Center for Teaching and Learning Newsletter

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CTL December Newsletter

The CTL Newsletter is distributed electronically every month during the academic year.

Highlights from our December issue include:

- Celebrating Research
  Maura C. Flannery page 2
- Semester Jumpstart
  Maura C. Flannery page 3
- Adjunct Faculty Colloquium
  page 3
- Faculty News
  page 4
- First Generation Students
  page 4
- LIBRARY RESOURCES
  Opposing Viewpoints
  Anthony Todman page 5
- Research Month 2013
  page 5
- CAREER CORNER
  Helping Students Gain Valuable Experience
  Jennifer Grauso page 6
- Conversations on Teaching
  page 6
- How to Use the Podium Classrooms
  page 6
- Web Tools I Use
  Maura C. Flannery page 7
- St. John’s University and New York Campus Compact Institute on Academic Service-Learning page 8

Remember: The best places to look for faculty-related information are the CTL Webpage and the CTL Forum.
Celebrating Research

Maura C. Flannery (College of Professional Studies, flannerm@stjohns.edu)

Most of us complain about not having enough time to do research. There are so many other activities which are part of our jobs. With the scarcity of time to actually do the research, it might seem counter-intuitive to take time out to celebrate doing research, which is what April, the University’s annual Research Month, is all about. On page 5 of the Newsletter, you will find a list of the events planned for April. After taking a look at it, your instant response might very well be: “I don’t have time for all of that!” Well, none of us do, but still, these events are worth attending for a variety of reasons, some of them noble and some self-serving.

The Noble
Research Month events celebrate the work of faculty and students. They give us an opportunity to encourage our colleagues for their fine contributions to their fields and to congratulate students who are stepping out into those same fields. Both groups need encouragement. Discovery in any discipline requires a great deal of time, thought, and just plain old drudgery. It feels good to get a pat on the back. That’s what the Grant Reception and the Faculty Book Reception, both to be held on Monday April 8, are all about. The events on Thursday, April 11 do the same for students who present their posters, artworks, films, and talks that day. On Staten Island, faculty and students both make their presentations on Thursday, April 25.

The Self-Serving
Now it is fine to support students and faculty in their research, but what can Research Month events do for you? “A lot“ is my answer. First of all, it is good for your ego if you or your students present. It is exciting to see your students show off their work; it will definitely make them anxious to do more. And it feels wonderful to present at the Faculty Research Forum; just preparing for the event makes you realize all you’ve accomplished—and also what you still have to do. That’s another payoff: you get reminders for the road ahead. You may also get help on that road because seeing other student and faculty presentations may provide you with ideas you can use. You may even find people with whom to collaborate. St. John’s is a large institution, and there can easily be pockets of expertise that you don’t know about.

Research Month activities can be goldmines, and not only for research ideas but for teaching-related material as well. On Thursday, April 18, the CTL Teaching and Technology Fellows present their research projects, which are always filled with innovative approaches to using technology in the classroom and beyond.

While it may seem a long time until April, it’s really not that far away. So think about participating in one or more event, or at the very least attending one of them. As a final lure, there are three Interdisciplinary Research Roundtable Luncheons, so you will have both food for body and mind.
SEMESTER JUMPSTART
Before the Spring semester begins, why not take the opportunity to learn something that will spark your teaching and your students’ interest. We have some suggestions, and you can learn about one or all of them on the same day. We will start with a light breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon.

9:30 Breakfast

9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Effective Web Searching
Familiarity with just three of Google’s search tools can vastly enhance search results for you and your students. But Google goes beyond – and offers additional fun and useful features as well. There is life outside of Google as well. Come and explore.

11 a.m. to noon ePortfolios with Digication
The university provides Digication ePortfolios to all faculty and a growing number of students. Learn how you can use it yourself as well as with your students. It is an important tool that can be employed as a webpage, for assessment, in presenting course materials, and as a portfolio.

Noon Lunch

12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Flipped Classroom
The fundamental idea behind the flipped classroom is to change the customary order of instruction. Class time is not employed for lecture or for some other form of presenting information, which is done as homework. Instead, class time is used to explore ways the knowledge can be utilized. There are a number of different approaches to “flipping,” and we will explore these during the workshop.

1:45 to 2:45 p.m. Engagement Strategies Using Blackboard
Blackboard is powerful course management software which the University has chosen for its online courses. As with any other teaching tool, there are always new and creative ways of using Blackboard to increase student engagement in both online and face-to-face classes. Those who have experience with this technology will discuss their ideas, and please feel free to share your approaches at this session which focuses on pedagogy.

Date: Wednesday, January 16
Location: Bent Hall 277A
To register go to: www.stjohns.edu/ctl

Adjunct Faculty Colloquium
At this program on Monday, January 28 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in Bent Hall room 277A, one of your adjunct colleagues will discuss approaches to student engagement. There will also be brief presentations on the University’s Mission and Global Initiatives. This is an opportunity for new and returning adjunct faculty to meet colleagues, discuss the rewards and challenges of teaching, and be introduced to the programs of the Center for Teaching and Learning. Refreshments will be served.
To register go to: www.stjohns.edu/ctl
Faculty News

Dr. Howard Abadinsky (Criminal Justice & Legal Studies, abadinsh@stjohns.edu) published the eighth edition of Drug Use and Abuse (Prentice Hall/Cengage).

Dr. David P. Brown (Chemistry, brownd@stjohns.edu) delivered the keynote address at the member induction ceremony of the Delta Epsilon Sigma National Scholastic Honor Society at Iona College, NY (November 2012).

Dr. Christopher Denny (Theology and Religious Studies, dennyc@stjohns.edu) presented a paper, “How Studying Vedic Sacrifice Can Improve Christian Views of Suffering Atonement,” at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Chicago (November 2012).

Dr. Hannah Berliner Fischthal (English, fischthh@stjohns.edu) has been selected to be a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Jewish History in New York. She will be researching Jews in Antwerp between the World Wars.


Dr. Emese Ivan (Hospitality, Tourism & Sports Management, ivane@stjohns.edu) presented the paper, “Here, There, and Nowhere? Hungary’s Olympic Dilemma in the 1920s,” at the 44th Annual National Conference of the Association for Advancement of East Central European and Eurasian Studies in New Orleans (November 2012).

Dr. Judith A Ryder (Sociology and Anthropology, ryderj@stjohns.edu) coauthored the article, “Cracked Perspectives: Reflections of Women and Girls in the Aftermath of the Crack Cocaine Era,” in Feminist Criminology (Online First May 2012; January 2013); also co-presented two papers “Suffering the Limitations: Violent Girls’ Experiences with Child Welfare” and “Psychosocial Perspectives of Girls & Violence: Implications for Policy and Praxis” at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meetings in Chicago, IL (November 2012).

Professor Jeffrey Weiser (Communications, Journalism and Media Studies) took his multimedia communications class on a tour of CNN-New York, and the visit was hosted by assignment editor Chris Kokenes.

Faculty News:
If you would like to send an entry to “Faculty News,” the deadline for the January issue is January 14. We prefer that you email the information to CTL@stjohns.edu. Please have your entries follow the style presented in “Faculty News.”

First Generation Students
The Chronicle of Higher Education recently published two articles on teaching first-generation students. They both provide interesting perspectives, and are definitely worth reading. Even better, they are both freely accessible on the web:

Think of First-Generation Students as Pioneers, Not Problems by Richard Greenwald (http://chronicle.com/article/Think-of-First-Generation/135710/).

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Opposing Viewpoints

Anthony Todman (University Libraries, todmana@stjohns.edu)

Opposing Viewpoints located at http://bit.ly/galeOP is a comprehensive resource for students who want to review the most relevant, controversial and debated social issues of the day. Any user looking to research, analyze, debate, or make a presentation will find this resource very informative.

At the Reference Desk we often encounter a student who has to choose a topic and produce an issues-oriented assignment. Everything that a faculty member generally requests for this assignment is here, including primary source documents, pro/con viewpoint essays, periodical articles, statistical tables, charts, graphs, and thousands of biographical sketches. Some of the enhanced features include video and audio streams, podcasts, and links to Google Images.

Topics are arranged in an A-Z format, in addition to by subjects such as Health, Law, Business, and Energy. The national and global news resources are updated daily. MLA, APA, and RefWorks citation tools are also listed. This database will support general users as well as those conducting extensive research assignments.

Research Month 2013

The research activities of St. John’s students and faculty are increasingly diverse and intense: grant dollars continue to rise; publications are flourishing; students are presenting papers at conferences. We have good reason to celebrate our accomplishments. We expect that through Research Month activities the St. John’s University Community will become increasingly aware, mutually supportive and proud of these impressive activities. For more specific information go to:

Student Research Events
Faculty Research Events

Summary of Research Month Events for 2013:

Monday, April 8
- Faculty Research Forum
- Reception Honoring Recipients of Grants
- Annual Faculty Book Reception

Thursday, April 11
Student Research Day: Queens Campus
- Poster Presentations
- Oral Presentations, Panel Discussions, and Roundtable
- Fine Arts Presentations
- Film Screening/Performance Art

Thursday, April 18
- CTL Fellows' Presentation on Research in Teaching and Technology

Thursday, April 25
Research Day-Staten Island
Helping Students Gain Valuable Experience

Jennifer Grauso (Assistant Director, Career Center, grausoj@stjohns.edu)

Networking has proven to be one of the most successful methods of finding a job in today’s economy. What better way to help ensure our students success than setting them up with key alumni and employers to network with? The Career Center offers Job Shadow days and Site Visits that connect students with professionals in their field of interest for a day in either individual or small group settings. These opportunities provide students with invaluable experience and exposure to their future career paths.

The Shadow Program, open to first and second year students, matches a student with an alum or employer contact. Over the course of a typical work day, the student observes and learns the roles and responsibilities of the assigned mentor. The mentor is encouraged to share his/her professional growth and career path including challenges faced. After one day of onsite job shadowing, students are guided and encouraged to stay in touch with their mentor. As a result, several students have obtained internships through their networking. In the past students have shadowed: lawyers, judges, accountants, financial advisors, educators, and editors, just to name a few! The next Shadow Program week will take place during Spring Break week, February 25 – March 1, 2013.

Site Visits, open to all students, are held throughout the semester on select Fridays for groups of 10-20 students. During a site visit, students spend an average of 3 hours hearing from key players at the organization. Human Resources contacts, alumni, and other important executives gather to inform students about the organization and its hiring processes. Students are encouraged to stay in touch with anyone they meet who might be of interest to them in the future. Site Visits are great ways for students to fully understand what it takes to succeed at employers of interest. Past site visits have taken place at MTV, KPMG, Madison Square Garden, and Sesame Workshop. In Spring 2013 we will be visiting Goldman Sachs, Ruder Finn, Penguin Publishing and many more to come!

Whether it is through a Shadow Day or Site Visit, the Career Center is a large proponent of networking and its benefits. We encourage you to advise your students of these programs and if interested, contact the Career Center today to learn more!

Conversations on Teaching

This program is designed to explore some of the basic issues in teaching at the college level: course planning, student engagement, and classroom management. It may be particularly useful for those who have less experience in the classroom—new full-time faculty, new adjuncts, and administrators teaching for the first time. We also feel that even experienced teachers would enjoy and profit from this event. There is always something new to learn about teaching, especially these days with so many exciting new findings about cognition, innovative approaches to teaching, and new uses of technology in the classroom.

Date: Tuesday, January 22
Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: Bent Hall room 277A, Queens Campus
To register go to: www.stjohns.edu/ctl

How to Use the Podium Classrooms

The eStudio staff will demonstrate how to use the podium classrooms on Tuesday, January 22 at 2:15 p.m. in Marillac room 314.
To register go to: www.stjohns.edu/ctl.
Web Tools I Use
Maura C. Flannery (College of Professional Studies, flannerm@stjohns.edu)

There are so many web tools available now, that not even the most tech savvy can try, let alone use, them all. I am not a tech wizard, as what follows will quickly indicate, but here are some web resources I find particularly helpful. I am not mentioning too...
**St. John’s University and New York Campus Compact Institute on Academic Service-Learning**

**Date:** January 22, 2013  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Location:** St. John’s University, Staten Island Campus, Kiernan Suite-Kelleher Center  
**Cost:** $65.00 (see note below)

St. John’s will be co-hosting with New York Campus Compact an Institute on Academic Service-Learning encompassing all levels of education from K through Higher Education. Please join us for this unparalleled program. You will have an opportunity to participate in small group discussions and hands-on course design while collaborating and networking with educators from K-8, High School and Higher Education Institutions in New York Campus Compact. We will create special strands within the day for K-8, High School and Higher Education Institutions.

**Dr. Edward Zlotkowski**, Professor of English at Bentley University and academic service-learning pioneer, will facilitate a one day institute for faculty who want to explore and/or deepen their understanding and practice of academic service-learning. For those of you who are not familiar with Dr. Edward Zlotkowski, he is a well-known author and respected authority both nationally and internationally in the field of service-learning. Co-facilitating the program will be **Dr. Julie H. Carter**, Associate Professor at St. John’s University and coordinator of adolescent education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Prior to coming to St. John’s Dr. Carter worked at the National Center for Service Learning helping teachers to integrate service learning into K-12 classrooms.

The Institute is open to all full time and part time faculty and administrators who teach. Your attendance at this program will result in certification in academic service-learning.

**Program Objectives:**

- To explore or deepen your understanding of academic service-learning  
- To design or re-design your course outline to include an academic service-learning component  
- To identify ways to build a community partnership

**You will receive:**

- Stipend of $250 (less registration fee) for attending the faculty institute and $250 stipend for incorporating academic service-learning into one of your courses in the following academic year  
- Academic service-learning framed certificate  
- Institute material with resource information on academic service-learning

*Please bring your course syllabus with you.*

[Click here to register](#)

For any questions please contact Lynn Stravino, Director of Academic Service-Learning at stravinl@stjohns.edu or 718 990 7902.