

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Spring 2009

Dear Colleagues,

There is nothing more daunting or exciting than the start of a new semester and a new year. The university continues to undergo changes in policies and people. And yet the fundamental values of who we are as learners, what we do in class as teachers, and how we interact with students and colleagues remain steadfast. We extend a warm welcome to all returning and new faculty.

This semester the TLC will sponsor a variety of different activities, including panels on “Best Practices in Syllabus Construction”; “Sakai: A Blackboard Alternative”; “Graduate and Professional Student Writing: Expectations and Habits”; “Digitizing Lectures”; “Expertiza: A Peer-Review System for Collaborative Learning”; and “Sakai: A Training Opportunity.” As always please consult the insert for times and days of these events as well as who will host them, or check the Events page at www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html.

Mark your calendars for Wake Forest’s second Teaching and Learning Fair on Wednesday 25 February, 2:00-4:00. This year there will be a greater number of representatives from all over the Reynolda campus, including those from the College, the Z. Smith Reynolds Library, and the schools of Business, Divinity, and Law. It will be an opportunity to see what colleagues throughout the university do in their classes. Be sure to RSVP no later than Wednesday 18 February to reserve a hard copy of abstracts submitted by fair presenters at the Events page at www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html.

Beginning on Tuesday 17 February and on every third Tuesday of each month at 11:00 am thereafter, the TLC will hold informal discussions on the use of Technology in the Classroom. There is no requisite for attending, except curiosity. So stop by the TLC for light refreshments and a good conversation.

This year’s application for proposing a First Year Seminar is available at the TLC home page. The link will take you to supporting materials, like guidelines for submitting a proposal, a list of this year’s seminars, and sample syllabi.

Special mention must be made to Gillian Overing (English) and Ulrike Wiethaus (Humanities), co-recipients of the 2007-2008 Teaching Innovation Award. We offer our congratulations!

Please feel free to drop by and visit us anytime! We welcome suggestions about future events and we especially want to hear from those of you who have published or presented on any aspect to teaching. Each of us at the Teaching and Learning Center wish you a terrific semester!

On Friday 20 February, the TLC will co-sponsor a public lecture on Teaching Sustainability as well as an accompanying workshop on Saturday 21. For more information, consult the Events page at www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html.

Have you considered developing a course or significantly revising one, but needed funds to bring your ideas to fruition? If so, you are in luck. The TLC wants to give you money. We are currently in round 2 of awarding reimbursable Faculty Course Development Awards of up to \$2,000. Applications will be due on 1 February. Visit the TLC Home page at www.wfu.edu/tlc to download the application.

This semester marks the fifth annual university wide Teaching Innovation Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize the significant faculty effort that goes into reworking traditional courses using new methods or finding ways to apply recent theories of learning to the practice of teaching. The successful recipient will receive \$500. All faculty teaching on the Reynolda Campus are invited to apply. Individuals who have previously submitted a course for consideration and were not awarded the stipend are encouraged to reapply. Courses taught in the 2007-8 or 2008-9 academic years are eligible for consideration. Please go to the TLC Home page to download the application at www.wfu.edu/tlc.

On the lighter side, the TLC will host a Faculty Appreciation Coffee Break on Thursday, 22 January at 8:00-10:00 am and the always popular End-of-Year Blowout/Faculty Appreciation Ice Cream Social on Thursday, 23 April at 1:00-4:00 pm. Join us as we celebrate the Alpha and Omega of the spring 2009 semester.

Throughout the semester be sure to be on the look-out for additional events sponsored by

the TLC, especially as we continue to revamp the web-site. On behalf of everyone at the TLC, I wish you a wonderful semester.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Lerner

History

Director, Teaching and Learning Center

THE TLC ADVISORY BOARD

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INTERDISCIPLINARY PEDAGOGY IN THE HUMANITIES

*Honors 310: The Other Middle Ages:
Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar*

Spring 2008

Gillian Overing and Ulrike Wiethaus

Being interdisciplinary is hard to do. Our training as medievalists has always engaged cross-disciplinary approaches and our subsequent individual and collaborative research paths have criss-crossed many fields both medieval and modern. When we first proposed a course to be taught in Interdisciplinary Honors on “The Other Middle Ages” we had many (too many!) ideas for content, but also a commitment to pedagogical practices that would enable and foster true interdisciplinary inquiry while also building individual responsibility and creativity in a community-based process and ethics.

Our pedagogical approach values the process of learning as an integral part of the content of learning. We assert the fundamental truth that all human knowledge is constructed through relationships. Since our course objective

was to interrogate and challenge hegemonic appropriations of the medieval past in the service of problematic contemporary agendas, we laid bare some of the underlying structures in manufacturing knowledge, the creation of narratives about the past and present, and the (de/)stabilization of archives as a “life-wired” pedagogical process. To this end, we designed an integrated pedagogy in which both students and faculty work together as scholars and facilitators with a focus on creating and generating new historical knowledge, new historical narratives, and a creative classroom atmosphere that nurtures both individual and group experimentation and dialogue

As professors, we redefined our role as coaches, facilitators, and senior colleagues in a mentoring relationship with younger scholars. At the beginning of the semester, students formed semi-autonomous research and class leadership teams. It turned out to be fortunate that our first class was a snow day, and this both necessitated and facilitated our students taking the initiative. In a matter of a few days and several emails, students had divided themselves into teams (each with their own name), in which they worked for the length of the semester to prepare joint research portfolios, theatre performance, class discussion leadership, and student-led master classes at the conclusion of the semester. The students as junior colleagues were asked to articulate their own pedagogical values, and we include some of their comments below.

We integrated campus wide public lectures and a conference into our syllabus that both students and professors attended; in addition, guest lecturers offered master classes (comparable to master classes in the fine arts) to illustrate a diversity of approaches to medieval history in terms of both pedagogy and research. We worked to bring in as many disciplinary viewpoints as possible, getting co-sponsorship for these talks from Interdisciplinary Honors, History, Women's and Gender Studies, English and Medieval Studies. Our seminar analyzed and absorbed the guest lectures and master classes through questionnaires and post event discussions.

Our use of technological support took three main directions. First, students were taught to create a shared virtual office and lounge on iGoogle for their teams. With this tool, students could co-write, edit, and file all aspects of their team research, with 24/7 open access. Second, students were encouraged to take an on-line learning style test to assess their own strengths and weaknesses in a team environment (<http://www.cloudnet.com/~edrbsass/kolblearningstyle.html>);

and third, we used the TLC video equipment to tape team presentations for review and analysis. From our point of view, this course was one of the most rewarding and exciting teaching experiences either of us have had. Our students continually surprised us with their innovation, ingenuity and commitment.

For a copy of our syllabus, please contact either Gillian Overing (Department of English) or Ulrike Wiethaus (Department of Religion and American Ethnic Studies).

SAKAI: A Collaboration and Learning Environment

Jolie Tingen ((Instructional Technology Analyst: Music, Theatre and Dance)

Wake Forest's current learning management system, Blackboard, was officially adopted in the fall semester of 1999 with 80 courses utilizing the software and 70 faculty trained in using it. Today, Blackboard is integrated with the campus ERP system, Banner, and a Blackboard course is created for every course offering at Wake Forest. Many faculty use Blackboard every semester to enhance their course. The system is also heavily used by the School of Law and the Babcock Graduate School of Management.

In 2007, a survey was distributed to faculty in order to collect information on Blackboard usage and product satisfaction. 163 users responded to the survey and many provided valuable comments. The results were presented to the Committee on Information Technology as well as information on alternative learning management systems such as Sakai. The survey data supported the need for Wake Forest to explore Sakai as a viable replacement to Blackboard. Sakai is a free and open source online Collaboration and Learning Environment. Many users of Sakai deploy it to support teaching and learning, ad hoc group collaboration, and support for portfolios and research collaboration. Columbia University, Cornell University, Harvard University, Indiana University, and the University of Michigan, as well as many others, have integrated Sakai in teaching, learning, and collaboration.

Sakai is built and maintained by the Sakai community. Sakai's development model is called “Community Source” because many of the developers creating Sakai are drawn from the “community” of organizations that have adopted and are using Sakai.

Colleges and universities of all sizes have adopted Sakai as an alternative to Blackboard. There are many reasons universities have

adopted Sakai with the increased dominance of Blackboard and increased cost of the product topping the list. Sakai also provides tools such as wikis, blogs, and podcasting features not currently available in Blackboard. This is an important distinction for Wake Forest as the instructional use of wikis, blogs, and podcasting is increasing. Sakai also provides flexibility by allowing professors to make some portions of their course available to all university Sakai users or even public to include collaborations with other universities or the community.

Another benefit to adopting an open source solution is that the developer community for open source is within the campus community. This allows developers to respond quickly to the needs of universities and colleges. Institutions often collaborate to develop new software enhancements and the source code for new features is often shared within the software community.

At the recommendation of the CIT, instructional technologists Jolie Tingen and Jeff Muday coordinated a pilot of Sakai last semester. IS and the ITG also supported the pilot. Thirteen faculty throughout the university used Sakai last semester including faculty in Biology, Education, English, Music, Psychology, and Theatre and Dance.

The initial response to the pilot has been exceptionally positive. There have been few technical issues and most participants have been using Sakai with very little training. Many faculty have chosen to adopt tools not originally planned for use in the pilot with little or no issues. Interest in Sakai has also been strong with students and staff. Elizabeth Armstrong, student representative on the CIT, said that her experience with Sakai at the University of Michigan was very positive, because students like the ability to create ad hoc worksites for collaborative work. Jonathan Christman, Associate Professor in Theatre and Dance, said of his experience participating in the Sakai pilot: “I have used Sakai in my First Year Seminar and it offers significant improvement over Blackboard.”

With the support of the Teaching and Learning Center, the Sakai pilot is continuing. Several demonstration sessions are scheduled through the center this semester as well as two training sessions later in the semester. Faculty interested in exploring Sakai should plan to attend one of these scheduled events. Faculty may also wish to speak to their instructional technologist or Jolie Tingen, Learning Management Systems Coordinator, for more information on Sakai and its features.

TLC EVENTS Spring 2009

If you do not already receive e-mail reminders about TLC programs and would like to, please e-mail your request to tlc@wfu.edu. All programs take place in the TLC (Room 330, ZSR Library) unless otherwise indicated. If you are unable to attend an event but would like any handouts prepared by our hosts, contact the TLC Coordinator at tlc@wfu.edu.

JANUARY EVENTS

TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER FACULTY APPRECIATION COFFEE BREAK

Date: Thursday, January 22

Time: 8:00am-10:00am

Location: Teaching and Learning Center, Room 330, ZSR Library

Stop by the Teaching and Learning Center Thursday morning, January 22, for coffee and a morning snack. Feel free to enjoy your treats in the Center or take them with you (to-go cups will be available, or bring your own). This is a great opportunity to socialize with faculty from other academic departments. No RSVP required!

BEST PRACTICES IN SYLLABUS CONSTRUCTION

Date: Thursday, January 29

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library (the electronic classroom)

Host: Lauren Pressley (Instructional Design Librarian, ZSR Library)

Your syllabus is a document that describes the course you intend to teach and helps your students understand your aims for the semester. This document conveys the overall design of your course as well as the specific details you expect students to know and follow. Come to this session for an overview of best practices in syllabus construction as well as a discussion designed to give faculty the opportunity to share tips from their own experiences. A boxed lunch will be provided for attendees who RSVP by Monday, January 26.

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Monday, January 26, and be sure to specify a lunch selection.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

SAKAI: A Blackboard Alternative

Date: Thursday, February 5

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library

Hosts: Jolie Tingen (Instructional Technology Analyst: Music, Theatre and Dance) and Jonathan Christman (Theatre and Dance)

Sakai, an open source course management system, is being piloted at Wake Forest this year. Although similar to Blackboard in function, Sakai has tools, such as wikis and blogs, that Blackboard does not. Come to this session to hear how Jonathan Christman (Theatre and Dance) used Sakai to teach his First Year Seminar and to learn about the differences between Sakai and Blackboard. For faculty who cannot attend this event or who are interested in a future training opportunity, additional information sessions will be offered February 16 and March 5, and a training session on March 25. More information about these sessions will be sent to faculty in the near future. A boxed lunch will be available for this event for faculty who RSVP no later than Monday, February 2.

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Monday, February 2, and be sure to specify a lunch selection.

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT WRITING: Expectations and Habits

Date: Wednesday, February 11

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library (the electronic classroom)

Hosts: Christine Coughlin (Professor of Legal Writing and Director of Legal Research and Writing Program); Dan Johnson (Senior Lecturer in Biology and Core Curriculum Coordinator); Tom McGohey (Lecturer in English and Director of the WFU Writing Center); Christopher Turner (Assistant Professor of Neurobiology and Anatomy).

Strong technical writing skills are essential for graduate and professional students in all disciplines. Before the writing process even begins though, students need to understand the specific expectations and conventions of their discipline, and how these change depending upon the audience and purpose for writing. There also are fundamental skills that graduate students must acquire to

communicate effectively. These skills include the ability to: 1) match the volume and complexity of the writing to the goals and audience; 2) be ruthless with respect to proof-reading and self-critique; and 3) demonstrate expertise with the subject matter. Focusing on these fundamentals promotes good communication but still lets students develop their own personal writing style. For this panel discussion, four WFU instructors from a range of disciplines will come together to share their philosophies, techniques, and tips for teaching graduate and professional students to write for their discipline.

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Friday, February 6. Light refreshments will be available.

SAKAI: A Blackboard Alternative

Date: Thursday, February 16

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library

Host: Jolie Tingen (Instructional Technology Analyst: Music, Theatre and Dance)

Come to this session to learn about Sakai, the open source collaboration and learning environment. The session will focus on tools in Sakai, how it compares to Blackboard, and how faculty are using it to support their courses. For faculty who cannot attend this event or who are interested in a future training opportunity, an additional information session will be offered March 5 and a training session on March 25. More information about these sessions will be sent to faculty in the near future.

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Wednesday, February 11. Light refreshments will be available.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP MONTHLY MEETINGS

Date: Tuesday, February 17

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Location: Teaching and Learning Center, Room 330, ZSR Library

Host: Lauren Pressley (Instructional Design Librarian, Z. Smith Reynolds Library)

In the past few years a number of new technologies and tools have emerged that have the potential to enhance and transform the way one can teach. Wake Forest University provides a number of tools and services, and you can now find a number available for free,

online. This regular, informal discussion group has been established for faculty to share the ideas and different techniques they have tried with their classes. Come and share what you've done or just hear what other faculty have tried with their classes. Future discussion groups will be held at 11:00am in the Teaching and Learning Center on March 17 and April 14. Please put these dates on your calendar now, and feel free to come to as many or few as is possible. RSVP not required.

SAKAI: A Blackboard Alternative

Date: Tuesday, February 17

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Location: Worrell Professional Center, Room 1109

Host: Jolie Tingen (Instructional Technology Analyst: Music, Theatre and Dance)

Come to this session to learn about Sakai, the open source collaboration and learning environment. The session will focus on tools in Sakai, how it compares to Blackboard, and how faculty are using it to support their courses. A SAKAI training session will be held for interested faculty on March 25. More information about that opportunity will be sent to faculty in the near future. No RSVP required.

WHY SUSTAINABILITY? LEARNING WHY SUSTAINABILITY IS THE KEY SKILL TO CREATE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

Date: Friday, February 20, 2009

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: De Tamble Hall

Guest Speaker: Michelle Dyer, Vice President of Second Nature

Too often, we view health, social, economic, security, environmental, and other major societal issues as separate, competing, and hierarchical, when they are really systemic and interdependent. We do not have environmental problems per se—we have negative environmental consequences of the way we have designed our business, social, economic, and political systems. The challenge of addressing these flaws in societal design is unprecedented, daunting, and exciting. It is one that will require the best in all of us, especially in higher education. Since 1993, Second Nature has worked with over 4,000 faculty and administrators at more than 500 colleges and universities to help make the principles of sustainability fundamental to every aspect of higher education. Michelle

Dyer will address these themes and appeal to faculty members, students, and citizens interested in rethinking the design of our courses, our lives, and our university as part of an integrated sustainable community.

Michelle Dyer brings fifteen years of experience in management consulting and project management, specializing in transformational change and negotiation in the energy, health, higher education and entertainment (film, television, and music) industries. Before joining the Second Nature team, Mrs. Dyer was a founding partner of Greenland Enterprises, a consultancy specializing in strategic leadership towards sustainability for accelerating the role businesses and other organizations play in sustainable development. She holds a Master of Strategic Leadership toward Sustainability from Blekinge Institute of Technology in Karlskrona, Sweden, and a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Art and Culture Studies from Simon Fraser University.

The lecture, open to the public, will be followed by a question and answer session. No RSVP required. For more information please contact Professor Dilip Kondepudi, dilip@wfu.edu

This event is sponsored by the Teaching and Learning Center and the Planning Grant for the Center for Energy and a Sustainable Environment.

INTEGRATING THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY INTO A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2009

Time: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Salem 210

Guest Speaker: Vice President of Second Nature, Michelle Dyer

Sustainability is not a subject; it is an approach. Whether you teach Business or Spanish, Physics or Philosophy, this forum will facilitate the interdisciplinary conversations and intellectual support necessary to redesign a current course (or create a new one) with sustainability in mind. In this intensive, interactive workshop, Michelle Dyer, will help faculty develop ideas and strategies for making connections across disciplines and exploring the possibilities of team-taught endeavors.

Faculty members who participate in the workshop are eligible to apply for a reserved fund of course development support. Approximately \$200 per person will be available to cover the costs of books, conferences, or other supplemental materials

necessary to revise or construct a course to incorporate the principles of sustainability into the curriculum.

Continental breakfast, lunch and refreshments provided. Space is limited and will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. To RSVP please include your name, affiliation and the title of the course you would like to (re-) design and reply to Professor Emily Wakild, wakildel@wfu.edu.

Deadline for workshop registration is Friday February 6, 2009 at 12:00pm.

Michelle Dyer has fifteen years of experience in management consulting and project management, specializing in transformational change and negotiation in the energy, health, higher education and entertainment (film, television, and music) industries. Before joining the Second Nature team, Mrs. Dyer was a founding partner of Greenland Enterprises, a consultancy specializing in strategic leadership towards sustainability for accelerating the role businesses and other organizations play in sustainable development. She holds a Master of Strategic Leadership toward Sustainability from Blekinge Institute of Technology in Karlskrona, Sweden, and a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Art and Culture Studies from Simon Fraser University. For more information on Second Nature, see their website, www.secondnature.org

This event is sponsored by the Teaching and Learning Center and the Planning Grant for the Center for Energy and a Sustainable Environment.

TEACHING AND LEARNING FAIR

Date: Wednesday, February 25

Time: 2:00-4:00 P.M.

Location: Benson 401

Open to faculty, staff, and graduate students, the Teaching and Learning Fair is designed to offer practical and interactive presentations to assist the novice and experienced faculty alike by enhancing their effectiveness as educators. Presenters will share their best practices, introduce emerging new curricular tools, explain and demonstrate tried-and-true pedagogic approaches to stimulate learning and to provide exposure to new vistas and emerging concepts in education. It will be an opportunity to see what colleagues throughout the university do in their classes.

Please RSVP on-line at <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> no later than Wednesday, February 18, in order to reserve a hard copy of abstracts submitted by fair presenters.

MARCH EVENTS

DIGITIZING LECTURES

Date: Tuesday, March 3

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library (the electronic classroom)

Hosts: Jacque Fetrow (Physics) and Ching-Wan Yip (Physics)

To facilitate the creation of video content for instructional use, Information Systems has teamed with the Library to create a new mini-studio and video formatting service available to all faculty. This new facility is housed in the ZSR Library. Users simply need to sign up for a time and walk in with their presentation. All the details of setting up a camera and lights, taping, conversion to the right format, and storing on the server will be taken care of for users. Join us for an introduction to the features of this new facility and discussion on effective use of video with faculty who have prepared and used it in the classroom.

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Thursday, February 26. Light refreshments will be available.

SAKAI: A Blackboard Alternative

Date: Thursday, March 5

Time: 8:30 A.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library

Host: Jolie Tingen (Instructional Technology Analyst: Music, Theatre and Dance)

Come to this session to learn about Sakai, the open source collaboration and learning environment. The session will focus on tools in Sakai, how it compares to Blackboard, and how faculty are using it to support their courses. A SAKAI training session will be held for interested faculty on March 25. More information about that opportunity will be sent to faculty in the near future.

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Monday, March 2. Light refreshments will be available.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP MONTHLY MEETINGS

Date: Tuesday, March 17

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Location: Teaching and Learning Center, Room 330, ZSR Library

Host: Lauren Pressley (Instructional Design Librarian, Z. Smith Reynolds Library)

In the past few years a number of new technologies and tools have emerged that have the potential to enhance and transform the way one can teach. Wake Forest University provides a number of tools and services, and you can now find a number available for free, online. This regular, informal discussion group has been established for faculty to share the ideas and different techniques they have tried with their classes. Come and share what you've done or just hear what other faculty have tried with their classes. A future discussion group will be held at 11:00am in the Teaching and Learning Center on April 14. RSVP not required.

TEACHING AND EVALUATING ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Location: ZSR Library, room 204

Host: Dee Oseroff-Varnell (Communication)

Clarifying our expectations and encouraging students to practice oral skills throughout the semester can help to reduce anxiety and promote speaker confidence. Have you given students clear guidelines regarding the goals and format of the assignment? Do you have a specific grading rubric for evaluating the presentations? Have you allowed ample class time for students to practice the skills that they will need to be successful in their presentations? This session will discuss strategies for successfully designing, implementing and evaluating oral presentations in the classroom. Please RSVP no later than Thursday, March 19, if you would like a boxed lunch, courtesy of the TLC

Please RSVP to by Thursday, March 19, to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> and be sure to specify a lunch selection.

SAKAI: A Training Opportunity

Date: Wednesday, March 25

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library

Host: Jolie Tingen (Instructional Technology Analyst: Music, Theatre and Dance)

Bring your laptop to this session to learn the basics of Sakai. Tools such as Announcements, Resources, and Assignments will be covered.

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Friday, March 20. Light refreshments will be available.

APRIL EVENTS

EXPERTIZA: A Peer-Review System For Collaborative Learning

Date: Thursday, April 9

Time: 3:00-4:30 P.M.

Location: ZSR Library, Room 204

Guest Speaker: Ed Gehringer, Department of Computer Science, North Carolina State University

Expertiza is a Web-based application for collaborative learning. Students can work individually or in teams, with all members having access to the same documents, or they can compose their work on a wiki. Students are assigned to review other individuals or teams anonymously. Authors may also give feedback to reviewers anonymously. All of these evaluations are presented to the instructor to use in assigning a grade. Using Expertiza, it is possible to take a large project, break it down into small portions for individuals or teams to work on, and then reassemble the result into a resource that will be of use to future classes. Among other things, Expertiza has been used to generate textbook exercises and active-learning exercises. The talk will be followed by an opportunity for attendees to use the system, generate content, and review each other's work. Attendees are invited to bring their laptops if they are interested in trying out the system. Light refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP no later than Monday, April 6, to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html>.

Ed Gehringer is an associate professor in the Computer Science department at NC State. He received his Ph.D. from Purdue University, and has also taught at Carnegie Mellon University and Monash University in Australia. His research interests include collaborative learning systems and the interaction between computer architecture and memory management. He has been the organizer of the Workshop on Computer Architecture Education for the last eight years, and has done over 60 presentations at education-based conferences and workshops.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP MONTHLY MEETINGS

Date: Tuesday, April 14
Time: 11:00 A.M.

Location: Teaching and Learning Center, Room 330, ZSR Library

Host: Lauren Pressley (Instructional Design Librarian, Z. Smith Reynolds Library)

In the past few years a number of new technologies and tools have emerged that have the potential to enhance and transform the way one can teach. Wake Forest University provides a number of tools and services, and you can now find a number available for free, online. This regular, informal discussion group has been established for faculty to share the ideas and different techniques they have tried with their classes. Come and share what you've done or just hear what other faculty have tried with their classes. RSVP not required.

END-OF-YEAR BLOWOUT/ FACULTY APPRECIATION ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Date: Thursday, April 23
Time: 1:00-4:00 P.M.

Location: Teaching and Learning Center

Join us for our fifth annual ICE CREAM SOCIAL! No program, no speeches, just an informal opportunity to enjoy great conversation and a delicious cold treat with fellow Wake Forest faculty! Please feel free to arrive and depart as your schedule dictates. We look forward to seeing you there! No RSVP required.

TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER EXAM WEEK COFFEE BREAK FOR FACULTY

Date: Monday, May 4, through Thursday, May 7

Time: 8:00am-10:00am

Location: Teaching and Learning Center, Room 330, ZSR Library

Faculty are cordially invited to stop by each morning during finals week for coffee and baked goods. Feel free to enjoy your treats in the Center or take them with you (to-go cups will be available, or bring your own). No RSVP required! This is a great opportunity to meet faculty from other departments.

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER

The Teaching and Learning Center was established in 1997 with a dual purpose: meeting faculty-identified needs for teaching support and promoting dialogue about teaching. Faculty are encouraged to fill out a Faculty Information Form available from the Center designed to help us target specific needs and concerns which are then the topics for brown bag lunch discussion and workshops throughout the academic year.

The Teaching and Learning Center also offers a number of voluntary and confidential evaluation services outside the traditional departmental evaluation process. These have included mid-term evaluations, videotaping, peer class visitations, and a faculty mentoring program.

To learn more about the Teaching and Learning Center, and/or to discuss the programs and services the TLC offers, please contact the TLC Director, Jeff Lerner, at Ext. 4559 (lernerjd@wfu.edu) or the TLC Coordinator at tlc@wfu.edu. The Teaching and Learning Center is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday until 5:00 P.M., Wednesday until 3:00 P.M., and Friday until 12:00 P.M. The Center is located in room 330, Z. Smith Reynolds Library.

The TLC Advisory Committee is elected annually. Committee members for the spring 2009 semester are: Sarah (Sally) E. Barbour, Romance Languages; Peter Brunette, Art; Barbara Diane (Diane) Lipsett, Divinity School; Leah McCoy, Education; Charley Rose, Law School; Wayne Silver, Biology; Helga Welsh, Political Science; Win-Chiat Lee, Philosophy; Randall Rogan, Graduate School/Communication and Chuck Kennedy, Babcock Graduate School of Management.

Opportunities for Classroom Visits and Mentoring

If you would like to get feedback on your teaching from one of your peers, there are now several ways to do so.

PEER CLASSROOM VISITS

Inspired by a suggestion by Alyssa Lonner in the Department of German and Russian, the Teaching and Learning Center coordinates voluntary faculty classroom visits. These are friendly visits, meant to help newer faculty members without pressure; generally the observer will be a colleague of similar rank,

but from a different department. Unlike the classroom visits that your department may require as part of your yearly review, feedback will be very informal, as agreed upon by the participants.

If you would like to have a faculty member from another department visit your class, or if you would like to visit someone else's class, please send an e-mail to the TLC Coordinator at tlc@wfu.edu.

Mid-Term Evaluations and Videotaping

If you prefer a more structured evaluation of a particular class, the TLC can arrange a mid-term evaluation. A faculty member visits your class during the semester and interviews students about their expectations and experiences, without the instructor present. Afterwards the course instructor and colleague meet to discuss the students' responses.

The TLC can also videotape your classes, or you may borrow our camera to do it yourself.

If you would like more information about either of these options, please see our web page <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/about/services.html>. Allow two weeks notice for mid-term evaluations.

RESOURCES

The TLC has many resources available to the campus community, including books and journals promoting teaching excellence. The Teaching and Learning Center also maintains a vertical file and notebooks of teaching-related articles. Subjects include, but are not limited to:

- Active learning
- Assessment
- Collaborative learning
- Critical thinking
- Generating discussion
- Interdisciplinary teaching
- Syllabus construction
- Teaching portfolios
- Testing and grading
- Writing across disciplines

We are pleased to offer several excellent articles within the "Course Documents" section of the TLC Blackboard site (<http://blackboard.wfu.edu/>) that may enhance your classroom teaching experience. Contact the Coordinator at tlc@wfu.edu to receive access

For information about other TLC services and upcoming events, see the TLC web site. In addition, information about First-Year Seminars and FYS proposals is now available by going to the TLC homepage.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Please see the TLC Events portion of this newsletter, or the TLC web site, for event descriptions. Events will take place at the Teaching and Learning Center, 330 Z. Smith Reynolds Library, unless otherwise noted. All faculty are invited to be our guests for lunch, breakfast, or light refreshments offered during our programs.

JANUARY EVENTS

TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER FACULTY APPRECIATION COFFEE BREAK

Date: Thursday, January 22

Time: 8:00am-10:00am

Location: Teaching and Learning Center, Room 330, ZSR Library

No RSVP required!

BEST PRACTICES IN SYLLABUS CONSTRUCTION

Date: Thursday, January 29

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library (the electronic classroom)

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Monday, January 26, and be sure to specify a lunch selection.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

SAKAI: A Blackboard Alternative

Date: Thursday, February 5

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Monday, February 2, and be sure to specify a lunch selection

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT WRITING: EXPECTATIONS AND HABITS

Date: Wednesday, February 11

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library (the electronic classroom)

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Friday, February 6. Light refreshments will be available.

SAKAI: A Blackboard Alternative

Date: Thursday, February 16

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Room 204, ZSR Library

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Wednesday, February 11. Light refreshments will be available.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP MONTHLY MEETINGS

Date: Tuesday, February 17

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Location: Teaching and Learning Center, Room 330, ZSR Library

RSVP not required.

SAKAI: A Blackboard Alternative

Date: Tuesday, February 17

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Location: Worrell Professional Center, Room 1109

No RSVP required.

WHY SUSTAINABILITY? LEARNING WHY SUSTAINABILITY IS THE KEY SKILL TO CREATE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

Date: Friday, February 20, 2009

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: De Tamble Hall

Guest Speaker: Michelle Dyer, Vice President of Second Nature

The lecture, open to the public, will be followed by a question and answer session. No RSVP required. For more information please contact Professor Dilip Kondepudi, dilip@wfu.edu.

INTEGRATING THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY INTO A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2009

Time: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Salem 210

Guest Speaker: Vice President of Second Nature, Michelle Dyer

To RSVP please include your name, affiliation and the title of the course you would like to (re-)design and reply to Professor Emily Wakild, wakildel@wfu.edu. Deadline for workshop registration Friday February 6th, 2009 at 12:00pm.

TEACHING AND LEARNING FAIR

Date: Wednesday, February 25

Time: 2:00-4:00 P.M.

Location: Benson 401

Please RSVP on-line at <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> no later than Wednesday, February 18, in order to reserve a hard copy of abstracts submitted by fair presenters.

MARCH EVENTS**DIGITIZING LECTURES****Date:** Tuesday, March 3**Time:** 3:00 P.M.**Location:** Room 204, ZSR Library (the electronic classroom)

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Thursday, February 26. Light refreshments will be available

SAKAI: A Blackboard Alternative**Date:** Thursday, March 5**Time:** 8:30 A.M.**Location:** Room 204, ZSR Library

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Monday, March 2. Light refreshments will be available.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP MONTHLY MEETINGS**Date:** Tuesday, March 17**Time:** 11:00 A.M.**Location:** Teaching and Learning Center, Room 330, ZSR Library

RSVP not required.

TEACHING AND EVALUATING ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2009**Time:** 11:00 A.M.**Location:** ZSR Library, room 204**Host:** Dee Oseroff-Varnell (Communication)

Please RSVP to by Thursday, March 19, to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> and be sure to specify a lunch selection.

SAKAI: A Training Opportunity**Date:** Wednesday, March 25**Time:** 3:00 P.M.**Location:** Room 204, ZSR Library

Please RSVP to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html> by Friday, March 20. Light refreshments will be available.

APRIL EVENTS**EXPERTIZA: A PEER-REVIEW SYSTEM FOR COLLABORATIVE LEARNING****Date:** Thursday, April 9**Time:** 3:00-4:30 P.M.**Location:** ZSR Library, Room 204**Guest Speaker:** Ed Gehringer, Department of Computer Science, North Carolina State University

Please RSVP no later than Monday, April 6, to <http://www.wfu.edu/tlc/events.html>.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP MONTHLY MEETINGS**Date:** Tuesday, April 14**Time:** 11:00 A.M.**Location:** Teaching and Learning Center, Room 330, ZSR Library

RSVP not required.

END-OF-YEAR BLOWOUT/ FACULTY APPRECIATION ICE CREAM SOCIAL**Date:** Thursday, April 23**Time:** 1:00-4:00 P.M.**Location:** Teaching and Learning Center

Please feel free to arrive and depart as your schedule dictates. No RSVP required.

MAY EVENTS**TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER EXAM WEEK COFFEE BREAK FOR FACULTY****Date:** Monday, May 4, through Thursday, May 7**Time:** 8:00am-10:00am**Location:** Teaching and Learning Center, Room 330, ZSR Library

No RSVP required.