

Academic Affairs Report

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2009

Nazareth COLLEGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE VPAA

Important Dates for Recipients of 2009 Grants

- **September 25** -
*Grant expense receipts
are due in CTE office
(G357)*
- **October 23** - *Grant
Vignettes and Question-
naires are due in CTE
office (G357)*

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Welcome to the first issue of Academic Affairs Report (AA Report)! Its purpose is to share work-related news within the Academic Affairs Division and present brief reports about projects and initiatives. With six buildings, three schools, and a college, it is not easy to know what our colleagues are doing across the whole division. So, not only is this electronic newsletter about us, we are its primary audience.

An important feature of the newsletter will be an "Updates" section, which will list activities and accomplishments of individual faculty and staff. Please acquire the habit of notifying us when you have made a conference presentation, published a

book or article, received an award or grant, or accomplished other notable things. Forward updates to be included in the newsletter to Debbie Mathewson at dmathew4@naz.edu. We ask that an update be no longer than two or three lines, and that you put it in a form that can be pasted directly into the newsletter without editing or further research.

We will also include brief news articles about grant applications, new program initiatives, special projects in the community, etc. We invite you to suggest topics for these items and other features that would be of interest. As in the past, CTE will continue to maintain an online calendar of Academic Affairs events.



Sara Varhus

I hope that this newsletter contributes to greater awareness of the people and work in Academic Affairs.

Yours,
Sara

KIM MCGANN INTERVIEWED BY CITY NEWSPAPER



Kim McGann: "It's criminal to bore your students. I try to always keep them engaged." PHOTO BY SARAH PRIESTAP

Nazareth's own Assistant Professor of Sociology, **Kim McGann**, was recently featured in a *City Newspaper* article titled "Student Survival 09: Meet your mentor." She was one of four area professors interviewed after a search for "unique and interesting professors."

To find out why McGann feels "Sociology is like a big buffet of interesting topics" and her philosophy on keeping her students engaged, read the [full interview](#).

NEW TRAVEL GRANTS AVAILABLE

The new travel grant is an initiative that is meant to support faculty work and creative pedagogical activities while showcasing faculty excellence both locally and nationally. Funds can be used to support faculty travel to conferences where teaching, teaching scholarship, and curricular initiatives

will be the focus, including those aimed at discipline specific or general higher education audiences (e.g., CUR, AACU, PKAL, etc).

Priority will be given to faculty who will be reporting on their teaching and teaching scholarship at such con-

ferences. However, faculty members who are chairs or organizers of conference sessions are also eligible for consideration, as are those who simply would like to attend such a conference.

Further details will be forthcoming. Watch your emails.

JEN LEIGH INTRODUCES TEACHING PHILOSOPHY WORKSHOPS

Clarifying the Foundations of our Practice. A carefully written statement of why you do what you do when you teach can be extremely useful. But getting your teaching philosophy on paper can often be a daunting task. Last spring, **Jen Leigh (SOM)** shared an approach to getting a philosophy on paper at RIT's Faculty Institute of Technology and Learning (FITL). Her workshop there got rave reviews. This semester, Jen has agreed to lead three discussions/workshops here at Nazareth. The first of these, *Explorations on the*

Teaching Philosophy: Opening Pandora's Box, began on 13 October with an exercise designed to help participants discern between key educational philosophies while codifying a personalized set of teaching and learning principles. Twelve participants, with a mix of new and not quite so new faculty, discussed their underlying premises and assumptions about teaching while also commenting on new directions they could consider.

Subsequent follow-up discussions are scheduled for 27 October and 14

December (both 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in G351). Newcomers are welcome.

Details are posted on the Center's WWW. An email announcement and update will follow shortly.

**WHAT IS YOUR
TEACHING
PHILOSOPHY?
HOW DOES IT
GUIDE YOUR
PRACTICE? CAN
YOU PUT IT IN
WRITING?**

NEW INITIATIVE IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

This new initiative follows up on the feedback and recommendations of an interdisciplinary group including **Leanne Charlesworth (SWK)**, **Otieno Kisiera (SOC/MCS)**, **Heidi Northwood (PHL)**, **Lynn O'Brien (CHM)** and **Cathy Sweet (ART)** who traveled last April to the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Dialogues Conference in Washington, DC. A powerful take home message for the group was that the rudiments

**EVERYTHING WE TEACH WAS
ONCE SOMEONE'S RESEARCH.**

of undergraduate research are very much present in nearly every department at Nazareth. According to CUR, undergraduate research exists when there is a clear product of an investigative activity in which the students do the work and students are clearly still being taught. CUR is broadening its focus to encourage

undergraduate research across the disciplines through a variety of mechanisms, including funding. Our group agreed that the next step in being able to participate fully in this emerging conversation would be to *create and disseminate a departmental and program catalogue* of what is presently being done. CTE will begin this work in the near future.

Schedule of Events



For more details on events, visit the [CTE website](#).

How to contact CTE:

teachexl@naz.edu

389-2381

- August 18 - New Faculty Pre-Semester Orientation
- August 20 - Mentor Orientation/Discussion - G351
- September 1 - NF Discussion: Reflecting on the First Week - G351
- September 8 - NF Discussion: Dealing with Students with Disturbing Behavior/Referring - G351 (All Faculty are Welcome)
- September 11 - Assessment Workshop
- September 15 - NF Discussion: Book Discussion: *What the Best College Teachers Do* - G351
- September 17 - Circle of Chairs - G351
- September 18 - Faculty Meeting, followed by New Faculty Welcome Wine & Cheese Reception (hosted by CTE)
- September 22 - NF Discussion: Accommodate What? Addressing Academic Needs of Students with Disabilities - G351 (All Faculty are Welcome)
- September 24 - Celebrate Naz Day
- September 25 - Expense receipts from 2009 Grants are due in CTE office
- September 28 - Discussion: Case-Based Learning: The Decision-Forcing Case - G351
- September 29 - NF Discussion: Student Evaluation & the IDEA: What to Expect, What You Can Learn - G351
- October 6 - NF Discussion: Library and Tour - Wilmot Library
- October 13 - NF Discussion: Explorations on the Teaching Philosophy: Opening Pandora's Box - G351 (All Faculty are Welcome)
- October 15 - NF Discussion: Nuts & Bolts of Advising: Core Curriculum - G21 (All Faculty are Welcome)
- October 16 - Faculty Meeting
- October 20 - NF Discussion: Nuts & Bolts of Advising: Technology and Advising - S243 (All Faculty are Welcome)
- October 22 - Faculty Recognition Luncheon
- October 23 - 2009 Grant Vignettes & Questionnaires are due in CTE office
- October 27 - NF Discussion: Course Portfolio: Drafting Your Teaching Philosophy - G351 (All Faculty are Welcome)
- November 3 - NF Discussion: Writing Center - Student Panel (All Faculty are Welcome)
- November 10 - NF Discussion: Faculty Committees: Rank & Tenure, FEC - G351
- November 13 - Faculty Meeting
- November 17 - NF Discussion: Teaching with Technology
- December 1 - Circle of Chairs
- December 4 - Faculty Meeting
- December 14 - NF Discussion: The Teaching Philosophy: Philosophy into Practice - G351 (All Faculty are Welcome)

UPDATES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Thinking about planning an interdisciplinary group to exchange ideas and brainstorm about a shared problem/issue related to your work as professionals at Nazareth?

Since its inception in Fall 2002, CTE has sponsored and supported a variety of different types of groups whose purpose was to facilitate professional development and learning through small group discussion and dialogue. Some of the discussions were facilitated by me, but others (namely, many of the teaching circles) were not. The response to these various opportunities has generally been quite positive. But feedback from those who have participated also suggests that broadening these discussions (including the teaching circle discussions) to allow for a wider range of topics would afford richer faculty development opportunities for those who participate.

Case in point is the Social Justice Teaching Circle, an ongoing discussion of 5-8 faculty for the past seven years. This group has evolved into a

Would a \$200 budget help foster your interdisciplinary discussions?

dedicated effort to address how to use social theory and social justice theory not just in the classroom, but also to inform cross-discipline work in support of the College's mission. Their ongoing readings and discussions have afforded the participants an unusual and valuable vehicle for a professional conversation related to social justice and social theory. Numerous overarching questions have framed their conversations. And the group recently notes that "their investigation into the influence of social and cultural theory on our teaching and scholarship has been transformative and has facilitated the creation of a learning community."

In response to feedback, the Center has broadened the previously implemented concept of a teaching circle to become simply a faculty learning group. Obviously, faculty learn from one another in many different ways. Learning groups exist in a variety of different forms, all of which have their



Diane M. Enerson

place within a college setting. To be eligible for support from the Center, these faculty learning groups must meet certain guidelines, including being interdisciplinary, having a clear set of goals and questions to use as a starting point, and consisting of five to twelve members. Complete details and application are at: <http://www.naz.edu/dept/cte/index.cfm>

Warmest Regards,

Diane

ABOUT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

- Will be published twice per semester by the Center for Teaching Excellence
- For each issue, you will receive an email announcement with a link (from teachexl@naz.edu)
- Forward updates to Debbie Mathewson at dmathew4@naz.edu
- Available through a link on the CTE website, as well as the Academic Affairs website (on both Faculty & Staff pages)