

THE TEACHING LINK

FALL SEMESTER

The Center is pleased to offer a wide-ranging slate of programming for faculty, staff, and graduate students as we begin the new academic year. Listed below are a few of our fall events. For a listing of all of our events, please see pages 2-4.

Workshops

- * Dr. Stephanie Blaisdell, Director of Student Learning & Assessment at the University of Memphis, will offer a workshop on the challenges and opportunities facing women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). We encourage faculty and graduate students to sign up for this event to learn more about women in STEM from this highly regarded speaker.
- * Professors John Sherblom (Communication & Journalism) and Lesley Withers (Central Michigan University) will lead an interactive workshop on teaching in the fascinating virtual world of Second Life.
- * Provost Susan Hunter, Director of Institutional Studies Ted Coladarci, Professor Tina Passman (Modern Languages and Classics), and I will lead the first of two workshops on assessment. The first workshop will explore the state of assessment at UMaine following re-accreditation, with an emphasis on opportunities for shaping best practices now and in the future. The second workshop will feature exemplars from departments and programs across campus and offer guidance on how to build assessment into the everyday life of teaching and learning.

New Faculty Breakfasts

- * We will have two breakfast gatherings this semester. *Please remember that CTE defines "new faculty" status as extending through the first 5 years of service at the university, so all faculty in years 1 through 5 are cordially invited to join us.*

Programming for Graduate Students

- * The Center will offer three workshops for current and future TAs in the fall. *Faculty: Please spread the word about these events among your graduate students as we work to help prepare future faculty in these areas.*

As always, I would like to remind faculty about the Center's **Peer Consulting Program**. Peer consultants are veteran faculty who can meet with you one-on-one, visit one of your classes, conduct an informal mid-semester assessment of what students are experiencing in your class, or offer general support and guidance with respect to teaching. Peer consulting is confidential and constructive, and has proven again and again to be a tremendous asset for teachers all across campus.

Please join us for as many of these activities as possible. We look forward to seeing you.

Thank you, and welcome back.

Jeffrey St. John, Director
Center for Teaching Excellence

C E N T E R F O R
TEACHING
EXCELLENCE

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Jeffrey St. John, Director

Our mission:
***To foster excellence
in teaching and learning at the
University of Maine***

All events are supported by the
Adelaide C. and Alan L. Bird Fund for Instructional and Faculty Development.

FALL 2009 CTE EVENT SCHEDULE

REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS

581-3472 or CTE@umit.maine.edu

These Events are free and open to all UMaine faculty, instructors, and graduate students interested in teaching

WORKSHOP—Women in STEM Fields - *Keeping the River Flowing*

September 25 (Fri.) 2:00—4:00 p.m., Room 2, Wells Conference Ctr. (Register by Sept. 21)

Dr. Stephanie Blaisdell, Director of Student Learning and Assessment at the University of Memphis, will offer an interactive workshop on the challenges and opportunities facing women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The workshop will employ discussion and clicker technology.

WORKSHOP—Library Resources

October 16 (Fri.) 12:00—1:30 p.m., Library Classroom, Fogler Library (Register by Oct. 13)

Fogler Reference Librarians Jim Bird and Nancy Lewis will lead an interactive workshop designed to familiarize faculty with the digital and electronic resources available to them through UMaine's libraries. This workshop is back by popular demand: the room filled to capacity last January and we had to turn people away. Sign up early and join us for a fact-filled, hands-on tour of what our libraries have to offer.

WORKSHOP—1st Assessment Workshop

October 23 (Fri.) 11:00—12:00 p.m., Room 3, Wells Conference Ctr. (Register by Oct. 19)

Provost Susan Hunter, Director of Institutional Studies Ted Coladarci, Professor Tina Passman (Modern Languages and Classics), and CTE Director Jeff St. John will lead the first of two fall workshops on assessment. In this workshop, we will discuss the state of assessment at UMaine following reaccreditation, with an emphasis on opportunities for shaping best practices now and in the future.

WORKSHOP — Second Life

October 23 (Fri.) 1:00-3:00 p.m., Room 3, Wells Conference Ctr. (Register by Oct. 19)

Professors John Sherblom (Communication and Journalism) and Lesley Withers (Central Michigan University) will lead an interactive workshop focused on their experiences teaching in the virtual world of Second Life. Sherblom and Withers were among the first faculty in the country to connect classes on different campuses in a Second Life learning environment. We hope you can join us for this event.

WORKSHOP — Disability Accommodation

October 30 (Fri.) 10:30-12:30 p.m., Coe Room, Memorial Union (Register by Oct. 26)

Ann Smith, Director of the Office of Disability Support Services, will lead a workshop aimed at providing direction for faculty seeking to help students who they believe may be in need of support. If you have ever wanted to extend a hand to a student but did not know how to proceed, this is the event for you. Bring your questions and your concerns and join us for this important workshop.

DEMONSTRATION — Synapse

November 3 (Tues.) 12:00-1:00 a.m., Room 3, Wells Conference Ctr. (Register by Oct. 27)

Professor Seth Tyler will lead a demonstration of the *Synapse* course management program. Developed and currently used by Tyler and his colleagues, *Synapse* allows instructors teaching different sections of the same course to monitor students' progress on a daily or weekly basis, make real-time adjustments in response to student feedback, and conduct targeted mid-stream assessments flexibly and creatively. We hope you will join us for a first look at this remarkable technology.

WORKSHOP—2nd Assessment Workshop

December 11 (Fri.) 10:00-12:00 p.m., Room 3, Wells Conference Ctr. (Register by Dec. 7)

This second workshop will feature assessment exemplars from various departments and programs around campus and provide concrete guidance about how to build assessment into the everyday life of teaching and learning.

NEW FACULTY EVENTS

Please remember that CTE defines "new faculty" status as extending through a faculty member's first 5 years of service at the university. All faculty in years 1 through 5 are cordially invited to join us.

The Center will host two breakfast gatherings in the fall. These events are meant to give new faculty a chance to socialize with each other and their mentors, and to learn more about the professional and personal resources available to them at the university.

There is no formal program for these breakfasts but there will be plenty of opportunities to talk and learn about each other (and plenty of food).

Drop in any time during this hour-and-a-half. We look forward to seeing you and having a chance to catch up with what you are doing.

NEW FACULTY BREAKFAST

September 22 (Tues.) 8:30-10:00 a.m., Coe Room, Memorial Union (Register by Sept. 14)

NEW FACULTY BREAKFAST

December 3 (Thurs.) 8:30-10:00 a.m., Coe Room, Memorial Union (Register by Nov. 24)

GRADUATE STUDENT EVENTS

These events are designed for graduate students who are interested in teaching or are teaching assistants.

CTE Director Jeff St. John will be offering three workshops for graduate students in the fall:

TA WORKSHOP—Managing Disputes

October 2 (Fri), 12:00—1:30 p.m., Room 3, Wells Conference Ctr. (Register by Sept. 28)

Concerned about how to handle disgruntled students—in class, during office hours, or both? Students who are unhappy with you or with each other can be a significant source of stress for you and for their classmates. Come and learn how to respond to disputes and disagreements in constructive and effective ways. We hope you will join us.

TA WORKSHOP—Engaging Students

November 6 (Fri), 12:00—1:30 p.m., Room 3, Wells Conference Center (Register by Nov. 2)

Our focus here will be student apathy: its sources, its influence on your classroom, and the application of creative strategies for countering it. Join us for an honest and humorous workshop on how to engage students in ways that cause them to take learning seriously— and to enjoy it.

TA WORKSHOP—Job Applications & Interviewing

December 4 (Fri), 10:00—12:00 p.m., Room 3, Wells Conference Center (Register by Nov. 30)

No matter what stage of your graduate career you are in, this workshop is for you. Come and learn *now* what you can do to prepare for your entry into the job market. Cover letters, CVs, statements of teaching philosophy, phone interviews, email etiquette, on-site interviewing— we'll tackle each of these subjects. Bring your questions and your concerns and join us.



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