



Centre for Teaching and Learning

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

January 2008

Fourth Annual UBC OKANAGAN LEARNING CONFERENCE

Teaching and Learning in a CHANGING WORLD

UBC Okanagan's fourth annual Learning Conference theme "Teaching and Learning in a Changing World" invites educators to share their research and practice in sessions that will explore the role of student research, learner engagement, critical thinking across disciplines, and the use of new technology in teaching and learning.

Dr. Joy Mighty, President of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education will open the conference with the keynote "Preparing Global Citizens: Educational Reform in the 21st Century". The second day will begin with a keynote address "Where is the Community in Web 2.0?" by Dr. Richard Schwier, 3M National Teaching Fellow (2005).

Call for Proposals

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

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

What are the key influences on student learning? How can we measure the effectiveness of new pedagogy? How do we share our findings?

Innovations in Teaching and Learning

How can we advance effective teaching practices in all disciplines with diverse student populations? How do we assess learning in new learning environments?

Academic Technology

How can we use new media and Web 2.0 to better serve Net generation learners? What supports do faculty need in moving to non-traditional ways of teaching?

Engaging Learners

What do students say about what engages them in learning? What strategies can be used for engaging learners in global issues?

Integrating Research into the Undergraduate Experience

How can we involve undergraduates in meaningful research?

Curriculum Design

How can the curriculum be designed to reflect a process of inquiry? How can we integrate new pedagogy into existing courses to enhance learning? How do we address issues of literacy across the curriculum?

Deadline for submission of proposals: February 29, 2008

Website: <http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl/conference/>



Faculty Workshops & Programs

To register for workshops please visit: www.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl or call 807-9293.

SoTL Community of Practice

Jan 18th

1:00pm-2:00pm
SSC044

Critical Thinking Community of Practice

Jan 21st

12:30pm-1:30pm
ARTS 372

Teaching Squares

Jan 21st—Feb 15th

Problem Based Learning Community of Practice

Jan 23rd

2:30pm-3:30pm
LIB 303

Team Based Learning Community of Practice

Jan 28th

12:00pm-1:30pm
ARTS 372

Teaching Portfolios

Jan 30th

2:00pm-3:00pm
LIB 302

Connections

Feb 8th, Mar 7th, & Apr 18th

2:00pm-3:00pm
SSC044

Student Engagement

Feb 18th

9:00am-1:00pm
Sun Room

Faculty Instructional Skills Seminar

Feb 18th, 19th & 20th

8:30am-12:30pm

To register please visit:

www.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl or call 807-9293

Faculty Events

To register for workshops please visit: www.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl or call 807-9293.

For more information contact Heather Marshall at 807-9288 or heather.marshall@ubc.ca.

Critical Thinking Community of Practice

Monday, Jan 21st 12:30pm-1:30pm

Join this new Community of Practice. Discuss strategies for implementing Critical Thinking into the classroom and review current literature pertaining to Critical Thinking.



Team Based Learning Community of Practice

Monday, Jan 28th 12:00pm-1:30pm

A number of faculty are using Team Based Learning in their classrooms and others wish to learn more. The community of practice will provide faculty with an opportunity to share best practices and network with instructors from other faculties.

If you are interested in learning more about this strategy and/or are using it now, join this exciting new Community of Practice.

Problem Based Learning Community of Practice

Wednesday, Jan 23rd 2:30pm-3:30pm

As a result of the immense interest shown in Problem Based Learning at our November workshop, we are creating this new Community of Practice to offer faculty a forum for sharing ideas and resources. We currently have a webpage where resources are available www.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl/support/pbl. Please join us for our first meeting.

Teaching Portfolios

Wednesday, Jan 30th 2:00pm-3:00pm

This workshop will provide an opportunity to learn more about the purpose and contents of a teaching portfolio. Participants will be given examples of portfolio design and content to assist in the development of their own teaching portfolio.

Faculty Instructional Skills Seminar

Feb 18th, 19th, 20th 8:30am-12:30pm

This workshop is designed to enhance new and veteran teacher's learning environment facilitation skills. The 3-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.

Teaching Squares

Jan 21st- Feb 15th

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 will be placed into a "Square" with three other instructors from diverse content areas. An initial meeting is held where participants meet to schedule classroom visits and discuss their goals for participating in the program. Each Square participant will visit one class per week and will be visited once a week by a Square participant. After all visits have been completed (3 weeks), the entire Square will reconvene to discuss what they discovered about their own teaching.

Student Engagement

Mark your calendars for **Monday, February 18, 9:00am-1:00pm** in the Sun Room (Lunch will be provided). Details to be announced.

Do you have a Teaching Assistant?

The Centre offers a professional development program for TA's including an orientation, a manual, a website and many workshops throughout the term including **WebCT workshops for TA's**.

To view the workshops available please visit: www.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl/ta

For more information contact Heather Marshall at 807-9288 or heather.marshall@ubc.ca or Janine Hirtz at 807-9133 or janine.hirtz@ubc.ca



Class DVD Recording

Have you ever wondered what it might be like to view your teaching? The Centre for Teaching and Learning staff are available to record your class and provide you with a DVD. The DVD will be yours to view in private, with a colleague or with one of the CTL's Learning Specialists. Watching the recording provides an invaluable insight into your teaching.

To request a class recording, please contact Heather Marshall at the Centre for Teaching and Learning (807-9288).

FOR YOUR STUDENTS

RAP – Research Assistance Program

A series of free student workshops held every week that offers practical ideas on finding, handling, and presenting research information. Check the website for more details at

www.library.ubc.ca/ubco/

Showcase



Although Dr. Teresa Wrzesniewski has been teaching chemistry and physics for many years, she continues to experiment with innovative teaching strategies in an effort to enhance student learning. Wrzesniewski has been using computer animations in WebCT for her physics courses. The animations enable students to visualize concepts, practice and verify calculations. More recently she has also implemented "clickers" (personal response systems). These hand held devices allow students to participate and get immediate feedback, even in very large class sizes. How does this strategy enhance student learning? Students tend to stay focused because they know there will be a "clicker" question, they can participate and receive immediate feedback about whether or not they understand or can apply new concepts. Even though not every clicker session is for marks, the students have provided positive feedback about this learning experience and benefit from the frequent and immediate feedback. At the end of a semester when Wrzesniewski compares results; students are retaining what they have learned. It's so important to have good questions that can elicit understanding and reasoning and allow students to infer and predict. Wrzesniewski has also been examining clicker use as a researcher and presented at the Teaching, Learning & Technology Conference, Ryerson University, Toronto, November 2007.

Highlight from 2007: Problem Based Learning

This past November, we had a strong showing of faculty interested in using Problem Based Learning in their classrooms.

Dr. Erika Kustra from McMaster University (the birthplace of PBL), led us through a morning of small and large group activities, defining Problem Based Learning, outlining the differences between PBL and other group learning methods and examining the benefits and possible drawbacks of the strategy.

All participants were able to experience a Problem Based Learning activity and the activity was then debriefed to allow for a rich discussion of how it may be adapted for classroom use. We will continue the discussion and planning through a Community of Practice that will meet Jan 23rd. Faculty will be able to share their experiences as they experiment with/implement Problem Based Learning in their classrooms.

The Centre for Teaching & Learning will support faculty by facilitating the Community of Practice, offering resources on our website, and individual support in planning PBL experiences for their students.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 23rd 2:30-3:30pm Location: LIB 303

To register for this Community of Practice contact Heather Marshall at 807-9288 or heather.marshall@ubc.ca

Check out our website at www.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl/support/pbl

Open Classroom

The Open Classroom initiative provides a unique opportunity to any UBC Okanagan faculty member, or graduate student to observe colleagues in the settings of their classroom. We have many outstanding teachers who have volunteered to open up their classroom. This provides an opportunity to view a variety of learning environments in action. Observers will have the opportunity to discuss their observations with the colleague observed. All observations will be organized and coordinated by the Centre for Teaching and Learning.



If you would like to volunteer to open your classroom to colleagues, or if you are interested in observing a colleague in action, please contact Peter Arthur at 807-9207 or peter.arthur@ubc.ca.

WebCT Wednesdays

Join us at the Centre for Teaching and Learning!

Drop-in any Wednesday from 1-3 PM, January 9 - April 30 SSC044 for help with WebCT. These are unstructured session times when help will be available to you regarding any concerns, issues or questions you have about using WebCT.

Help is available for:

- General Navigation
- Adding Content (ie: course outline)
- Using the Assignment Drop Box
- Setting up the Gradebook
- Adding URL links
- Using Communication Tools (ie: mail, discussions, chat, calendar)
- Hiding links
- Customizing your course look
- Customizing icons
- Using a content module
- Adding an Image database
- Using Voice tools (ie: live classroom, voice discussion, voice email)
- Setting up groups
- General inquiries and course design

We look forward to seeing you!

SoTL Research Database

Visit our website to meet our Community of Researchers!!

www.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl/support/scholarship

The UBC Okanagan Academic Plan states that "we will research the core activity of our community - student learning - and value the scholarship of teaching".

Join our community of researchers by emailing Heather Marshall at the Centre heather.marshall@ubc.ca.

Look for SoTL presentations during Research Week, March 8-14, 2008.

Course (Re)Design Seminar

May 1st, 2nd, 5th & 6th, 2008

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Facilitated by: Peter Arthur, Heather Marshall, Janine Hirtz

APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE JANUARY 31, 2008.

Space is limited.

Faculty are invited to participate in the course (re) design process to refresh a course they currently teach or create a new course, with the design process that we will facilitate/provide. The seminar requires a 4-day commitment with whole group instructional sessions followed by small group/team planning sessions, working on a different course aspect each day covering content, learning outcomes, instructional strategies and assessment processes. Individual faculty or course teams may be interested in this opportunity to design a new course or revitalize an existing one.

The seminar is modeled on a research-based course design process that focuses on learning-centered instruction and constructive alignment. Learning-centered instruction requires that decisions are made with specific reference to the kind of learning that is desired and strategies are chosen because they are the most likely to support that kind of learning. Constructive alignment aims to coordinate all the components of the course – content, objectives, strategies and assessment – so that one component reflects another.

Participants will be expected to share their product at various times throughout the seminar (5-10 min lessons/presentations on small samples of their course).

Take the opportunity to focus on designing your course with CTL staff and colleagues at hand for consultation! Participants will be asked to focus on one course throughout the seminar, but the knowledge gained will assist you in refreshing or creating other courses you teach.

For more information about the seminar, contact Heather Marshall 807-9288 or heather.marshall@ubc.ca.

Moving forward from WebCT Campus Edition to Blackboard Vista

The University of British Columbia Okanagan campus is in the process of implementing a new enterprise level web-based Learning Management System (LMS), WebCT/Blackboard Vista to replace the aging WebCT Campus Edition (CE) version 4. The first phase of transition began in January 2006 with a few Okanagan courses and several more in Vancouver implementing Vista as part of the pilot project.

A very big THANK YOU to our local pilot instructors! Jan Snyder, Alwyn Spies, Nina Langton, Ed Neeland, Jim Moffat, Ian Stuart, Yves Lucet, and Gurupdes Pandher.

Important information sessions and dates:

Last day to create a WebCT 4 course is April 30th, 2008.



Introduction to Vista – Getting a first look...

Friday, March 28 from 2:00–3:00 pm and Friday, April 4 from 2:00-3:00 pm

Location: LIB 111

Workshop Series and drop in sessions coming soon.

Visit our web site for important dates and details on this transition.

<http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/ctl/vista> or contact Janine Hirtz at 807.9133 or Peter Arthur at 807.9207

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.

Staff

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Hours of Operation
8:30am-4:30pm
(closed for lunch noon-1:00pm)

The Centre for Teaching and Learning is located in SSC 044 (underneath the cafeteria patio)