



Center for Instructional Excellence Spring 2012 College Teaching Workshops

Series II: Expanding Your Teaching Toolkit

Weapons of Mass Instruction: Ways to Perk up Your Students and Make Sure They Remember the Material!

George Hollich
Psychological Sciences

Thursday, January 19
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
STEW 322

What do students remember from our lectures?

According to Jim Nairne, one of George's colleagues in Psychology, students often remember irrelevant details rather than the main points.

One way to get students to remember is to increase the number of stories we tell. Stories are dramatic. They're seductive. They meet our human need for sensory stimulation. People remember things they connect to on an emotional basis.

Why are Mark Twain's and Malcolm Gladwell's books read by so many people?

They use more adjectives in their text than most other authors!

Why do kids get hooked on cartoons?
Drama, stories, and exaggeration!



Is that George Hollich in a pirate outfit? No, he's not advocating wearing costumes in the classroom. He's trying to show that images, language, and stories can be powerful "weapons" to increase our students' understanding, and retention, of material.

According to George, using adjectives in our lectures can increase learning. In this exciting and thought-provoking workshop, he'll discuss how sensory (and emotional) energy in the classroom can help our students understand (and remember) the material.



Special thanks to
Ted Luce,
CIE photographer,
and to
John Underwood,
Ted's photographer!

To register for the workshops, go to www.purdue.edu/cie

Click the "College Teaching Workshops"
links on the left of the page.

Sharing Your Teaching Successes: The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Dale Whittaker
Vice Provost

Thursday, January 26
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
STEW 310

We need to be talking about our teaching. Even if it's at the track!

This will be a motivational workshop to encourage you to write about and publish the innovative things you're doing in the classroom – e.g. your use of technology, unusual or innovative classroom assignments, or unusual or innovative in-class activities.

While sharing his passion for this topic, Vice Provost Dale Whittaker will provide insights on the scholarship of teaching and learning ... and offer some practical advice about how to start writing about your own class.



How Can We Get Our Students to Write?

Josh Boyd
Communication

Wednesday, February 1
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
STEW 310

Texting is writing -- right? That's what some of our students think. AARGH!



Writing is an important part of a student's educational experience. But how do we convince them of that?

Josh Boyd, Murphy Award winner, has agreed to repeat this very successful workshop (that he presented a year ago) where he demonstrates some of the techniques he uses in his large lecture course. And how does he grade massive numbers of assignments? He'll explain ways to do that as well.

Come join us. If we all include writing assignments – even small ones – in our courses we may just be able to raise the level of our students' writing.

Techniques for Giving a Great Seminar!

Paul Robinson
Basic Medical Sciences

Thursday, February 16
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
STEW 310

When it's your turn at the podium to give a conference presentation, how successful will you be?

Very – if you attend this workshop by Paul Robinson, professor of Cytomics and current vice-chair of the University Senate. Paul will explain how to connect with an audience, secrets of a good delivery, how to avoid the most common PowerPoint mistakes, and how to open and close a presentation.

Paul will also demonstrate how to answer challenging questions. He'll invite you to throw questions at him and show you ways to answer the ones you can't – in a professional and positive manner.



Demystifying the New Core Curriculum

Diane Beaudoin
Office of the Provost

David Nelson
Center for Instructional Excellence

Thursday, February 23
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
STEW 202



A new university initiative (driven by the Faculty Senate) states that in 2013, freshmen entering Purdue will be assured of being exposed to 11 core requirements. These requirements include such things as creative thinking, critical thinking, ethics, global awareness, teamwork, information literacy, and communication skills.

The purpose of this workshop is to help you determine which of these requirements are currently a part of your course, and how you can measure the degree to which your students are meeting the course objectives.

This will be a very hands-on work session. We invite you to bring a copy of your course syllabus as a way to begin our discussion.