

# Center for Teaching Excellence

*This is the first of a series of newsletters encouraging faculty enrichment and excellence in teaching by announcing opportunities, sharing ideas, and promoting collaboration.*

## **THANKS TO JUNE PALACIO!**

**First and foremost, I want to offer a heart-felt tribute and express a deep debt of gratitude to my predecessor, June Payne Palacio, who established the Center for Teaching Excellence. She is responsible for all that the Center for Teaching Excellence has accomplished and all that it represents—including the website and the mentoring programs. I cannot begin to thank her enough for the incredible legacy which she has left for me and all of the Seaver faculty. Dr. Palacio holds the Flora L. Thornton Chair in Nutritional Science and is enjoying a reduced teaching load this semester. June, we thank you for your dedication, hard work, teaching tips, and other wonderful and helpful ideas!**

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## **Welcome to the new tenure-track faculty and thanks to their mentors!**

Jonathan Burke	Business	Frank Novak	Humanities
Andrei Duta	Business	Don Marshall	Humanities
Vassilis Polimenis	Business	Chris Soper	Social Science
Keli Finnerty	Communication	Susan Helm	Natural Science
Sarah Stone Watt	Communication	Marilyn Misch	Business
Valerie Terry	Communication	Darlene Rivas	Humanities
Caleb Clanton	Humanities	Kevin Iga	Natural Science
John Struloeff	Humanities	Tim Willis	Religion
Chris Doran	Religion	Jeff Banks	Humanities
Dyron Daugherty	Religion	Andy Yuengert	Social Science
Kindalee DeLong	Religion	Julianne Smith	Humanities
Ted Gardner	Social Science	Gary Selby	Communication

## **Welcome to the new visiting faculty!**

Samantha Barrientos	Communication
Kristine Clancy	Communication
Kristen Reid	Communication
Bryan Humphrey	Fine Arts
Bill Szobody	Fine Arts
Benoit Beauchamp	Fine Arts
Damian Jenkins	Teacher Education
John Peterson	Humanities
Christie Culp	International Studies and Languages
Tiffany Powell	International Studies and Languages
Jordan Smith	International Studies and Languages
Cheryl Peterson	Natural Science
Rie Susaki	Natural Science
Raymond Carr	Religion
Davis Brimberg	Social Science

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**A Teaching Tip from Brad Griffin, Fine Arts: A Book to Buy and an Exercise to Try**

Brad wrote:

“While attending The Teaching Professor conference last May, I realized that nearly every presenter made reference to a book by Thomas Angelo and Patricia Cross entitled *Classroom Assessment Techniques: A Handbook for College Teachers*. So I decided to take the hint, and I purchased a copy of the book (ISBN 1-55542-500-3). As promised, the book provides fifty doable, easy-to-apply exercises that can facilitate student learning. In addition, it provides an in-depth explanation of each exercise, an estimate of the time required to prepare, implement, and assess the exercise, and multiple examples of how each exercise has been successfully adapted to meet the demands of courses in a range of disciplines.

Of all the techniques presented in the Angelo and Cross text, presenters at the conference consistently praised the “muddiest point” exercise for its ease of use and effectiveness. In less than 2 minutes at the end of a class session, you can ask your students to reflect on the following question: “What was the muddiest point in today’s \_\_\_\_\_ (class, discussion, lecture, etc.)?” The students’ responses are brief, but informative, and you can use their feedback to shape your preparation for the next class session.”

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**Payson Library Collection of Books and Videos**

The Angelo and Cross book which Brad Griffin recommends, *Classroom Assessment Techniques*, is available along with other excellent resources in Payson. A list of these materials is on the Center for Teaching Excellence website <http://seaver.pepperdine.edu/cte/>. To look at these materials and borrow them from the library, ask for the librarian Sally Bryant at the circulation desk; she will help you.

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**Future Opportunities to Attend Teaching Conferences**

(Funding may be provided **for you** by The Center for Teaching Excellence; let me know if you are interested in attending either of these or some other conference related to teaching.)

**The Teaching Professor conference Brad attended last May will be held May 16-18, 2008, in Kissimmee, Florida: Go to <http://www.magnapubs.com>. Click on Conferences at the top of the page and then on The Teaching Professor. At this website you may also sign up for a free newsletter about teaching called *Faculty Focus*.**

**A Lilly Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning will be held March 20-21, 2008, at Cal Poly, Pomona, California. Go to the website <http://www.iats.com> or Google Lilly Conferences 2008.**

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**Websites with Announcements for Upcoming Conferences and Other Valuable Information**

American Association of University Professors: <http://www.aaup.org>.

Association of American Colleges and Universities: <http://www.aacu.org>.

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### **For Future Newsletters**

- ❖ **Share teaching tips and ideas that work; challenging moments/classes/students and ideas that do not work; questions, or helpful resources. I will share your emails in the newsletter. Let me know if you do not want me to mention your name.**
  
- ❖ **Let's feel free to discuss challenges/difficulties/problems as well as successes/solutions/answers!**
  
- ❖ **I am also anxious to have suggestions from each of you.**

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