



# CTL *notes*

*the Center for Teaching and Learning*

The CTL logo is a mature tree, symbolizing the developed roots and continued growth of Miami University Middletown's excellence in teaching and learning under the canopy of its Center for Teaching and Learning.

## **"Expectations" Keep the Conversation Flowing . . .**

Our second conversation about teaching will be held November 1st from 12-1 in room 120 JHN. In this workshop, we will take the following observations as "given:"

*When most students enter our classrooms, they "expect" that we will tell them what to do, when they need to do it by, and how much of it they need to do in order to get the grade they anticipate.*

*When we enter the classroom, we "expect" (hope?) that students will be willing to think critically, understand contexts, engage with other learners, and both reflect and act.*

Most probably, each side is sorely disappointed. If our students are expecting the "concrete" and we are expecting the "ideals" of education, how can we start our courses off in a way that connects these two visions? Please join us! Lunch will be provided for the first 25 guests.



### Note to Self -



## **A Panoply of Problems and Pizza is Here !**

**Our fall workshop on "Problems" will be presented on Tuesday, November 8, from 12:00-1:00 PM in JHN 120. Marty Petrone and Lizz Howard will lead us in "Facilitating Difficult Situations." As our name implies, pizza will be served!**

## **Schorman and Howard Honored for "Excellence in Teaching"**

The Center for Teaching & Learning is now coordinating the Miami University Middletown Excellence in Teaching Award program. The selection committee for the award is comprised of the three immediate past winners and two members of the Leadership Collaborative of the CTL.

Lizz Howard and Rob Schorman are the dual recipients of this year's Excellence in Teaching Award. In evaluating excellence, the selection committee looks for evidence of teaching that is creative and innovative, engages students with other learners, stimulates students to think critically, promotes understanding of contexts, and inspires and encourages student learning. Lizz

and Rob clearly exceed those standards. Statements summarizing the excellence of their teaching can be found on our website at [www.mid.muohio.edu/ctl](http://www.mid.muohio.edu/ctl)

The awards were announced at the all-faculty meeting here on September 27th, and the awardees will also be honored in November at the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities (GCCCU) Celebration of Teaching awards luncheon. All continuing faculty members who have taught at Miami University Middletown for a minimum of three years are eligible to be nominated for this award, and nominations may come from any member of the campus community.



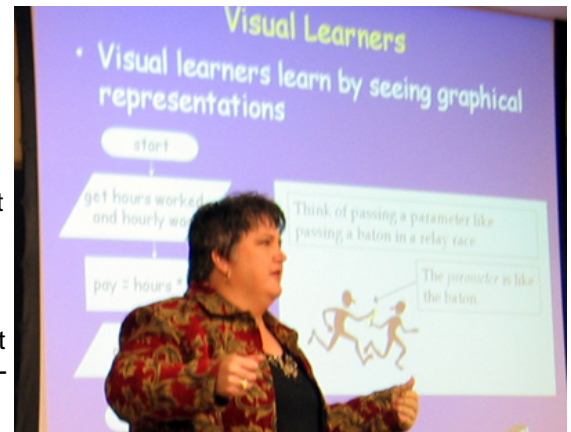
October 2005



# Conversation on Learning Styles a Success

Over 20 faculty and staff gathered for a workshop on learning styles as presented by Lizz Howard and Beth Dietz-Uhler. Lizz and Beth led participants through the V.A.R.K website learning styles survey. After answering a series of questions, the workshop participants discovered the degree to which they were visual, auditory, reading/writing, and kinesthetic learners. Faculty and teaching staff then engaged in conversation about the impact that both their personal learning style and their style of teaching had in a classroom situation where the learning styles of their students might be entirely different.

Responses to the question, "What did you find worthwhile about today's presentation?" included "reinforces my emphasis on multiple intelligences" and "best CTL conversation so far!" To visit the website used in the presentation, go to: [www.vark-learn.com](http://www.vark-learn.com)



## Find It on Our Website . . . Whatever "It" Is

- A growing list of books on teaching and learning at the Gardner-Harvey Library, linked directly to the catalog, including titles on classroom assessment, inquiry and problem-based learning, multiple intelligences, student development, transformative and web-based learning.
- Leadership Collaborative meeting minutes
- Links to other CTL's and CTL program resources
- Funding guidelines for media groups and teaching initiatives
- Links to assessment resources
- Small Group Instructional Diagnostics information
- Past issues of CTL Notes (one so far!)
- And more at [www.mid.muohio.edu/ctl](http://www.mid.muohio.edu/ctl)

## Looking for



### Remember –

Media Group Funding through the CTL is still available for reading/media groups. Funding has recently been approved for a group that will be discussing the book *The Courage to Teach* by Parker Palmer. According to the leader of this media group, Jeff Sommers, "Palmer's book . . . embodies the concept that reflective practice leads to better teaching and learning." Other members of the reading group are Daphne Eldridge, Lizz Howard, Mike Hieber, Darius Prier, and Nancy Ferguson. This group of faculty, staff, and administration reflect the collaborative spirit emphasized in the CTL's mission statement.

Funding may be used for purchasing texts or media object(s) and for refreshments. Do you have a pedagogical text around which you'd like to build a reading group? Check out the Media Group Funding Guidelines on our website: [www.mid.muohio.edu/ctl/funding.cfm](http://www.mid.muohio.edu/ctl/funding.cfm)

## Thanks To . . .

### Mike Williams —

For his design of our CTL masthead

### Ellenmarie Wahrab —

For the writing of our logo

### Carolyn Keiffer —

For her "Excellence in Teaching Award" photograph

### Rob Schorman —

For his "Conversation" photograph

### Lizz Howard —

For her starring role in just about every article in this newsletter . . .

