



“FACET advocates pedagogical innovation....”

excerpt from FACET Mission

FACULTY COLLOQUIUM ON EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

From the desk of Robin



In January, I attended a FACET teaching symposium on the Southeast campus and in February I attended a

FACET teaching workshop on the Bloomington campus. Each event had over fifty faculty members in attendance and it was wonderful to see the excitement about teaching on each campus. As I listened to Meagan Palmer on the New Albany campus talk about using Adobe Connect and Craig Nelson on the Bloomington campus talk about pedagogical changes that significantly increase student learning, I was reminded of how much of my own success as a facilitator of learning had been due to what I have “stolen” from my colleagues at conferences and in reading SoTL articles. Over the course of a twenty plus year teaching career, I have come to one undeniable truth about teaching: being a good teacher requires, above all else, being a competent thief. Much of what I have learned about effective pedagogy has been “borrowed”—with and without permission-- from good teachers. I have also learned that rather than resenting my felonious behavior, teaching colleagues have been honored by and encouraging of my life of crime. I would encourage each of you to take the time to attend conferences, read articles on SoTL, and share your own teaching “successes” and “failures.” Our own JoSoTL is a wonderful peer-reviewed outlet for your efforts in this arena.

Teaching Innovations

In the Feb 16th issue of the Chronicle, Heather M. Whitney, shared rather fearlessly a recent failure in the classroom (<http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/total-fail-it-happens/30640>). She was nearing the end of a lecture in her general physics course when, BAM, nothing. She completely flopped and lost track of her thoughts; unable to recover and with the clock running out she opted to end class ten minutes early and resume with the answer to the equation at the beginning of the next class session. What lesson did she leave the students in that physics classroom? Has this happened to you? Be honest: It happens.

FAIL

What was your teaching FAIL? What did you learn? How did the students react? Did the students offer any feedback? Did you impart at least a life lesson if not a lesson on the subject matter?

As many of you know, our founding director, Eileen Bender, passed away over the summer of 2010. We would like to honor her contributions to FACET by dedicating the keynote address at the FACET retreat to her. The opening keynote presentation will permanently be renamed in her memory beginning in May 2011 with the keynote being delivered by Harvey Bender, her husband and a long time Friend of FACET. We are constantly updating our website, so please check back frequently for more details regarding this retreat.



Campus Updates

March 31 from 5 - 7 PM and April 1, 2011 from 8:30 - 10 AM: The Statewide FACET office is one of the co-sponsors of Keith Sawyer on the IUPUI campus. He will present two separate talks titled, “Creativity: The Science Behind Ideas and Collaboration” and “Educating for Innovation”, respectively. This event is open to ALL FACET membership.

April 15, 2011: **IU South Bend** will host the 12th Annual Midwest Regional Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

April 26, 2011: **IU Southeast** will host their 5th Annual FACET Faculty Feast, celebrating the professional milestones of local FACETeers.

May 20 - 22, 2011: 23rd Annual FACET Retreat located at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre in downtown Indianapolis. The Steering Committee will meet on May 19th prior to the retreat.

Please see the calendar on the FACET website or the campus liaison for more details on these events.