



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.

Spring Happenings at the CTL

Wednesday February, 17

“Welcoming Chinese Undergraduates to our Campuses”

12-1 PM in JHN 136/137

Lunch will be provided to the first twenty attendees.

Tuesday, March 2

Digital Dialogue: Social Networking Tools

12:30-1:30 in JHN 136/137

Lunch will be provided to the first twenty attendees.

Tuesday, March 16

Digital Dialogue: Technology Skills Assessment at MUM

12:30-1:30 in JHN 136/137

Lunch will be provided to the first twenty attendees



Monday, March 23

Seeing and Teaching Non-Traditional Students from a Life Course Perspective

12-1 PM

Location: TBA

Lunch will be provided to the first twenty attendees.



Monday, March 29

Short-Term Service Learning: Just 2 Hours CAN Make a Difference

11-12 PM in JHN 136/137

Lunch will be provided to the first twenty attendees

Wednesday, April 7

Teaching Controversial Subject Matter

12-1 PM

Location: TBA

Lunch will be provided to the first twenty attendees

Tuesday, April 20

Creating a Bridge for GED Students to Enter Post-Secondary Education
11-12 PM

Location: TBA

Lunch will be provided to the first twenty attendees.

CTL February Events

February 17th Event

“Welcoming Chinese Undergraduates to our Campuses.” Wenxi Liu addresses the question: how can we assist the Chinese students now studying with us in succeeding at the regional campuses? He will identify some areas in which the students are confronting a new academic culture (liberal arts courses, academic freedom, individualism) as well as interacting with a new culture. Strategies will be offered for helping these students as we get to know them better. Bring your questions and thoughts to discuss. We are grateful to have this event co-sponsored by the Diversity Council. Lunch will be provided for the first 20 participants.



March 16th Event

A very exciting series from 2007-2008, created by Andrea Han (ETC), is back with new topics for 2010. The first Digital Dialogue, on January 21, debuted the Prezi presentation tool. The next dialogue will be on February 25, from 12:30-1:30, and will address “Technology Skills Assessment at MUM.” Ellenmarie Wahlrab (ENG/CTL), Andrea Han, and John Burke (Library) have once again surveyed Middletown students on their technology fluency in Fall 2009. They will address what students reveal about their technology skills, the tasks their faculty members expect them to use technology for on assignments, and their understanding of technology use at the University. The group will also share a separate survey of faculty members’ skills and expectations related to technology. Come learn what the surveys revealed, and help the group analyze what can be done with the results to close technology gaps and extend excellent applications of technology in teaching. Lunch will be provided for the first 20 participants.



Part Time PEP Members

Miami University has long been known for its teaching expertise. Part-time faculty, the so-called “Phantom Force,” are an essential component in upholding this stellar teaching reputation. “Phantom Force,” a term lovingly coined by a part-time faculty member, reflects a unique role and a unique challenge. Part-timers are a force because they teach about 20% of the undergrad courses at Miami, and they fit the phantom metaphor because they often teach at odd hours and are less visible in the mainstream of campus activities. A recent survey shows that part-timers often feel somewhat isolated and frequently are unaware of how to continue their professional development. The Part-time Educator’s Program (PEP) is an answer to the unique needs of part timers. It is a great opportunity to associate with colleagues, stay up to date on the latest pedagogical trends and technologies, often get a free meal, and collect a handy stipend to boot. The PEP offers the opportunity to hone teaching skills and be compensated while doing it - truly, a great “learn and earn” deal.

Thanks to the Center for the Enhancement of Learning, Teaching, and University Assessment (CELTUA), part-time faculty are able to earn up to \$300 in an academic year by signing up for the PEP. Members can earn up to one half of the \$300 limit in just one day by attending six sessions of the annual Lilly Conference in Oxford, where registration is free for PEP faculty. This opportunity is open to anyone teaching part-time at Miami, including full time university staff with part-time teaching responsibilities. Once a PEP Account is established with CELTUA, \$25 is added to the account each time a part-timer attends a workshop sponsored by CELTUA, the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) on the Middletown campus, or any other pedagogically oriented event. In the latter case, contact info is required for verification purposes.

The PEP account can be tapped at any time before the first of June. Fund balances unused by the first of June are forfeited unless there is prior approval for eligible travel during the summer. Funds can be applied to travel for out-of-town academic functions or to purchase any teaching-related materials. Since the funds are used in connection with teaching, they are independent of salary, and are tax-free. Popular items that have been purchased by faculty through this program include digital cameras, iPods, ink and photographic paper for printers, specialized software, and a variety of other teaching-related materials. Some faculty have combined their PEP stipend with funds from other sources for travel to conventions and meetings in their disciplines.

Kent Bradshaw, a vocal part-time faculty advocate who teaches part time at Oxford, Middletown and VOALC, agrees that the payoff from PEP is multi-faceted. From participating in various PEP-qualifying programs, he has purchased over a dozen different items ranging from an analog-to-digital converter for VHS tapes to various exotic teaching and planning software. He notes that the mixture of teaching tips and collegiality gained from attending the various PEP functions has been the biggest payoff of all, helping him to polish his skills and to feel more a part of the academic community.

To take advantage of this great PEP deal, contact Alicia Miller (513-529-9266 ext 4 or mille226@muohio.edu) to enroll and to get ongoing information about account status.

For any additional information related to part-time faculty issues, contact Kent Bradshaw (513-423-4979 or bradshk@muohio.edu)

MUM Speaks

In this new column we will be asking a few members of the Miami Middletown community for their thoughts on a certain subject. For this month's subject we asked faculty,

“What are your expectations or hopes for your students this semester?”

Marianne Cotugno

“My biggest hope is that by semester's end students discover they are capable of achieving more than they imagined they could at semester's beginning.”



**Ginger
Wickline**

That my students will get involved with our Chinese exchange students and events we are planning for individuals with disabilities



That they and I will try new things, even if it makes us a little uncomfortable, for that is how we grow

That students will ask questions when they need more information (sometimes what is clear to me doesn't come across as clear to them - but I don't know unless they tell me)

Jackie's Corner

Welcome back to a brand new semester at MUM! Hopefully everyone is off to a great start, and beginning to get back into the swing of school life. I am enjoying all of my classes this semester, and my professors aren't too shabby either! I am here to become a kindergarten teacher—and I am reminded of the book, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* by Robert Fulghum. Here is an excerpt from the book:

“All I really need to know I learned in kindergarten. All I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate-school mountain, but there in the sand pile at Sunday School. These are the things I learned:

Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life—learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work everyday some. Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: the roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup—they all die. So do we. And then remember the Dick and Jane books and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all—LOOK. Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and equality and sane living. Take any of those items and extrapolate it into your sophisticated adult terms and apply it to your family life or your work or your government or your world and it holds true and clear and firm. Think what a better world it would be if all—the whole world—had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankies for a nap [...] And it is still true, no matter how old you are—when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.” —Robert Fulgham

After reading this I got to thinking... “What do people really learn in college?” So, I decided to ask some MUM students what they have really learned in college, this is what they had to say.

A structured schedule is the best way to live. Responsibility. Discipline. Never lose your syllabus—it's like a god. How to balance my time between work, school, and a social life. College = no money. How to speak a foreign language. Get everything in writing from your advisor. Things happen when you least expect them (and when you are the least prepared)...like pop quizzes or the love of your life who you'll end up marrying one day. Everything I have learned in college has further developed the skills I learned in high school.

These are just some of the things that Middletown students have learned in college. Maybe they haven't retained knowledge about biology, math or English—but students are learning through their interactions— with professors and peers. Don't disregard the lessons learned in kindergarten, we all need to remember how to share, and be nice to one another. Also, bring a little play and fun back into your classroom! Learning was fun in kindergarten, it can be fun in college too!

CTL Office Hours, Explained

The CTL Leadership Collaborative has been asked about the purpose of our “office hours,” as outlined in the chart below. The members of the Collaborative hold at least two hours of CTL office time during the week, and during those two hours, we often work on CTL-related projects. However, we also hold these hours because we want the CTL office space to be a place where faculty, staff, or students can stop by and discuss issues related to teaching and learning. The space, then, can serve as a resource for the MUM community; we have a small library of texts related to teaching and learning, and we also have handouts available from CTL events and initiatives.

CTL Spring Staffing Hours

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-10			Sue	Ellenmarie	
10-11	Brad	Eric	Sue/Jackie		
11-12					
12-1	Jackie		Jackie		
1-2	LC Meeting	John/Jackie			
2-3				Lizz	
3-4	Maira/Jackie	John/Jackie/		Lizz/Jackie	
4-5		Angela/Jackie			
5-6					Jackie
6-7	Jackie	Jackie			