



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.

Volume 4, Issue 4

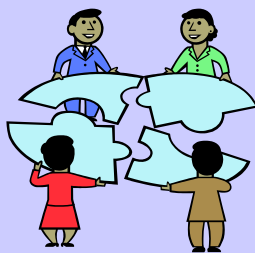
FEBRUARY

2007

It may be cold and dreary outside, but exciting things are happening in the CTL that are keeping us quite busy with no time for winter weariness! In keeping with the spirit of Mardi Gras, we invite you to partake in the parade of festivities that we have planned for February. We have several stimulating CTL Specials planned for the month in addition to our Conversation on **February 5**. The CTL is also publishing an annual, peer-edited journal in addition to hosting the 2009 AURCO Conference on the Middletown Campus. So, if you or your teaching need to be re-energized consider joining us for any or all of our parade of events!



The CTL *Conversations on Teaching* presents



CONVERSATIONS ON CONNECTIVITY: EXPERIENCES, EDUCATION, AND EQUITY—A DISCUSSION ON THE STRUGGLING STUDENT with LeAlan Jones

LeAlan Jones is co-author of *Our America: Life and Death on the Southside of Chicago*, a book that grew out of a radio documentary he began as part of an NPR radio documentary when he was 13 years old. Today, at age 26, he is working as a freelance journalist, lecturer and community advocate on behalf of disenfranchised people. Co-sponsored by MUM Office of Student Affairs. **Noon—1:00 p.m. in Room 136 –137 JHN (Community Center).**

Free lunch for the first 20 participants.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION FOR 2009 AURCO CONFERENCE

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

FEBRUARY 5



Immediately following the *Conversation* with LeAlan Jones please stay for **Mardi Gras cake and prizes** as we have an initial planning session for the Association of Universities and Regional Campuses of Ohio (AURCO) Conference that will be hosted by Miami University Middletown in April 2009. The Association of University Regional Campuses of Ohio (AURCO) was founded in 1993 and is an organization that is devoted to the professional development of faculty throughout Ohio's regional campuses. As an historical note, our own Marty Petrone was the first President of AURCO.

We value, encourage and desire your thoughts and input for the theme /title, program tracks, and potential keynote speaker during this initial planning event. The session is from 1:00—2:15 in Room 136-137 Johnston (Community Center). **If you can't join us, please forward your ideas to any CTL LC member or send us a message at mumctl@muohio.edu**



CTL EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

5 CTL CONVERSATION

“Experiences, Education and Equity-A Discussion on the Struggling Student” with LeAlan Jones 12:00-1:00

AURCO Brainstorming Session
1:00 - 2:15

7 CTL SPECIAL

The “New” Miami Plan with Liberal Education Council Representatives
12:00 - 1:00

19 CTL SPECIAL

“Connecting with Students of Color” with guest Dr. Pamela Safisha Nzingha Hill 12:00-1:00

29 Excellence in Teaching Award nominations are due

All CTL events are scheduled in Room 136/137 JHN



CTL SEEKS MANAGING EDITOR OF NEW JOURNAL

Miami University Middletown’s CTL is proud to announce it has issued its first “Call for Papers” for the *Journal for Centers of Teaching and Learning (JCTL)*, an annual, peer-reviewed journal we will co-produce with the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching. *JCTL* will provide a space for those involved with teaching and learning centers across post-secondary institutions to share ideas about ways their organizations encourage innovations in pedagogy.

Among other focuses, articles included in *JCTL* will highlight, analyze, and document the role of CTLs in fostering enhanced student learning, theorize ways CTLs might help faculty develop scholarly intersections amongst their teaching, research, and service agendas, and discuss creative ways of conducting the “everyday” business of CTLs—

awarding faculty prizes, disseminating grant monies, selecting directors, involving students, maintaining a website, publishing newsletters, and developing and advertising events.

To aid with this venture, the CTL-LC is currently seeking a faculty or staff member to serve as the journal’s managing editor, a post that could be of interest to anyone interested in expanding their service agenda to include the profession. The managing editor will answer inquiries about the journal, help set up a system for the review of submissions, and oversee copy editing and preparation of manuscript files for publication. Anyone interested in this position or in viewing the journal’s full call for papers should contact the CTL-LC in Room 11 Johnston or by e-mail at mumctl@muohio.edu.



KATE’S KORNER



Hello all! My name is Kate Duskey and I am the student assistant of the CTL LC. My hopes for this column are to enlighten Miami’s faculty with more student perspective. Being a student myself, I have the opportunity to talk one-on-one with many other students quite openly. The opinions I am representing are mine and fellow classmates’, including new students.

An ongoing issue that has been floating around campus is Blackboard. The two main problems students are encountering with it are lack of student knowledge and lack of faculty organization. Imagine, for a moment, that you are a new student sitting in class and the professor says “Assignments, announcements, lecture notes...are on Blackboard.” Most of the new students are feeling uneasy and overwhelmed at this point. This is very intimidating to them, especially after pulling up the website without a clue as to how to navigate it. Most professors do not include this in their class lessons and can come

across as if they just assume the student knows how to navigate the site.

As for the not-so-new student, the biggest complain I hear (in a nutshell) is lack of organization. Also, I have noticed this is used as an excuse when a student simply doesn’t want to search for something. My peers think a helpful thing to do is tidy up your Blackboard site and tabs. Maybe you won’t even hear this again: “I didn’t do it because I can’t find it”. As far as new students and Blackboard go, the suggestion is to just take 15 minutes on the first day of class and simply run them through it on your computer. A former professor of mine gave an online survey on Blackboard to familiarize the students with it, which is when I learned how to use it.

I hope this student’s perspective has been insightful to you. If you have any suggestions or comments feel free to e-mail me at hesskl@muohio.edu.