide up to \$150 to help cover expenses for informal social events that foster faculty-student connections.
- **Instructional Podcasting Development Initiative** provides up to \$450 in equipment, software, and/or support for individuals who explore uses of multimedia for instruction.

CTLT Grant Program Information and Application Instructions

“Instructional Resource Commons” Open House Set

CTLT is hosting an Open House on Thursday, March 1, from 4-5 p.m. to introduce our new Instructional Resource Commons. Refreshments will be served!

The Instructional Resource Commons is part of our efforts to support you as you strive to enhance your teaching. We are assembling a select set of the best resources on a wide range of teaching-related topics based on recommendations from experts on and off campus. When you want to learn more about a topic (say, assessing student learning or integrating technology effectively), you do not have to spend time searching through the literature to find the best resources – we have done that for you.

We’re calling it a “commons” to reflect our intent that this be a place for faculty to assemble, learn, and relax. The Commons is open to all faculty for browsing, having a cup of coffee or tea, and making yourself at home in our comfortable seating to read, chat, or grade papers away from your office.

Teaching-Learning Communities Provide Peer Support for Teaching-Related Challenges

Get together with like-minded colleagues in a Teaching Learning Community (TLC). TLCs are a form of reciprocal peer mentoring and typically include four to six instructors from various disciplines working together on their teaching approaches. The rewards are many, which explains why some TLCs made up of ISU faculty have been going strong for years. The goals are to support teaching, encourage reflection, and improve student learning. Some of the types of activities that a community might choose include:

- Review and give feedback on syllabi and assignments or handouts.
- Observe each others' classrooms and provide feedback.
- Help each other with midterm evaluations.
- Read and discuss scholarly work on teaching.
- Work together to develop teaching portfolios.
- Select a specific teaching topic (e.g., active learning, instructional technology) and examine it across disciplines and in terms of your courses.

CTLT staff support these communities by bringing people together, offering "start-up" and "wrap-up" events, providing suggestions for structure and activities, and providing some resources and space. If you are interested in joining or forming a Teaching-Learning Community, sign up online for a Spring 2007 TLC by February 7.

[Teaching-Learning Community Signup Form](#)

A New Look for the CTLT Website

Explore our newly restructured website! We've reorganized our website so you can find information more quickly and more easily. A navigation bar on top help you to browse through our programs and services. The side navigation links will lead you to specific areas that interest you. Additionally, bread crumbs show you the path from the top level to the current page so you can move among the pages faster.

[CTLT Website](#)



Record Attendance at 7th Annual Teaching & Learning Symposium

More than 250 Illinois State University faculty and staff gathered at the Doubletree Conference Center in Bloomington on January 10 to spend a day discussing teaching, learning, and civic engagement. The conference featured 30 break-out sessions, a Community Engagement Fair featuring local service organizations interested in collaborating with professors on instruction-related projects, and a nationally recognized keynote speaker.

Attendance increased 150% over last year's record attendance. Faculty from 33 academic departments represented every college on campus. Also in attendance were more than 50 University staff members from a wide variety of units, and several faculty and staff from Heartland Community College.

A highlight was the keynote speech by Dr. George Mehaffy, founder of the American Democracy Project. Speaking on the topic, "Developing Informed Citizens: The Imperative for Higher Education," Mehaffy said that trends such as increasing levels of partisanship, a lack of civic understanding and civics education in K-12 and college, and ongoing declines in political participation among young adults, pose threats to democracy. He argued that colleges and universities have a mandate to counter these threats through individual courses and campus- and nation-wide programs that offer opportunities for students to become active, informed citizens. Dr. Mehaffy's presentation slides are available below as are session abstracts and presentation materials.

[Session Abstracts and Presentation Materials](#)

[Dr. Mehaffy's Presentation Slides](#)



Jim Thompson demonstrates his podcasts to colleagues.



Dr George Mehaffy

WebCT + Opscan: Saving You Time On Grades

If you want to use WebCT to make test scores and grades available to your students, and you use Opscan test sheets for your tests, Opscan Evaluation Services can make your life a little easier by providing output that you can import directly to WebCT.

Here's what you do: Have students enter their university IDs (UIDs) on their test sheets and request the electronic "Scores for WebCT" report when you bring the sheets to Opscan. We will take your key, grade the tests, and convert the UIDs to ULIDs--the same IDs that used to identify students in WebCT. We'll send you an Excel spreadsheet that you can then import into WebCT. Details are available at the link below.

Importing OPSCAN Output Into WebCT

News from the Cross Chair in SoTL...

SoTL Writing Circle Planning Session

Are you working on a SoTL presentation, paper submission, newsletter article, or other product? Would you like to participate this spring and/or next fall in a SoTL Writing Circle to move that writing along? Join us for a planning session for SoTL Writing Circles facilitated by Kathleen McKinney and Deb Gentry on Feb. 19 or 20, both from 11:30 to 12:45, in the CTLT Conference Room (107 ITDC building). Lunch provided. RSVP to Kathleen at kmckinne@ilstu.edu by Feb. 12 (specify which session please).

Incentives for KEEP Web Snapshot of SoTL Projects

A link from the ISU SoTL page provides examples of ISU SoTL work. One of these example will consist of KEEP web snapshots of SoTL projects at ISU. **Go to this link** to see a snapshot of a large SoTL project. To encourage the creation of these easy-to-make snapshots, we have a small incentive program for this fiscal year. If you create a good quality snapshot and send the URL to Kathleen by May 31, we can add it to our repository of snapshots. She will provide you with \$150 in FY07 travel funds (toward a new trip or one already taken not fully reimbursed) or \$150 in funds toward the purchase of books, supplies, flash drives, software, etc. To "apply" for this opportunity, simply email Kathleen (kmckinne@ilstu.edu) with the name of your SoTL project, publications or conference presentations related to the project, and full contact information. She will fund as many as she can.

