



CTL *notes*

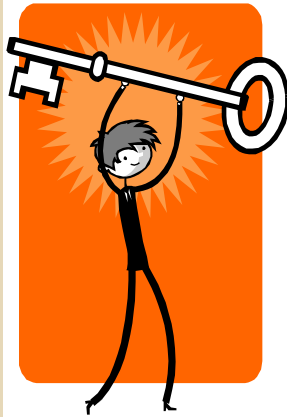
A Monthly Newsletter

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.

Important Dates

- October 10 — Conversation
The Non-Traditional Student and Open Access
 - November 7 — Conversation
Service and Open Access
 - December 7 — Conversation
Disability Studies and Universal Instructional Design
- Conversations are scheduled from 12:00 - 1:00 in 120 Johnston Hall

Access and Empowerment is the Focus of this Year's Discussions



This year, the CTL's Conversations on Teaching series will focus on the theme of "Access and Empowerment." Sessions are designed to help Middletown faculty reflect upon ways their teaching practices coincide with the democratic mission of our open-admissions campus.

Some of the sessions already scheduled focus on stories of non-traditional students and ways we might help ensure their academic success, on issues in online learning and various ways it might facilitate or curtail educational access, on ways teacher's service activities speak to issues of democratic access in their teaching (and vice versa), on elements of developmental education that impact classes across the curriculum, and on Disability Studies and what this field can teach us about making our classes effective for a maximum diversity of learners. At its February Conversation, the CTL will also be hosting President David Hodge, who will be joining a discussion of Derek Bok's *Our Underachieving Colleges*. Facilitators will help participants consider their own teaching and develop new practices in light of broader debates informing notions of open-access education. The Conversation will look at pedagogical, institutional, social, and cultural factors that might aid or impede students' academic success, at ways open-access education might complicate conventional ideas of standards, and at ways teachers design course policies and assignments that specifically address the mission of the regional campus. Lunch to the first 20 attendees.

Wanted: Students

The CTL is looking for students who are interested in joining the Leadership Collaborative.



Contact any member of the CTL for more information.

Reward

Receive Credit for Independent Study

September 2006

Special Roundtable Discussion: "Going the Extra Yard: Faculty and Students Discuss Their Honors Extension Contracts"

Date: Monday, Oct. 30, 12:00 - 1:00 Place: TBA

The Miami Middletown Honors Program now offers students and faculty the opportunity to convert any regular course into an Honors Learning Experience through an Honors Extension Contract. At this session, several Middletown students and faculty report on their ongoing projects (in English, Art, and Zoology) and share their contracts.

New and Improved Ways to Access the CTL

Lizz Howard has established an AOL Instant Messaging account for the CTL. Members of the CTL are now available to be IM'd during staffing hours. Our AIM screen name is [mumctl](#). For further information on how this all works, contact Lizz at howardev@muohio.edu.

Also, our website is continually being maintained. Current happenings and news items can be found at www.mid.muohio.edu/ctl. So add us to your favorites; we are just a click away!

Contact Information for the CTL

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CTL Staffing Hours

This semester the CTL is trying to be accessible to the entire campus community by staffing the center at various times during the week. We encourage anyone who has an interest in discussing their teaching or ways to enhance their course experiences to drop by.

We have tea, coffee and various amenities to take the edge off these chilly fall days!

Beth Dietz-Uhler	Thu 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Lizz Howard	Thu 9:30 - 11:30 am
Kevin Kittredge	Tue 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Rob Schorman	Mon 1:00 - 3:00 pm
John Tassoni	Tue 10:00 - 11:00 am & Thu 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Alana Van Gundy-Yoder	Tue 11:00 am - noon
Ellenmarie Wahlrab	Wed 10:30 am - 1:00 pm & Wed 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Remember

— we still have funds available for media groups and teaching initiatives.

— we welcome fresh voices and ideas. If you have any suggestions, please contact one of your CTL LC members.



What is a “SGID”?



Do you want to find out how your students are experiencing your class? The CTL's Small Group Instructional Diagnosis (SGID) program can help.

Any MUM instructor can request a SGID to be scheduled during a class meeting. Last year facilitators conducted more than 60 SGIDs at MUM. Faculty find they can use SGID feedback to fine-tune their teaching and better address their students' learning needs. Chris Metcalf (ACC) was a first-time SGID user last year. He reported that the process “provided me with very valuable feedback on how my students viewed those courses.”

SGIDs take 20 - 30 minutes of a class period. During this time a SGID facilitator (one of your colleagues who has been trained in SGID facilitation) comes into your class to meet with your students without your being present. Students respond to the following questions: *In what ways has the instruction/instructor helped you learn in this course? Can you suggest some changes in the instruction/course that would better help you learn?* The facilitator captures students' responses in a written report sent to the instructor and is also available to discuss the results. Chris noted that he “appreciated the opportunity to explore that feedback with the [SGID facilitator]. All of that gave me the data I needed to make certain value-added, mid-course adjustments.”

Marianne Cotugno (ENG) also likes the fact that the timing of the SGIDs “allows for adjustments during the term” and “facilitate[s] a dialogue between teacher and student.” When Marianne interviewed for her position at MUM, she heard several people speak highly of SGIDs and their effectiveness in the classroom.” Now in her second year here, she is requesting SGIDs for all of her classes, and she has approached the CTL LC for support in convening a campus-wide discussion on the “post-SGID classroom.” Details on this upcoming CTL “special” led by Marianne will be posted soon in the Notes and on the CTL website.

Lizz Howard (CIT) first started using SGIDs in 2002. She's had a total of 12 SGIDs administered since then and commented that instructors can use the information they provide according to their own judgment. She recalled a session where “Some of the suggestions were excellent ideas and I implemented them immediately. Some of the suggestions were simply “pie in the sky” and my students didn't really expect me to implement but they thought that they'd ask, just in case. Having a good sense of humor when you discuss the suggestions with your students helps tremendously.”

For more information or to schedule a SGID, call the CTL at 7-3464 or email us at mumctl@muohio.edu. You can find more information on the SGID process under Services on the CTL website: <http://www.mid.muohio.edu/ctl/SGID.cfm>.