



# Centre for Teaching and Learning

A Partner in Learning Services with Community & Continuing Studies, IT Services, and the Library

February 2007

## Open Forum: Ways to Support Teaching and Learning Excellence and Innovation

The Senate Learning and Research Committee would like to invite all faculty, staff, and students to participate in an Open Forum to be held **Wednesday, February 14, 2007 from 2 – 3 p.m. in LIB 305** on new ways to support teaching and learning excellence and innovation at UBC Okanagan.

The academic plan set a direction for UBC Okanagan; but how do we get there? Do we follow the direction of other institutions in setting aside teaching innovation funds? Do we work to create a teaching chair or an Institute devoted to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning? What is necessary to re-imagine what it is we do? What would work best for UBC Okanagan?

Please come and share your ideas. If you can't attend the Forum you may submit your ideas online at <http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl/innovate/>.

Refreshments will be provided.

## Faculty Workshop on Student Engagement

Friday, February 23, 2007 9:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

UBC Okanagan Sun Room (SSC121)

You are invited to join us for a morning of inquiry into ways of enhancing student engagement. Student engagement promotes successful student learning, retention, and satisfaction for faculty and students. Doug O'ram will open the workshop. A panel of students will discuss their experiences and expectations of the current generation of university students concerning student engagement. Alaa Abd-El-Aziz will moderate a round table session providing an opportunity for participants to share and discuss practical approaches to increasing student engagement in and out of the classroom. The conversation will continue over a soup and sandwich lunch which will be provided.

9:15	Coffee, Juice and Muffins
9:30	Doug O'ram – Introduction and Welcome
9:45	Student Panel – Student Perspectives
10:15	Refreshment Break
10:30	Alaa Abd-El-Aziz - Round Table – Sharing Best Practices
12:00	Lunch (provided)

Please register for this event at <http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl/register/> or call 807-9293.

For more information contact Peter Arthur (807-9207 or [peter.arthur@ubc.ca](mailto:peter.arthur@ubc.ca)).

This event is sponsored by UBC Okanagan Learning Services.

## Clickers

In September 2006, a dedicated group of instructors embarked on a technology pilot program using clickers to enhance teaching and learning in their classrooms. Dr. Teresa Wrzesniewski says, "Clickers are the perfect tool for communicating with a large number of students as the students and instructor get instant feedback about how students understand new concepts introduced in class".

If you would like information about using clickers in your classroom, please contact Janine Hirtz at [janine.hirtz@ubc.ca](mailto:janine.hirtz@ubc.ca) or call 807-9133. You can also visit our website at <http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl/elearning/Clickers.html>



## Centre Workshops

### Faculty Workshops

#### Grading Practices-Sharing Session

Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> 10:30am-Noon

This workshop is offered to faculty interested in hearing from others and sharing their own experiences in assessment and evaluation. Please come prepared to share.

#### Faculty Instructional Skills Workshop

Feb. 19-21<sup>st</sup> 9:00am-4:00pm

This workshop is designed to enhance new and veteran teacher's learning environment facilitation skills. The three day experience will involve participants learning and applying instructional design in the creation of mini-lessons that will be taught to the group. Feedback will be provided and will be incorporated in further mini-lessons and peer evaluations.

To register for workshops please visit:

[www.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl](http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl) or call 807-9293

## SOTL Community of Practice

February 9<sup>th</sup> 1:00-2:30pm

Location: Okanagan Room

This community of practice is designed to foster cross-disciplinary inquiry focused on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). This meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss local SoTL research projects and possible cross-disciplinary collaborations. In addition, we are seeking this community's input on new ways to support teaching and learning innovation. Some institutions have created teaching innovation funds, while others have created teaching chairs or SoTL Institutes. What would work best for UBC Okanagan?

Please email

[peter.arthur@ubc.ca](mailto:peter.arthur@ubc.ca) if you plan to attend.

## The UBC Okanagan Learning Conference May 2-4, 2007

### Making Connections: *Learning and Research*

The third annual UBC Okanagan Learning Conference will explore the connections between research and learning and consider questions such as how can research enrich and enhance the student learning experience; how can the curriculum be redesigned to reflect a process of inquiry; what classroom strategies can be used to help students gain insight into research and when and how are these best taught? How can technology help?

The conference will open with a keynote by Dr. Carl Wieman, Nobel Prize winner in Physics and US University Professor of the Year in 2004 as named by the Carnegie Foundation of the Advancement of Higher Education. Dr. Wieman joined UBC in 2007 as Director of the Science Education Initiative.

### Call for Proposals

All interested individuals or groups are invited to submit proposals for 50 minute sessions. Each session is expected to have an interactive component. Formats may include discussions, roundtables, and presentations on one, or more, of the following topic areas:

#### *Undergraduate Learning and Research*

How can undergraduates be exposed to research? Are there meaningful ways of involving undergraduates in research? What can students teach us about how and where they learn best? How can technology support student engagement in research?

#### *The Role of the Teacher in Connecting Research and Learning*

How do we build bridges between learning and research for students? What classroom strategies can be used to give students a more meaningful exposure to research? Can redesigning instruction around an enquiry based model help students make the connection?

#### *The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*

What do we know about learning and how can it be more effectively shared within and across disciplines? What are research skills and how are they learned? What influences student learning? What approaches to teaching and learning in your disciplines are most effective?

#### *Critical Thinking*

Is critical thinking the essential link between research and learning? What is critical thinking? How are critical thinking skills best learned? How can critical thinking be taught? How can the curriculum be reshaped to focus on the process of enquiry?

#### *Active Learning*

How can we make the undergraduate experience an active learning experience? What techniques can be applied effectively in large classrooms? What is the role of Learning Commons evolve as an active learning environment?

**Submit Proposals Online: [www.ubc.ca/okanagan/conference](http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/conference)**

### Partners in Teaching Excellence

Just a reminder that Centre staff are available for individual consultations for faculty wishing to implement innovations in instruction for teaching and learning excellence. The Centre also offers Learning Communities where faculty share experiences in teaching and learning. We currently offer Peer Mentoring, Teaching Squares, Instructional Skills Workshops as well as other programs listed on our website. We are currently expanding our faculty resources section to offer current information on new trends in Higher Education. Contact the Centre for more information.

### Teaching Squares



The Teaching Squares initiative celebrates teaching excellence, builds communities of practice, and aims to enhance teaching and learning through a structured process of classroom observation, reflection, discussion and plan for renewal. Faculty are placed into a "square" with 3 other instructors from diverse content areas and then proceed to observe each others teaching and reflect on their own practice. Here are some comments from our first Teaching Square group:

*"There are a lot of different ways to be a good teacher!"*

*"It immediately affected my teaching."*

*"Rarely do we get to do things that are just for us."*

All participants enjoyed the "reflective practitioner" aspect of the program. Faculty viewed the classroom from a student's perspective and grew professionally from experiencing 3 different settings.

#### Staff

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