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FACULTY DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Dr. Harriet Shenkman
Faculty Director
Center for Teaching Excellence

We are pleased to report that our beautiful CTE facility in lower-level Philosophy Hall was opened last semester. This semester there will be additional staffing in place to allow the Center to more fully serve the BCC Community. Joining us will be a technical assistant (Michael King), student receptionists (Valarie Callender and Marisol Santiago), and a part-time technology trainer (Raymond Warden).

CTE Week in November involved an estimated 1,000 participants, including faculty, students, and administrators. The CTE Advisory Board and faculty leaders from around the campus were instrumental in contributing to successful events. In January, forty-to-fifty faculty and staff signed up for eight technology workshops led by Bruce Rosenbloom and Jerry Simotas. New technology offerings are planned for the Spring as well as workshops for adjuncts who teach in the evening.

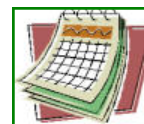
With the assistance of faculty and administrators from around the campus, four orientation sessions for the latest cohort of new faculty were completed. A reunion is planned for the new faculty at the New Faculty Salon in April.

Continued on page 2



Mr. Jerry Simotas
CTE Director of Educational

During CTE week Apple Corp hosted a demonstration on the use of iPod and the preparation of podcasts. Faculty participants were impressed by the ease and simplicity with which content may be incorporated into a podcast that a student can view "on-the-go" any-time-any-where. A syllabus, a lecture, a journal article, an announcement, a practice quiz or even an art gallery are examples of what a faculty from the comfort of their home/office computer can provide to their students. CUNY is currently nearing the final stage of negotiating a university-wide contract with Apple to host podcasts on Apple servers. Many Ivy League institutions and others have been in the Podcasting business for sometime. You will find lots of examples on Podcasting at a variety of institutions if you Google "University Podcasting." Podcasts are not kid's stuff anymore.



Upcoming Events

New Faculty Salon: April 12, 12 noon-2 p.m., CTE Center

Panel Discussion:
The New Digital Student—Challenges and Opportunities

New Technology Workshops in multimedia, MAC computers, and sound recording

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The Problem-Based Learning Project sponsored by Perkins involved 12 faculty from across the disciplines. An expert from the University of Delaware, Dr. George Watson, came to the campus to give a two, day-long training sessions. Faculty from Biology, Education, Mathematics, Business and Information Systems, Nursing, and Chemistry designed problems to engage students in critical thinking and problem solving and determined various ways of using technology to deliver the enhanced pedagogy. The faculty will be implementing these instructional innovations in the Spring. Evaluation of the effects of the synergy of PBL and technology on student learning and engagement will take place at the end of the semester.

In the Fall, three learning community clusters were launched. Faculty from English, Reading, Social Science, and counselors from Student Development participated. In every aspect of student performance, final grades, ACT scores, and attendance, students in the learning communities did considerably better than students in similar unaffiliated courses. The Learning Community is still a work in progress, and we plan to use what we have learned this semester to improve the model we are developing and to pinpoint more precisely which aspects of academic and social integration make a difference in student learning, persistence, and engagement. There will be three new members of the learning community team next semester, Donna Kessler-Eng, Georgene Osborne, and Veronie Wright. At the end of the semester, we hope to have the newly constituted team report on their findings.

As a culmination of our Title V Collaborative Grant, we will be publishing a volume entitled *The Scholarship of Teaching: Faculty Development through Cross-Campus Collaboration*. Nineteen faculty members from Bronx, Lehman, and Hostos will be publishing articles about their inquiry into teaching and learning as a result of faculty development experiences sponsored by CTE. Susan Polirstok of Lehman and Harriet Shenkman will be co-editors. Frederick De Naples will be copy editor. Please remember that we are always looking for participation and new ideas. Approach us if you have a workshop you would like to lead or attend or a project you would like to suggest. If it is within our capacity, we will try to make it happen.

Photos from CTE Week 2006

Special guest speaker Stacy Schiff in GML auditorium.



Stacy Schiff, VP Sanchez, and students from the Speech, Drama and Debate Club and Honors History student



At CTE Opening, CTE Director Dr. Harriet Shenkman and Dean Carin Savage.



Portal in new CTE Center.

CTE Center ribbon-cutting ceremony with President Carolyn G. Williams.



Photo credits: Claude Grant, Silvestre Sosa, Torri Harris, Beatrice Ray.

Simulated Learning Activities for Children Visiting BCC's Hall of Fame for Great Americans

Professor Diane D'Alessio, Department of Education and Reading

As part of the events celebrating The Center for Teaching Excellence Week, the Future Teachers Club of BCC sponsored their annual Education Day. Throughout the day, education majors presented learning activities focusing on Bronx Community College's Hall of Fame of Great Americans. These simulated learning activities would be implemented when preparing children in early childhood/childhood learning environments for a class trip to the Hall of Fame.

Students enrolled in EDU 10 (Child Study) engaged in a cooperative project in which they reviewed the various areas of development in a young child. The students, then, created and presented a poster illustrating the various areas of development that were discussed and the corresponding activities that the teacher and children would engage in prior to the field trip.

Several students enrolled in EDU 40 (Field Work Experience) presented integrated learning activities that would have engaged fourth grade students in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and technology activities when preparing for a class trip to the Hall of Fame. This project included finding three interactive websites for a fourth grade class and creating a standards-based lesson plan for the class. As a culmination to their projects, Education Day offered these education majors an opportunity to display, present, and discuss their work in a wider forum of students and faculty.



Professors Diane D'Alessio and Joe Todaro at Education Day display of student posters.

PBL (Problem-Based Learning) at BCC Dr. Harriet Shenkman

Twelve faculty from across the disciplines (Vrunda Prabhu, Diane D'Alessio, Nikolaos Apostolakis, Alex Kheyfits, Stephen Powers, Doreen LaBlanc, Betsey Hallihan, Anthony Durante, Annette Opler, Eugene Passer, Seher Atamturktur, and Marcia Jones) have been engaged in planning for innovative teaching using real life problems to foster critical thinking. The main objectives are to provide opportunities for students to think critically and analyze problems, develop skills in gathering and evaluating information, and work cooperatively and effectively in teams. Furthermore, the faculty are exploring ways of using technology to deliver and enhance this type of learning.

A comprehensive rubric with eight criteria is used to evaluate well-developed problems. Good PBL problems relate to the real world, require decision-making, are multi-staged and open-ended and incorporate course content objectives.

During the first semester of the project, each faculty member designed six problems to be incorporated into courses taught in the following semester. The problems that were developed were varied and engaging. They included topics such as the Celebrex Use, Biofuel, World Hunger, Learning Fractions, Social Promotion and Retention, Ethics, Mainstreaming Special Education Children, and Prenatal Diagnosis. One intriguing problem designed for Bio 23 was entitled "A Painful Honeymoon, Suntans and Sunburns: A Case Study in the Integumentary System."

The objectives for incorporating technology include helping students engage in electronic collaboration, use electronic documents, do technology-enhanced presentations, use electronic tools for research, manage databases, and use Blackboard as a platform for organizing information and group discussion.

The potential for engaged student learning and for the use of technology as both a tool and an enhancement are enormous. Bruce and I (as co-directors) and the participating faculty are excited about this project and hope to report increased outcomes in student learning and engagement by the end of the semester. We encourage faculty who might be interested in participating in the future to let us know of their interest.



Library exhibit—with Thomas Riker.



VP Mary Coleman and Dr. Kathleen Berger at the CTE opening.



Technology and Upcoming CTE Programs

Bruce Rosenblom
CTE Asst. Director

In mid-January 2007, CTE conducted a series of technology workshops for faculty in various departments. During a two-week period, 40 faculty attended workshops on Blackboard, PowerPoint, Toolkit, MS Publisher, Excel and a Technology Boot Camp. The feedback we received was quite positive.

Now that CTE has new facilities, we are planning an array of activities for the Spring semester. The February schedule is listed below. There will be **new** technology workshops on Toolkit, Inspiration, recording sound, MAC computers and multimedia. In addition, CTE will host a discussion entitled "The New Digital Student: Challenges and Opportunities." in collaboration with the TLTR committee.

On a monthly basis, I will be sending out an e-mail highlighting these exciting activities. In addition, the Center will be open for walk-in faculty assistance on Mondays from 10-11:30am and Tuesdays from 2-4pm or by appointment at X5951. I look forward to working with all BCC faculty in the new center.

CTE Schedule for February

Workshop	Date	Time	Presenter
Toolkit: Web Pages Made Easy	Feb. 6	2-4 pm	B. Rosenbloom
Intermediate Excel	Feb. 15	2-4 pm	J. Simotas
Demo: MAC Computer Basics	Feb. 21	10:30 am-Noon	R. Warden
Discussion: The New Digital Student: Challenges and Opportunities	Feb. 27	1 -2:30 pm	B. Rosenbloom (moderator) with BCC faculty and students

Note: All workshops will be held in the CTE Center, lower-level Philosophy Hall. To reserve your place in a workshop, please call x5075 or x5951.



CTE Center, Philosophy Hall B02



Title V Update

Mitchell Wenzel
Title V Director

The Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) held its official ribbon cutting for its new space in the lower-level Philosophy Hall on November 6. The opening of this newly constructed facility will be a user friendly place for faculty and staff to improve their technology skills. The CTE, as indicated by the Director Dr. Harriet Shenkman, "is dedicated to learning about learning, to help faculty perfect their teaching in order to produce student learning." Please stop by to see the CTE and say hello to the Assistant CTE Director Bruce Rosenbloom.

IMPORTANT DATES

CTE Advisory Board Meetings

February 8, 2007, 2—4 p.m.
March 1, 2007, 2— 4 p.m.
May 10, 2007, 2—4 p.m.

All meetings will be held in the CTE Center, Philosophy Hall B02

CTE Week Gala Luncheon

Dr. John Athanasourelis
Asst. Professor, English Department

At noon on Nov. 9, a gorgeous Indian summer day, Center for Teaching Excellence board members and guests celebrated the main event of CTE week with a delicious buffet luncheon in the rotunda of the Gould Memorial Library. Senior Vice President George Sanchez opened the festivities with a hearty welcome, noting that the main event, the presentation by Ms. Stacy Schiff, the student response, and the poetry reading had been a rewarding experience. Dr. Harriet Shenkman thanked Ms. Schiff and presented her with a Hall of Fame t-shirt as a token of gratitude.

The audience was then treated to the debut of the CTE players— Prof. Phyllis Read, Dr. Thomas Brennan, Prof. Jan Robertson, Dr. Anthony Durante, and Dr. Vicki Flaris—in an amusing playlet about famous figures in history deserving of induction into the Hall of Fame. Prof. Don Read accompanied on piano.

The celebrations continued as Ms. Schiff signed presentation copies of her book, *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America*, for members of the CTE Advisory Board. In a follow-up to an earlier CTE week presentation, Dr. Maria Psarelli presented monetary awards for successful deciphering of coded puzzles.



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