

THE CTRE NEWSLETTER

August 2009

Upcoming Events

The Center for Teaching and Research Excellence has an extensive list of faculty development opportunities lined up this fall. Look for a calendar of events in campus mail during the first week of classes. Here's something you'll want to put on your calendar now: **CTRE has partnered with the Office of Research Administration to create a series we are calling The Responsible Conduct of Research, which will launch with a lecture entitled, "Research Integrity: What it is and why it matters" on Wednesday, August 26, 2009, at 4:00-6:00pm, in the Marcus Welcome Center.** The presenter, David B. Resnik, JD, PhD, Bioethicist and IRB Chair for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences at the National Institutes of Health, is an internationally noted expert in this area. We are lucky to have him on campus—please help make this event a success by encouraging your colleagues and graduate students to attend. A wine and cheese reception will follow the lecture.

Some Syllabus Suggestions

Many of us will be putting the finishing touches on our syllabi over the coming days. With this in mind, **here are two useful paragraphs you might want to include in your syllabi:**

If you have a physical, psychiatric/emotional, or learning disability that may impact on your ability to carry out assigned course work, I

encourage you to contact the Office of Disability Services (DS). The office is located in Grace Wilkie Annex, room 150, (316) 978-3309 (voice/tty). DS will review your concerns and determine, with you, what academic accommodations are necessary and appropriate for you. All information and documentation of your disability is confidential and will not be released by DS without your written permission.

The WSU Counseling & Testing Center provides professional counseling services to students, faculty and staff; administers tests and offers test preparation workshops; and presents programs on topics promoting personal and professional growth. Services are low cost and confidential. They are located in room 320 of Grace Wilkie Hall, and their phone number is (316) 978-3440. The Counseling & Testing Center is open on all days that the University is officially open. If you have a mental health emergency during the times that the Counseling & Testing Center is not open, please call COMCARE Crisis Services at (316) 660-7500.

WSU's New Grading System

While we are talking about upcoming events and syllabi, let's remember that this fall is the first time WSU will be using the +/- (plus/minus) grading system. **Early in the new semester CTRE and the Registrar's Office will co-host several information sessions about implementing +/- grading: Look for specific dates and times in the CTRE brochure to be published soon.** In the meantime, keep in mind that students are likely to be feeling quite unsure about how this is going to work, and the more information we can give them the better. Below is the correlation between letter grades and grade points in the new system.

The A range denotes excellent performance.

A	4.00
A-	3.70

The B range denotes good performance.

B+	3.30
B	3.00
B-	2.70

The C range denotes satisfactory performance.

C+	2.30
C	2.00
C-	1.70

The D range denotes unsatisfactory performance.

D+	1.30
D	1.00
D-	0.70

F denotes failing performance.

F	0.00
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The new policy does not specify how instructors are to correlate points or percentage grades to the letter grades: This remains the province of individual instructors. **To avoid confusion and possible grade appeals, it is a good idea to include in your syllabus the precise system (down to at least one decimal place) you will use in your class for assigning +/- grades.**

CTRE Office Re-Located

William Vanderburgh is now both Director of CTRE and Interim Director of the Emory Lindquist Honors Program. Patrice McAvoy, CTRE's assistant since 2005, will provide administrative support for both offices. **CTRE has moved out of Jardine Hall and now shares office space with Honors in 115A Neff Hall.** We will be happy to receive your comments and questions either in person, by telephone (978-3209), or via email (either ctre@wichita.edu or honors@wichita.edu).

Honors Course Competition

The Emory Lindquist Honors Program invites proposals for new and innovative Honors courses. The Provost's Taskforce on the Honors Program recommended last year that Honors should refocus itself on **service learning** and **WSU's connections to the city of Wichita**. Also of special interest are courses that deal with local and global environmental issues (whether related to effects on ecosystems, climate systems, or humans; including sociological, cultural, historical, philosophical and other dimensions). Any innovative and interesting course proposal will be seriously considered, whether directly connected to these themes or not. This is an excellent opportunity for faculty who have never before participated in Honors to get involved. A detailed call for proposals will appear soon. For more information, please contact honors@wichita.edu or 978-3375.

NEO 2009

Approximately 50 unclassified professionals and faculty who were hired in the last year will attend the **New Employee Orientation** hosted by CTRE at the Marcus Welcome Center on August 17. When you meet our new colleagues, please make them feel welcome at Wichita State.

CTRE Resources

The Center for Teaching and Research Excellence maintains a library of materials on enhancing college teaching. Those materials are available for free check out to any WSU instructor who is interested. Please see our catalog at www.wichita.edu/ctre and contact ctre@wichita.edu to arrange to pick up the materials you wish to view.

AET Teaching Awards

The Academy for Effective Teaching has been running its Teaching Award competition since 1995. This year will see the introduction of electronic nominations. Students will be invited to submit nominations of their favorite teachers over the internet. As in the past, the AET will invite the top nominees to submit a teaching portfolio, and then will recommend winners to the Provost. The difference is that now all students will be able to participate, not just those who happen to be in the classes visited by AET members, as has been the case until now. The AET Award remains the only student-driven teaching award on campus.

eLEARNING

In June 2009 the Media Resources Center and CTRE partnered to run WSU's first "reBoot Camp" for selected faculty who created online versions of classes they normally teach face-to-face. It was a challenging but enjoyable process, and everyone learned a lot—including the trainers. The reBoot Camp will be offered again in January if there is sufficient interest. **This fall, for five Wednesday afternoons beginning September 16, CTRE will host "Making the Shift From Classroom to Online Course Design: Tips for Implementation and Evaluation," a 5-part web-cast course taught by nationally noted experts. Space is limited: make your reservation at ctre@wichita.edu.**

About The CTRE Newsletter

This is our first issue! Future issues will appear monthly, and will include notices about upcoming faculty development events, summaries of recent events for those who were unable to attend, and teaching tips. If you have anything you would like to ask to be included, please contact ctre@wichita.edu or 978-3209.

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WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

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