

ON TEACHING

Office of Instructional Development

Writing Across the Curriculum

Volume 17, Number 1

www.und.nodak.edu/dept/oid

Fall 2007



A Note from the Director of OID, Anne Kelsch

At the Office of Instructional Development, our job is to support your teaching-related efforts and to encourage a campus culture that values and rewards teaching. We do that in a number of different ways with the intent of addressing the interests and needs of faculty from all disciplines and career stages. In the process we also hope to give faculty the opportunity to network with one another in meaningful ways and to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue.

We believe that one of the best things we can do in support of teaching is to foster cross campus conversations about our classrooms and student learning, and so we sponsor university wide events devoted to those subjects. For faculty new to UND, the **Alice T. Clark Scholars Mentoring Program** incorporates discussions on teaching into broader issues of professional development. Through **Box Lunch Discussions**, OID organizes informal (and free!) lunches centered on cross disciplinary teaching-related topics. **Faculty Study Seminars (FSS)** are short-term study groups for those who share an interest in a particular issue or approach related to teaching and **Summer Teaching Workshops** serve both new and mid-career faculty who want to focus on course development. You'll find this semester's box lunch schedule and FSS books detailed in this edition of *On Teaching* and we hope you'll contact us with any ideas you have for future semesters. We know your time is limited, but conversations about teaching can be some of the most rewarding and energizing experiences of faculty life, so we hope you'll join us.

We also have resources on teaching for you to consult. The **Teaching Resources Library**—composed of books

and journals available for check out—is located in our office (Twamley 409) and is listed by topic on the OID website. Our site also has good solid information to help with the effective evaluation of your teaching and documentation of student learning. The **Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)** office in Merifield 12 houses additional resources focused specifically on effectively integrating writing into courses in all disciplines, and extended **WAC Workshops** in support of that goal are offered regularly in the summer. Another important resource in support of effective teaching is the **Small Group Instructional Diagnosis (SGID)** process. This is a voluntary and confidential way to get supportive (rather than evaluative) and useful midterm feedback from students, facilitated by a trained faculty colleague. And as Director, I am available for **individual consultation** with faculty members who want to discuss their teaching. Just call and we'll schedule a time to meet.

OID offers funds to those engaged in innovative and thoughtful approaches to pedagogy, too. The Faculty Instructional Development Committee (FIDC) reviews applications for **Faculty Instructional Development Grants**, which are due at the first of each month. Funding is offered to assist travel to attend or present at conferences on teaching (for example the Collaboration on Higher Education Conference which you'll find announced in this issue) or the purchase of teaching-related materials, such as books, software or minor equipment. **Flexible Grants** support projects aimed at creating or enhancing learning opportunities for students. These funds may be used for group meeting or retreat expenses, outside speaker/consultant fees, (cont. on page 2)

Welcome back!

Save the date: The General Education Transition Summit takes place on October 19th (see insert for details)

Inside This Issue:

Faculty Study Seminars	3
Collaboration Conferences	3
<i>On Teaching</i> Box Lunch Discussion Series	4
A Word on Assessment	<i>see insert</i>

A Note from the Director (cont. from page 1)

and a variety of programs and events that span whole departments, colleges, or the entire university community. **Developmental Leave Supplements** give financial support to faculty who plan to spend all or part of their developmental leave working on teaching-related projects. **Summer Instructional Development Professorships** provide summer stipends to support innovative course and curriculum development.

In all the work we do at OID—from overseeing the **Outstanding Faculty Awards** which recognize excellence among individuals and departments in their teaching, scholarly activity and service to conducting **Faculty Writing Seminars** that provide peer feedback in a supportive, collegial setting—we strive to support faculty in their professional endeavors. For more information on each of these programs check the OID website or stop by our office (Twamley 409). We'd love to visit with you and answer any questions you have. And six times a year OID and Writing Across the Curriculum will co-publish the **On Teaching Newsletter** in which you'll find details and deadlines for all these programs, as well as articles and essays by UND faculty, and information on events and conferences of interest.

About the OID Director:

Anne Kelsch began as Director of Instructional Development this fall. She is an Associate Professor of History and has been teaching at UND since 1994. She earned her PhD in European History from Texas A&M University in 1993 and her historical research focuses on social and gender identity in 19th and 20th century Britain. Anne also has a research interest in pedagogy and has presented at national and international conferences on student learning. Anne has received UND President's Advisory Council on Women's Outstanding Service Award (1996) and the Editor's Choice Award from the State Historical Society of North Dakota (2005). In 2007 she was named the College of Arts and Sciences Teacher of the Year. She is a board member of the North Dakota Humanities Council. Anne's husband Steve is an Associate Professor of Biology and they have a ten year old daughter, Sarah.

Writing Center Hours:

Monday-Friday, 10am to 4pm

Monday-Thursday, 7-9pm

Sunday 1-3pm

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are strongly encouraged!

A Note from the University Writing Program Coordinator, Kim Crowley



Student writing is a topic that never fails to get strong reactions, both from faculty and students. Faculty members express frustration in the quality of student writing and students express frustration in the expectations of their instructors. Sometimes it seems as if this leads to a “them” and “us” feeling that can, at its worst, interfere with effective teaching and learning. In my job as Coordinator of the University Writing Program, I feel quite fortunate that I am able to talk with people from both “sides” of this issue. Working with students who come into the Writing Center gives me insight into the problems they run into that they are often reluctant to discuss with their professors. Working with faculty members, both individually and as part of things like box lunch discussions, committees, and workshops—along with my own teaching experiences—I am also able to understand the concerns instructors may have about students' comprehension and effort.

I invite you to share your experiences with student writing with me. Good writing is easy to recognize; explaining *why* a particular piece of writing is good or how to make “bad” writing good is not so easy. I look forward to working with faculty across campus on the issue of student writing, and how both “them” and “us” can work to make it better.

Please contact me if I can help you in any way, including developing writing assignments. If you're encouraging students to use the Writing Center, consider sending me a copy of the assignment. I welcome the chance to visit your classes to talk about an assignment, to discuss specific writing issues, or just to pass out brochures and make sure students know about the Center. If you'd like to receive brochures, find out about a class visit, or to provide feedback about your students' experiences with the Writing Center, contact me at kimberly.crowley@und.edu or 777-6381.

About the UWP Coordinator:

Kim Crowley became permanent Coordinator of the University Writing Program this year after serving as Interim Coordinator last year. She has been working in the Writing Center for three years, both as a Graduate Teaching Assistant and as Coordinator. Kim is currently ABD in English at UND. Her main areas of study and research are literacy theory and composition theory. Her teaching experience includes courses in composition, literature, and literacy. Kim and her husband, Curt, live with their three pets outside of Grand Forks.

Join a Faculty Study Seminar

Two Faculty Study Seminars (FSS groups) will be offered during Fall 2007. The FSS program provides a means for faculty with common interests to learn more about a teaching-related topic. Each FSS group meets four times during a single semester, at times mutually agreed to by participants, to read and discuss a teaching-related book (books provided by the Office of Instructional Development). The only obligation of participants is to read and come ready to discuss.

Fall FSS books are:

***Knowledge Factory: Dismantling the Corporate University and Creating True Higher Learning (2000)* by Stanley Aronowitz.** Facilitated by Kim Crowley. In this book, Aronowitz, a Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, argues that what he sees as the corporate view of higher education means that college graduates are not getting a well-rounded education. Aronowitz is writing “not to reform the existing system,” but hopes to appeal to “those who would do something different,” and offer inspiration to those who seek to innovate.

***The Joy of Teaching (2005)* by Peter Filene with foreword by Ken Bain.** Facilitated by Anne Kelsch. Drawing on the work of Ken Bain (*What the Best College Teachers Do*), award-winning professor Peter Filene examines what the “best” college teachers do in an effort to formulate suggestions that can work for any of us. As one reviewer notes, “Rather than prescribe any single model for success, Filene lays out the advantages and disadvantages of various pedagogical strategies, inviting teachers to make choices based on their own personalities, values, and goals.” While the book offers specific suggestions for teachers new to the craft, it is also intended for any of us seeking to reconceptualize and re-energize our teaching, making the classroom more “joyful” for both professor and student.

To participate in a Faculty Study Seminar, contact either Kim Crowley (kimberly.crowley@und.edu) or Anne Kelsch (anne.kelsch@und.edu) depending on which book you want to read. Plan to also send information about your schedule so that a first meeting can be arranged (future meeting dates will be set up when the group is first convened).

Note the change in Faculty Instructional Development Committee (FIDC) Grant deadlines!

FIDC grants may be used for teaching-related travel, for purchase of instructional materials, software, and minor equipment, and other non-salary expenses directly related to teaching.

Proposals must be submitted by noon on the first day of each month. Proposals must be submitted prior to travel. If you have questions, contact Jeanne Boppre (OID Administrative Secretary, 7-3325) or FIDC Chair, Roni Mayzer (Criminal Justice).

Upcoming Collaboration Conferences

The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning presents two major conferences each year which bring together 300-400 faculty, student affairs personnel, administrators, and staff to discuss teaching and learning. These events held in November and February in Bloomington, Minnesota, feature keynote speakers of national and international renown as well as presenters from Collaboration institutions.

- The theme of the fall conference, which will take place Nov. 16-17, 2007, is “**Promoting Deep Learning: Cultivating Intellectual Curiosity, Creativity, and Engagement in College.**”
- The winter conference, which will take place Feb. 15-16, 2008, is titled “**Critical Thinking in the Age of the Internet.**” For more information on these conferences, please visit the conference web site at www.collab.org. (proposal deadline is September 21, 2007)

If you would like to seek funding to attend a Collaboration Conference, follow the FIDC guidelines available on the OID web site.

ON TEACHING
Office of Instructional Development
Twamley Hall Room 409
264 Centennial Drive Stop 7104
Grand Forks, ND 58202-7104

On Teaching

Box Lunch Discussion Series
Fall 2007

All sessions take place in the River Valley Room of the Union unless otherwise noted. Wednesday sessions run from 12-1. Tuesday and Thursday sessions run from 12:30-1:30. To register and receive a free box lunch, please call Jana Hollands at 777-4998 by noon two business days prior to the event.

Sessions are open on a first-come, first-served basis.

Wed. Sept. 19	12:00-1:00	<i>High Tech Teaching for Low Tech Teachers</i> (registration is now closed)
Tues. Oct. 9	12:30-1:30	<i>What is College (level) Writing?</i> <u>Swanson Hall 10/12</u> (register Fri. by noon)
Wed. Oct. 31	12:00-1:00	<i>Quantitative Reasoning Across the Curriculum</i> (register Mon. by noon)
Thu. Nov. 15	12:30-1:30	<i>Encouraging Ethical Behavior in Class</i> (register Tue. by noon)
Wed. Nov. 28	12:00-1:00	<i>Writing in the Capstone</i> (register Mon. by noon)

On Teaching is published six times a year as a service to UND faculty. Editors: Kim Crowley and Anne Kelsch.
OID/UWP Staff: Jeanne Boppre and Jana Hollands.