



Teaching Newsletter

February 2015

Special Announcements

SRTEs Go Mobile!

This semester students will have the opportunity to submit SRTEs using the new mobile app. Faculty, please remember that you must leave the room if you set aside class time for students to use the SRTE app.

Penn State Laureate Susan Russell presents: "Thanks, Mrs. Sawyer: How my first grade teacher is helping me translate twenty-first century education"



Primary audience: Faculty, grad students and postdocs who teach

February 24th, 11:15 – 12:30, Foster Auditorium, Paterno Library, University Park

The twenty-first century has created an entirely new student, one that perceives, receives, and conceives information differently. Big data has changed the way students think, but not the way they experience knowledge. What if every teacher knows something from their own process of learning that can translate knowledge into an experience? What if all we have to do is remember "how" we made "what" we know part of our own lives? How far back do you remember? Who was that first teacher and what did she/he really teach you? In this session we'll discuss how the answers to these questions (and others) that can help us be better teachers. The presentation is co-sponsored by the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence and the University Libraries. [Info/Registration](#)

Teaching Project Grants – Pre-Proposal Consultation Deadline

Primary audience: Faculty and instructors of all ranks, programs, and departments

Deadline for Consultation: February 13, 2015

Our Teaching Project Grants provide support for to engage in projects that support teaching and learning endeavors in undergraduate education. The first step in the proposal process is to contact a Schreyer Institute consultant and discuss your project idea and verify that your project aligns with our mission. The deadline for pre-proposal consultations is February 13, 2015. E-mail site@psu.edu to schedule a consultation. For more information, see our [Grant Proposal Process and Timeline](#).

Grants to attend the Lilly Conference, Bethesda, MD, May 28-31, 2015

Primary audience: Faculty and instructors of all ranks

Proposals Due: March 2, 2015

[Apply](#) for a Schreyer Institute grant to attend the annual Lilly International Spring Conference, "Evidence-based Teaching and Learning." Faculty are not required to present at the conference, but those who are presenting will receive priority for a Schreyer Institute grant.



Advancing Engaged Scholarship: Practical Strategies for Penn State



Audience: Faculty, staff, administrators, and students

March 31st, 2015, 8:30am to 3:30pm at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel

Join faculty, staff, administrators, and student at the 2nd Annual Engaged Scholarship Symposium as we continue to expand this vital initiative at Penn State. [Register](#)

Scheduled SITE Activities/Events

Teaching a Large Class Effectively

Primary audience: Graduate students and postdocs

February 5, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m., 315 Rider Building, University Park [Feb. 5 Info/Registration](#)

February 9, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m., 7A Sparks Building, University Park [Feb. 9 Info/Registration](#)

Classes of 100 or more can be opportunities to reach many students at one time—or they can be painful to all involved. Join Graduate Consultants Stephen Van Wert and Whitney Zimmerman to discuss tips for mapping out punctuated lectures, creating a small class atmosphere, and using assessments to gather information without overwhelming yourself.



How Can SRTEs Be Used to Improve Teaching and Learning?

Primary audience: Faculty and administrators at all locations

February 10, 12:00 – 1:15 p.m., 315 Rider Building, University Park [Info/Registration](#)

Participants are welcome to bring their own beverages and lunch.

Faculty, administrators and staff are invited to bring their questions about SRTEs (Student Ratings of Teaching Effectiveness) to this informal Brown Bag Luncheon facilitated by Angela Linse, Executive Director and Associate Dean of the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence.

For Polycomm access please contact your [Instructional Design Specialist](#), site@psu.edu, or 814-863-2599.

Coping with Challenging Situations in Class

Primary audience: Graduate students and postdocs

February 19, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m., 315 Rider Building, University Park [Feb. 19 Info/Registration](#)

February 23, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m., 7A Sparks Building, University Park [Feb. 23 Info/Registration](#)

Moments of conflict ... questions you don't know the answer to ... students who have not done the reading... The issue is not whether these situations will occur in your class, but rather how to cope effectively when they do. Join Graduate Consultants Stephen Van Wert and Whitney Zimmerman to learn about processes for anticipating and dealing with challenges.

Writing a Teaching Philosophy: First Steps



Primary audience: Graduate students and postdocs

February 26, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m., 315 Rider Building, University Park [Feb. 26 Info/Registration](#)

March 2, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m., 7A Sparks Building, University Park [Mar. 2 Info/Registration](#)

Teaching philosophy statements are commonly requested during the hiring processes. This interactive workshop, presented by Graduate Consultants Whitney Zimmerman and Stephen Van Wert, will discuss focal questions for drafting a teaching philosophy and consider examples.

Schreyer Institute Faculty Activities

Topics of Custom Programs and Consultations

- **Self-directed Learning** (3-part series), Kathy Jackson and Crystal Ramsay in collaboration with ITS Training Services and Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT), WinterFest 2015.
- **Writing Effective Tests.** Crystal Ramsay for the College of Engineering new faculty.
- **Course and syllabus design**, Kathy Jackson, **Teaching to include all students**, Steve Van Wert and Whitney Zimmerman, **Test construction and assessment of student learning**, Suzanne Weinstein, for the Ph.D. Teaching Camp in the Smeal College of Business.
- **Engaged Scholarship** Chas Brua and Suzanne Shaffer (ID at York) for faculty at Penn State York.
- **Program Assessment**, Suzanne Weinstein, for faculty and administrators in Administration of Justice at Penn State Beaver, New Kensington, and Shenango.
- **Supporting academically diverse students**, Crystal Ramsay and Chas Brua for faculty in Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese.
- **Helping students read effectively**, Chas Brua for graduate students in Sociology.
- Academic job search consultations, including writing a **teaching philosophy**, creating an **online teaching portfolio**, providing **evidence of teaching excellence**, preparing a **teaching demonstration**, and tailoring application materials to varying types of institutions. Available to any graduate student or postdoc.

Contact us at 814-863-2599 or site@psu.edu to request a custom program or consultation.

Other Activities/Events

VoiceThread has a new user interface

VoiceThread is an online collaboration, discussion, and presentation tool available to all Penn State instructors and students. Learn more about the [enhanced user interface](#).

OL2900: Assessment of Online Learners

Start Date: **March 16, 2015**

This four-week instructor-led course is designed to help faculty effectively assess their online learners. [Info/Registration](#)

Webinar Wednesdays!

World Campus Faculty Development has begun hosting monthly webinars the **3rd Wednesday of each month from 2-3 p.m. ET**. Each month content experts discuss topics for improving online instruction. To learn more and view the list of topics, please visit [here](#).

World Campus Faculty Development listserv

To join the listserv send an email to L-WCFD-subscribe-request@lists.psu.edu. No subject or message required.