

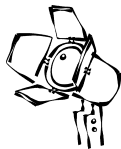
FACULTY FOCUS

CENTER FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

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A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Sending you new year's wishes in mid-January seems odd since we are already knee-deep into the first semester of 2008. However, I do hope you all are having a positive start to the semester and that classes are progressing smoothly. As always, please let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Welcome back and good teaching,

Sara

NEW!! E-Checkout

Starting next week, you will be able to check out books from the CFD library by email! Here's how:

1. By the end of next week, you will see a list of all CFD library holdings on the website, www.cofc.edu/~cfd. We have lots of new titles!
2. If you see a book you wish to read, just email me with CHECKOUT in the subject line so I will be sure to see it. Give me the name of the book, and I will send it to you by campus mail. Be sure your email has a signature or your location.
3. Each book may be checked out for one month from the date I send it to you. There will be a sticky on the book to remind you.
4. To return your book, simply drop it in an inter office mail envelope and return it to Sara Davis, EHHP, 86 Wentworth.
5. I will send you a friendly e-reminder if your book becomes overdue.
6. The only reason for a checkout limit is that, in most cases, we have only one copy of a book, and others may wish to borrow it, as well.
7. The library is located in Room 206, 86 Wentworth Street. If you'd like to come by, I am here most days. Just give me a ring or email to be sure I'll be here.

FREE Teaching Webinars

Webinars are great for small groups and departments to learn together. CFD is footing the bill, so if you have a group of 5 or more faculty members who would be interested in one of these presentations, please contact me so that we can arrange a time and location. In order to view the entire list, go to www.magnapubs.com; click on *online seminars* above the title on the main page. Note that seminars from last year are available, as well.

CONFIDENTIAL Teaching Consultations

- Concerned about student course evaluation results?
- Need a classroom observation and letter for your evaluation packet?
- Want to work on a particular aspect of your teaching?
- Need some ideas to enliven your class?
- Want to use PowerPoint effectively in your classroom?
- Having trouble with classroom management?
- Need some strategies to break up your lectures?
- Need someone to observe your teaching by criteria you set?

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, please feel free to contact me. Teaching consultations are completely confidential; the Center keeps no records of this service. However, should you request that a copy of your teaching observation be sent to your chair, or you'd like documentation for your evaluation packet, those options are available to you as well.

NEW!! Faculty Conversations

This semester, we will be holding monthly Faculty Conversations on Thursday afternoons, mostly. You will receive announcements about the topic, date, and time prior to each session. Conversations to look forward to:

February 21 @ 3: Breaking into Free-Lance Writing: Ever read an article in a magazine and thought to yourself that you would like to write articles? Ever read what you thought was a misstatement or a blatant error and thought about writing an article that was based on facts? Ever wanted to make some money on the side? Or just wanted to contribute in another way to educate the masses? Welcome to the world of free lance writing. In this session we will discuss ways to break into free lance writing, what magazines look for, what editors are looking for, the positives and negatives of free lance work, and what free lance writers can actually earn. **Dr. Tim Scheett, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance, has been working as a free-lance writer for several of the leading fitness magazines for the past four years and will lead this session.**

March 20 @ 2:30: Grant Writing and Budgeting with the ORGA staff.

TBA: A conversation about teaching with Devon Hanahan and Martin Jones, who were honored by students as exceptional college professors.

The first of our Faculty Conversations will be held next week, **Thursday, January 24 at 3 in the Dean's Suite at 86 Wentworth. Bill Manaris will be our host, leading us in a discussion on *Enhancing Student Classroom Experiences and Academic Preparation through Computing*.** You will receive another reminder early next week. Seating will be limited, so please email me (daviss@cofc.edu) to reserve your spot.

Last year, Bill organized a group of faculty members for a hugely successful workshop in which presenters demonstrated how they used computing to enhance instruction and learning in their various courses. Bill has detailed some background information below to introduce you to the conversation topic on Thursday. Don't miss this one.

Enhancing Student Classroom Experiences and Academic Preparation through Computing

According to the CofC mission statement, our students are encouraged to "engage in original inquiry and creative expression", so that they may "realize their intellectual and personal potential and become responsible, productive members of society." [1]

Within the last two decades, computing has entered the heart of our technological society - our civilization runs on software. This can only increase in the future. We encounter computing in many everyday activities, which a couple of decades ago were unthinkable to the average person, including word-processing (e.g., spellcheckers and PDF), connecting with others (e.g., email and Twitter), gaming, etc. We also encounter it in many everyday objects we interact with, such as iPods, cellphones, televisions, automobiles, and of course, personal computers.

However, the most empowering and perhaps least appreciated application of computing is that it may be used to create dynamic models from any domain of discourse: computers can store and manipulate massive amounts of information (e.g., music, images, geographical data, historical facts, etc.); and they can serve as cognitive prostheses, similar to simple calculators, but in a more general and enabling way. This is because, unlike simple calculators, computers can be programmed to model almost any process imaginable.

It has been speculated that, if Leonardo da Vinci lived today, he would use computing as his medium for creative expression and exploration. Perhaps this is an overstatement. Nevertheless, it is clear to most that computational (algorithmic) thinking is becoming more and more a requirement for the everyday person, perhaps like algebra a century or so ago. [2]

This realization has led to the development of a new genre of computer tools, such as Scratch (<http://scratch.mit.edu>). Scratch is a new visual programming language targeted to ages 8 and up for creating interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art. "Scratch is designed with learning and education in mind. As young people create projects in Scratch, they learn many of the 21st century skills that will be critical to success in the future: thinking creatively, communicating clearly, analyzing systematically, using technologies fluently, collaborating effectively, designing iteratively, learning continuously. Scratch can be used in many different settings: schools, museums, community centers, and homes. It is intended especially for 8- to 16-year-olds, but younger children can work on Scratch projects with their parents or older siblings, and college students use Scratch in some introductory computer science classes." [3]

This session will provide a forum to identify and discuss important questions on how computing may be incorporated into the educational experiences of our students, including:

- * How can we enhance student classroom experiences using computers?
- * How can we best empower our students to engage in original inquiry and creative expression in today's technological society?
- * What is the place of algorithmic thinking in liberal arts and sciences curricula?

References

1. C of C Mission Statement, accessed Jan. 8, 2008 (<http://www.cofc.edu/about/mission.html>).
2. Chazelle, B. "The Algorithm: Idiom of Modern Science", (<http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~chazelle/pubs/algorithm.html>).
3. Lifelong Kindergarten Group @ MIT Media Lab, "Scratch - Imagine, Program Share", accessed Jan. 8, 2008 (<http://scratch.mit.edu/pages/educators>).

E-TIPS: Tuesday Tech Tips and Friday Focus on Teaching

Each week this semester, you will continue to receive e-tips about technology and teaching. Please let me know if you have anything you'd like to share, such as additional information on these topics. Also, if you'd like to suggest a topic, please contact me. You are welcome to share any of this information with your students.

By the end of next week, all past e-tips will be posted on www.cofc.edu/~cfid.

FREE Teaching Journals: *The Teaching Professor* and *Academic Leader*

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who is missing out on all the great teaching information by not accessing your **free monthly subscriptions to *Teaching Professor* and *Academic Leader***?

It is just too easy! Simply go to www.magnapubs.com. On the left side in the *Newsletters* menu, click on the name of one of the two newsletters above. Your subscription is verified through IP authentication, so you must access newsletters from a campus computer. Please email daviss@cofc.edu for assistance.



What's the spring deadline?

Noon, March 31, 2008

What's required for my proposal to be reviewed?

- The proposal must be received on time
- The proposal must be complete
- Two (2) signed copies must be included (don't forget your dean's signature)
- Proposal must meet funding guidelines below

Where can I find a copy of the application form?

The grant application form can be found at www.cofc.edu/~cfid.

Where do I send the two completed and signed forms?

Sara Davis, 86 Wentworth

What activities are funded?

Activities that are typically funded are research or scholarly activities directly related to college teaching. Faculty members often use these grants for travel to present research at teaching conferences in their disciplines. Several faculty members have supported on-campus conferences on discipline-related teaching.

What activities are not funded?

Examples of non-funded activities are research in the discipline that is not tied to teaching, student or clerical support salaries, equipment or hardware purchases, materials to maintain or expand departmental collections, program expenses which are ordinarily departmental responsibilities, courses for an academic degree program, or requests for less than \$50.

What are my responsibilities as a grant recipient?

Your obligation to CFD as a grantee is either **reporting on your grant activities** or **serving as a presenter at a CFD workshop**. If you have not submitted a report and would like to participate in a workshop, please contact me.

CONGRATULATIONS to Fall Grant Recipients and Teaching Professor Conference Winner

Morgan Koerner, a new Assistant Professor in German this year, has been awarded conference fees for The Teaching Professor Conference in May, held this year in Kissimmee, Florida. All new faculty present at the August New Faculty Orientation put their name in “the hat” to win this conference. Each time one of these new faculty participated in a CFD workshop, their name was entered again. Morgan participated in nearly all the faculty workshops this fall, and his name was drawn as this year’s winner. Congratulations, Morgan.

Please offer your congratulations to the following fall **CFD Grant Recipients**.

- **Chris Warnick, English**, conference presentation
- **Mikhail Agrest, Physics**, conference presentation
- **Mary Blake Jones, Education**, conference presentation
- **Marian Mazzone, Art History** and **Jim Bowring, Computing**, conference at C of C
- **Chris Starr, Computing**, conference

THE CENTER FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

IS COMMITTED TO SERVING INDIVIDUAL, DEPARTMENTAL, SCHOOL, AND WHOLE FACULTY NEEDS THROUGH TRAINING, INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT, FACULTY GRANTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER SERVICES. WE COLLABORATE WITH OTHER CAMPUS OFFICES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO BETTER COORDINATE SUPPORT FOR YOU, THE FACULTY. WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK AND REQUESTS FOR TRAINING AND SEMINARS.