

TEACHING at ISU

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CTE Looks Forward to New Home

Morrill Hall, one of the university's oldest and most significant buildings, is slated to become home to the Center for Teaching Excellence. A campaign is under way to raise \$9-10 million for renovation of the building, which will house the Christian Petersen Art Museum and the Center for Visual Learning in Textiles and Clothing as well as the CTE. Classroom and meeting spaces will also be part of the renovated Morrill Hall.

Morrill Hall was named after Justin Smith Morrill, U.S. senator and author of the Morrill Act of 1862, which established the land-grant university system. It was built in 1890 at an original cost of less than \$30,000, and has stood empty since 1998.

Faculty and staff have been able to tour parts of the old building in recent weeks, and to hear about the building's history. Morrill Hall has served as the university's chapel, library, and museum, housed the music program, and served as a home for Extension.

The CTE is pleased to be part of the plans for a renovated Morrill. Susan Yager, CTE associate director, said that it is "important that this centrally located, historically significant building, which calls to mind the University's land-grant mission, should become a meeting place for instructors to think about and talk about teaching."

CTE Director Corly Brooke agrees that Morrill Hall will be "an excellent home for the Center for Teaching Excellence. The Center will be highly visible and able to weave a new focus on teaching into the fabric of the university." The CTE staff, who are currently housed in offices on the first and second floors of the Lab of Mechanics building, looks forward to sharing a modern space where teachers can drop by, attend workshops, and discuss the craft of teaching. We look forward to a Morrill Hall which will be, as Brooke put it, "a central gathering space, like a front porch, for faculty and students to share."

TEACH Grants funded for Spring 2003

Earlier this year the CTE invited departments to apply for TEACH grants (emphasizing Transformation, Enhancement, Assessment, Collaboration, and Helping) to enhance teaching and learning at the departmental level. Eleven of sixteen proposals have been funded and the program will be extended to next year.

This year, the one-time TEACH were funded in amounts up to \$1000 per department, for projects to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. For the 2003-04 academic year, grants will be offered in amounts up to \$1500. The additional funds will be available to departments in lieu of offering a CTE Teaching Scholar position for 2003-04. The programs will be re-evaluated in a year's time.

These are the grant-funded activities planned by departments for the remainder of this fiscal year:

Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (Tom Brumm). An "ABE Learning Circle" will be established to increase the number of faculty participating in student learning. The Learning Circle will meet once a week as a one-hour teaching and learning discussion group addressing several topics related to student assessment.

Art & Design (Katherine Hannigan). "Integrating Sustainability in the Products and Processes of Curricula" will help provide instruction and facilitate faculty discussion with experts on sustainability and environmental education. A faculty member will receive training with discipline-specific methodologies and models for integrating sustainability in Art & Design courses and will share these with Art & Design and College of Design faculty.

Botany (Robert Wallace). A retreat on biological sciences teaching and curriculum will help identify key issues of how to deliver biological science courses to undergraduate students and how graduate course offerings relate to needs of departmental and interdepartmental graduate programs. This retreat is in anticipation of two new departments as of July 1, 2003 (Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology, and Genetics, Development and Cellular Biology).

College of Design (Kate Schwensen). A faculty forum on "Envisioning Motion" will address developing student learning outcomes for first year undergraduate design students; developing cross-disciplinary student learning outcomes for graduate design students; developing curricula based on outcomes; and developing courses based on outcomes.

Community and Regional Planning (Tara Lynn Clapp). The department will have a one-day retreat to do collaborative work on curricular alignment in accordance with program learning outcomes.

Economics (Brent Kreider). The department will bring a national expert to campus to present two workshops. The speaker will have expertise in new teaching methods shown to be particularly effective for teaching economic concepts.

English (Neil Nakadate). The department will hold a one-day retreat for interested faculty to develop a teaching seminar series aimed at an undergraduate and general university audience; a semester or year-long series of faculty talks for a general university audience; or other teaching-focused series.

Foreign Languages and Literatures (Dawn Bratsch-Prince and Aili Mu). A faculty series entitled "Effective Use of Technology in the Foreign Language Classroom" will help to integrate technology with the classroom practices of the faculty.

TEACH Grants funded for Spring 2003

Natural Resource Ecology and Management (Jan Thompson). “Curriculum Design with Learner-Centered Outcomes Assessment in Mind” will include two short workshops during spring semester and an all-day workshop in May. Topics include curriculum design, learner-centered assessment, and learner-centered outcomes assessment as an element of curriculum development.

Political Science and the Greenlee School (Dana Schumacher). National expert Barbara Millis of the US Air Force Academy will visit campus and facilitate a workshop on “Using Interactive Student Focus Groups to Assess and Strengthen Teaching”

Veterinary Pathology (Jared Danielson). A team from Vet Med will attend a one-day workshop on “student assessment-as-learning” at Alverno College in Milwaukee, WI.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for these upcoming CTE events

Workshop: What Faculty Should Know About Advising

Wednesday, April 9, Noon - 1:30 p.m.

A panel of experienced advisors from colleges across the University will engage participants in a discussion of what teachers can and should know about advising. How can faculty best work with advisors to help students? What perspectives do faculty and advisors bring to issues surrounding the teaching of undergraduates? Bring your lunch and participate in the discussion.

Workshop: Large-Class Strategies

Thursday, April 17,

CTE Scholar David Meltzer, assistant professor of Physics, will present a “hands-on” workshop and discussion in which participants will work together on devising effective techniques for teaching in large classes. After a brief video and discussion, participants will work in small groups to apply the techniques presented to their own disciplines and classrooms.

Faculty Forum: The Art of Inquiry

Wednesday, April 16, Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Campanile Room, Memorial Union

An important part of teaching critical thinking involves developing students' capacity for inquiry. What questions and methods work best to develop questioning minds in the classroom? What are some useful ways to develop inquiry skills that are transferable outside the classroom? Join the discussion over lunch; CTE will provide beverages and desserts.

Workshop: Conducting Effective Classroom Observations

Monday, April 21, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

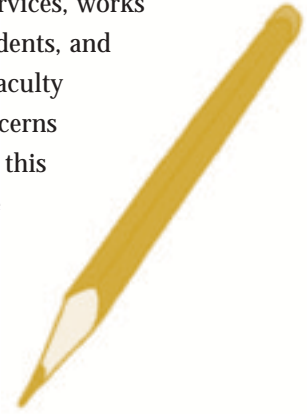
Dr. Barbara J. Millis, director of faculty development at the U.S. Air Force Academy, will lead this experiential workshop on how to conduct effective classroom observations. The workshop will focus on a 10-step approach to conducting observations, including the pre-visit conference, valid observation practices, and process for offering constructive feedback.

Ideas for CTE Programming?

The Center for Teaching Excellence will celebrate a decade of service to the campus this fall, and the CTE staff is already planning special events and programs to mark our tenth anniversary. As we plan programming for next year, we welcome your ideas and suggestions for workshops, faculty forums, and other events. Send your suggestions to Susan Yager, CTE Associate Director, at 294-7555 or syager@iastate.edu.

Challenge of Teaching International Students
International students face a variety of challenges and changes when they come to the U.S to study, and these challenges have become greater in the wake of September 11. However, faculty are not always aware of what they can do to encourage and assist international students, especially when they are new to Iowa State. Virginia McCallum, Program Coordinator for

International Education Services, works with new international students, and would like to learn about faculty members' questions or concerns having to do with teaching this student population. Future programming will be tailored to address these questions. Please send questions directly to Virginia McCallum at vlee@iastate.edu.



TEACHING AT ISU INFORMATION

Teaching at ISU is published four times each academic year by the Center for Teaching Excellence for all faculty, administrators and staff at ISU.

If you have questions regarding information in this newsletter or ideas for upcoming issues, please contact either:

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This newsletter and many more resources can be found on the Internet at www.cte.iastate.edu.

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