

# *communicating for* **LEARNERS**

SUMMER  
EDITION

*The Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology  
Summer 2006*

## **Learning Communities: Collaborations in Pedagogy, Scholarship and Engagement**

This year, the Center, with the Office of the Provost, the Graduate College and the Center of Science and Mathematics Education, supported 12 learning communities (LCs). Over 100 faculty members and 20 graduate students were part of one or more communities throughout the 2005-2006 academic year. These groups of colleagues work collaboratively and provide resources, information, ideas, feedback, reflection and support for one another, as they continuously assess their communities' goals, activities and products. One of the great benefits of these learning communities is the broad assortment of knowledge, skills and networks that each member contributes.

The Center celebrated the accomplishments of the learning communities at our annual dinner on May 4, 2006. What follows is a brief overview of what each of the communities shared with the group at the celebration.

**COSMOS—Research in Science and Math Education** discussed valuing and assessing effective teaching methods for student learning, while collaborating with research methodologies centered on improving the effectiveness of science and math instruction. COSMOS accomplished twenty research presentations and initiated ten, new research projects.

**Grant Writing** researched, wrote and submitted proposals for external funding to organizations including the National Science Foundation, the Canadian Embassy and the U.S. Department of State. Members are collaboratively authoring a paper on resources required for successful, external funding acquisition.



### **Mentoring and ePortfolios Graduate Student LC**

explored possibilities and constraints of developing an online professional presence using several tools, including blogs, websites and Epsilon; gave presentations for GradStep and the Department of Sociology; prepared national learning community conferences proposals; and developed individual professional development plans.

**New Faculty** formed friendships and alliances with other new BGSU faculty members, the Center and the community's invited speakers and supported and helped to problem solve with each others' teaching, research and service experiences. Members took risks in the classroom with active learning techniques that focused on student engagement and learned creative development and time management skills for both teaching and research.

**Leaders in Learning** engaged in intellectual discourse about teaching and learning in a collegial, interdisciplinary atmosphere, raised questions about why we do what we do at the University and celebrated a shared passion for excellence in teaching. Members found common ground in diverse approaches, methods and philosophies of teaching and support the development of a vision for leadership of teaching and learning across disciplines and colleges.

Two **Life Sciences LCs—Faculty and Graduate Student** discussed research literature on what promotes learning and shared their collective, teaching knowledge and

# scheduled workshops

*Continued from previous page*

experience. Members applied the research in their specific classroom situations and designed, implemented and adapted new, interactive, learning strategies.

**Publication and Performance** shared strategies and advice for targeting specific presses and journals and explored cross-disciplinary approaches to scholarship. Members read and critiqued twelve, academic article submissions and discussed and shaped four conference presentations.

**Reflective Teaching** brought together a diverse set of teaching styles, perspectives and audiences, and the members grew personally and professionally through a collaborative, reflective interchange of pedagogical ideas. They provided support as community members reflected on teaching challenges and enhanced their teaching practices by putting each others' ideas into practice.

**Research and Teaching** set and shared research and writing goals, learned about RefWorks for greater efficiency in research and writing, published a 2005 article together on "Balancing Acts" in *Academe* and gave a 2005 group presentation, "The Ripple Effect," at the 25th Annual Lilly Conference on College Teaching.

**Scholarship of Engagement** created a documentary about exemplary scholarship of engagement at BGSU in the arts, social sciences, natural sciences, technology and business. The members finished a rough cut of the documentary after interviewing and filming exemplary scholars on location.

**Transition to Digital** explored open source solutions to common classroom problems, assessed the iPod as a portable presentation tool, created twelve podcasts and vodcasts for summer courses, instituted a wiki for a national professional association, and examined PDF-based, student portfolios and their effectiveness as a teaching tool.

The Center applauds the accomplishments of this year's LCs and looks forward to an equally exciting and productive group of learning communities next year. If you haven't participated in a learning community, please consider the opportunity for next year. In June, the Center will be actively seeking participants for the 2006-2007 academic year. Information and applications will be available at our website, <http://www.bgsu.edu/ctlit> ■

## "SNAP Survey Software"

May 31st, June 7th (PM)

## Create Audio Files

June 13, June 21, June 29 (AM)

July 12, July 18, July 27 (AM)

## Learn about Podcasting

June 13, June 21, June 29 (PM)

July 12, July 18, July 27 (PM)

## Start with iMovie HD

July 5 (AM)

## Advance to Final Cut Pro

July 5 (PM)

## Start with iDVD

July 13 (AM)

## Master DVD Authoring

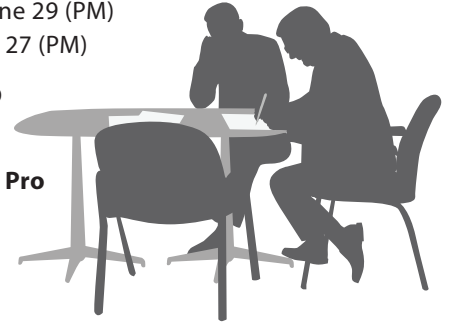
July 13 (PM)

## Enhance Video with Photoshop

July 6 (PM)

## Learn Livetype Techniques

July 6 (AM)



*For workshop descriptions, times and registration, please visit the Center's web site, <http://www.bgsu.edu/ctlit/>*

*The Center welcomes requests for faculty consultations. Please review the topics below and contact us if you would like to make an appointment, [ctlit@bgsu.edu](mailto:ctlit@bgsu.edu)*

- Active Learning
- Assessment
- Brain-based learning
- Collaborative learning
- Discussion strategies
- Concept maps
- Higher-order thinking skills
- Journaling/blogging
- Learning styles
- Presentation strategies
- Problem-based learning
- Rubrics
- Syllabus review
- Audio Files
- Digital Photography
- Digital Storytelling
- ePortfolios
- Image Manipulation
- PDF forms & documents
- Podcasting
- Presentation applications
- Survey software (not Bb)
- Video editing
- Website creation
- Wikis