ctl February Newsletter

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

Highlights from our February issue include:

Academic Lecture Series—Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention  page 2
Anthony Todman

Data and You: How the Office of Institutional Research Can Support Your Efforts Part I—University Facts and Figures  page 3
Christine M. Goodwin

Faculty News  page 4

LIBRARY RESOURCES
Featured Database: Mergent Online  page 5
Lucy Heckman

Career Corner: Upcoming Career Programs/Spring Highlights  page 6
Jennifer Grauso

News from the Tobin College of Business  page 7

Global Certificate Program  page 7

Collaborations  page 8

Flipped Classrooms  page 8

Faculty Writing Initiative: How Do You Know When to Stop Writing  page 8

Faculty Writing Retreat  page 9

Academic Service-Learning: A Theology of Service  page 9

Faculty Growth Grant Program  page 9

Remember: The best places to look for faculty-related information are the CTL Webpage and the CTL Forum.
Academic Lecture Series—Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention

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

On March 13, 2012 at 5 p.m. in Marillac Terrace, the University Libraries, and the Friends of the Library are sponsoring a lecture and multimedia presentation entitled “(Re-)Discovering Malcolm X.” This program should be of interest to a variety of students and faculty, particularly those studying history, civil rights, human rights, and social justice. On a broader scope, this program should be of interest for history and literature students interested in the process of researching and writing history.

In the spring of 2011, Columbia University African American Studies Professor Manning Marable published a biography entitled Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention. A few days before its publication, he passed away. The lecture will be given by Zaheer Ali; he is currently a doctoral candidate at Columbia, focusing his research on twentieth-century African-American history and religion. Zaheer worked closely with Marable, serving as one of the project managers and senior researchers of the Malcolm X Project (MXP) at Columbia, a multi-year research initiative on the life and legacy of Malcolm X. He was also the lead researcher to Marable.

Malcolm is widely known in print through his autobiography, which was written with Alex Haley, and published after his death in 1965. Marable goes in to great detail to expose, what he considers are inaccuracies in Haley’s effort. His assertion is that The Autobiography of Malcolm X: As Told to Alex Haley is greatly exaggerated in some areas, particularly in the review of the life of young Malcolm Little, and his life of crime in Boston and New York City. Marable further describes Haley as a “liberal Republican” and “integrationist Republican” who was strongly opposed to Malcolm’s radical political viewpoints. Therefore, his portrayal of Malcolm is fundamentally flawed and biased. Not only did Malcolm not live to see the final draft of Haley’s work, but Marable proposes that some of Malcolm’s words, opinions, and contributions were omitted after his assassination.

The resounding theme of Marable’s book is that Malcolm spent his life reinventing himself from hustler and convict to leader and minister. This book builds upon The Autobiography and includes Malcolm’s personal correspondence, in addition to information from previously unavailable files from the FBI and New York Police Department.

Marable’s book and other works on Malcolm X will be available via reserve at the Queens Library third floor Circulation desk. Selected speeches are also available for review in the Media Center, located on the library fourth floor viewing area.

For those interested in viewing primary documents, the Schomburg Center for Black Research and Culture, a research division of the New York Public Library, has an exhibition entitled Malcolm X: A Search for Truth. It runs until March 8, 2012.

For additional information, review The Malcolm X Project at Columbia University and Zaheer Ali’s website.
Data and You: How the Office of Institutional Research Can Support Your Efforts
Part I – University Facts and Figures
Christine M. Goodwin (Director of Data Management, Analysis and Reporting, Office of Institutional Research, goodwinc@stjohns.edu)

The Office of Institutional Research (OIR) provides accurate, consistent, and timely information to support institutional, college and departmental level planning and decision-making; to satisfy external reporting requirements; and to support individuals in their research efforts. One of our functions is to collect and disseminate facts and figures through annual Enrollment Reports, University Fact Books and other special reports concerning the students, the university, as well as the faculty, administrators, and staff. We can help provide you with the data that will be most useful to you in your teaching, faculty-student interactions, your own research, or grant proposals. Information is available on:

- Enrollment
- Degrees conferred
- Student demographics
- Faculty, administrators and staff demographics
- Retention and Graduation Rates
- Courses taught
- And much more!

Our most recent edition of the Fast Fact card that provides useful statistics at your fingertips is now available. If you have not received a copy, please call the Office of Institutional Research at (718) 990-1869. This along with other University Facts and Figures in the Fact Book and enrollment reports are available at www.stjohns.edu/ir.

We will be highlighting other services of the Office of Institutional Research in future editions of the CTL Newsletter. Stay Tuned!
Faculty News

Dr. Sandra Schamroth Abrams (Curriculum and Instruction, abramss@stjohns.edu) presented two panel papers: "New Literacies, Virtual Worlds, and Learning: Exploring Semiotic Domains in Learning and Literacy" at the Literacy Research Association’s Annual Conference in Jacksonville, FL, and "Video Gaming and Sustainable Learning for the Future: Reading, Writing, and Understanding Through Virtual Experiences” at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention in Chicago, IL.

Dr. Elaine Carey (History, careye@stjohns.edu) presented “The Department Chair as Negotiator: Challenges Faced by History Departments in These Perilous, Budget Cutting Times,” and “The History Major and Liberal Arts Education: Practical Application of the National History Center: St. John’s University,” at the American Historical Association meeting (January 2012); presented “Selling is More of a Habit: Women and Drug Trafficking, 1900-1970,” at the New York Public Library (January 2012); and co-edited a special issue of World History Bulletin, “Transnational Crime and Vice in World History,” to which she contributed “Streams and Banks: Teaching Mexico’s Drug War using Film.”

Dr. Zhe-Sheng Chen (Pharmaceutical Sciences, chenz@stjohns.edu) was selected as an associate editor by the Journal of Analytical Oncology; published an editorial entitled, “Role of ABC Transporters in Cancer Chemotherapy,” and two manuscripts: “Multidrug Resistance Associated Proteins in Multidrug Resistance,” and “Overexpression of P-glycoprotein Induces Acquired Resistance to Imatinib in Chronic Myeloid Leukemia Cells,” in a special issue, “Multidrug Resistance in Cancer,” of Chinese Journal of Cancer.

Dr. Maura C. Flannery (Computer Science, Mathematics and Science, flannerm@stjohns.edu) published an article, “Australian History: A Long Story,” in The American Biology Teacher (February 2012).

Dr. Peggy Jacobson (Communication Sciences and Disorders, jacobsp@stjohns.edu) published an article, “The Effects of Language Impairment on the Use of Direct Object Pronouns and Verb Inflections in Heritage Spanish Speakers: A Look at Attrition, Incomplete Acquisition and Maintenance," in Bilingualism: Language and Cognition (January 2012); received a New Century Scholars Grant from the American Speech and Hearing Foundation to implement a screening procedure for children from diverse language backgrounds.

Dr. Theodore D. Kemper (Sociology & Anthropology, kempert@stjohns.edu) won the first T. S. Evans prize offered by the Shaw Society of the UK, for his Act IV addition to George Bernard Shaw’s play, "Candida," in the society's 'Write Like Shaw' contest and the new act was given a staged reading (January 2012).

Dr. Flora Keshishian (Rhetoric, Communication & Theatre, keshishf@stjohns.edu) and Dr. Barrett Brenton (Sociology & Anthropology, brenthonb@stjohns.edu) published “Pharmacy Students’ Perceptions of Their Major and Profession: Implications for Pharmacy Education,” in Pharmacy Education: An International Journal for Pharmaceutical Education (2011); Dr. Keshishian co-authored, “Phraselogical Units as Bearers of Cultural Information: A Comparative Study,” in Pedagogy and Psychology: Scientific Periodical of Interuniversity Consortium (2011).

Dr. Marian Maskulak (Theology and Religious Studies, maskulam@stjohns.edu) published “Julian of Norwich and the God of No Blame and No Wrath” in Magistra: A Journal of Women’s Spirituality in History (Winter 2011).


Faculty News:
If you would like to send an entry to “Faculty News,” the deadline for the March issue is March 5. We prefer that you email the information to CTL@stjohns.edu. Please have your entries follow the style presented in “Faculty News.”
LIBRARY RESOURCES*

Featured Database: Mergent Online
Lucy Heckman (University Libraries, heckmanl@stjohns.edu)

Mergent Online is a business database that provides a multitude of information regarding companies, industries, country studies, economic statistics, and equity and stock analysis. It is highly recommended as a user-friendly database for business research since it features timely and comprehensive data and answers questions ranging from what are current housing statistics, to comparing airlines in North America, to deciding on whether to buy or sell a stock.

To make it easier, users can search company information by name or ticker symbol to locate results. Search results for each company include: address, phone number, company web site address, summary of business, stock market data, key financials, company news, and corporate events, year of incorporation, number of shareholders, number of employees, and a list of key executives (including their ages and salaries).

It is also possible to locate companies by industry classification: Primary SIC and NAICS codes as well as MIC (Mergent Industry Code), leading index (e.g. Dow Jones Industrial), and limit to exchange where its stocks are traded and to country. Mergent also has an advanced search feature which enables comparisons among companies. For example, searching by NAICS code yields a list of companies within a specific code.

Mergent Online features industry information worldwide. Industry reports in full-text format are available from 2003 to present. Each report, by Mergent staff writers, contains: current environment (industry conditions) in a specific region—North America will contain the United States and Canada and each country features separate analyses; industry profile (comparing performances of specific companies); market trends and outlook, and key references. The references section provides names and urls of trade associations which were sources of data used by Mergent. Users can further expand their research for example by accessing automobile trade associations such as: Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers.

The database is very useful for providing country information as well. Via the Country Profile link researchers can select a country from the list to access data; each link provides: a map, analysis of the economic conditions, key economic data, data on major industries, energy statistics, international trade statistics, securities exchanges, history and geography, population and census data, government, media and transportation data.

Current economic data statistics may also be accessed via Mergent—among these statistics are Gross Domestic Product, housing, Federal Reserve data, interest rates, and currency in circulation.

For researchers looking for analysis and advice about equities and stocks and whether to hold or sell, Mergent’s Equity Report Search features timely recommendations.

Mergent can be accessed via the University Libraries’ webpage (libraries.stjohns.edu); the Library page contains a link Find an Article (Databases), select Mergent from the A to Z list. Additionally, Mergent is listed on the Business Subject Page—to access select Resources by Subject, then Business. Mergent is listed under Corporate & Industry Information.

*This is a new monthly feature which will highlight a different library resource each month. The University Libraries are such rich facilities that there is always something new and useful to discover.
Career Corner: Upcoming Career Programs/Spring Highlights
Jennifer Grauso (Assistant Director, Career Center, grasoj@stjohns.edu)

As we spring into the new semester, the Career Center is thrilled to highlight the fantastic programming we have planned. With two major event weeks, Shadow Program Week and Career Week, students are sure to gain further clarity about their future career goals. Additionally, we offer a host of career series including Employer Site Visits, Career Conversations, Coffee with a COACH, and Polished & Professional. The fall semester ended with more than 2,700 students taking advantage of Career Center events and programs, and we anticipate another great showing this spring.

The Shadow Program gives students the opportunity to spend the day with a professional in their field of interest learning what a typical work day is like. Hosted the week of February 27th, students will be matched up with professionals in fields such as law, accounting, government, editing, finance, education, healthcare, broadcasting, and more. Former students have expressed how invaluable this experience is by allowing them to get a clear perspective on the work environment they hope to enter upon graduation.

This spring’s Career Week will be focused on preparing students for internships and job searches as well as the interview process. Seminars will include topics such as Transitioning from College to Career, Perfecting Your 30 Second Pitch, Do’s and Don’ts of Interviewing, Impressing Recruiters, Acing the Online Application, and Researching the Company. Career Week will take place from March 20-27, culminating with the Spring Career Fair on Tuesday, March 27th in Taffner Field House.

We are thrilled to continue our Career Conversations series, and our Employer Site Visit series. The Career Conversations series allows students to meet employers from a variety of different companies, right here on campus, to learn about their organizations and career opportunities. This semester we are hosting Goldman Sachs, Abercrombie, Verizon, Macy’s, Conde Nast, and ESPN. We have also scheduled Employer Site Visits to: Ruder Finn, Rolling Stone Magazine, Google, and MTV/Viacom.

Our Polished & Professional series was a success last semester with more than 290 students learning how to make a positive first impression by practicing networking and interviewing skills in a safe, interactive environment. Anticipating another successful semester, seminar topics will include Your Online Brand, Phone Interview Pro, Mock Interview Night, Mock-tail Networking, Dressing to Impress, and Dining Etiquette.

Additionally, this semester we are expanding our Coffee with a COACH breakfast series where students gather for informal question and answer sessions with experienced STJ alumni who have volunteered to serve in a mentoring role for our students. This series will include candid conversations with alumni from organizations including the Altman Group, Merrill Lynch, Chartis Inc., Traditional Services for NY, and Bloomberg.

For a full calendar of these events, please visit the Career Center web site at: www.stjohns.edu/careerevents. Please encourage your students to attend events related to your field of study. We also would like to invite you to bring your class to any of our events, if appropriate. If you are interested in bringing your class to a session, or have any questions about our programs, please contact Dr. Michelle Kyriakides, Associate Director, Career Center at kyriakim@stjohns.edu.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the semester, and working with you to help assure our students’ career success.
News from the Tobin College of Business

Management Students Complete Service Learning Project
Undergraduate business majors enrolled in the Administrative and Organizational Behavior course taught by Dr. Niall Hegarty participated in the Management Department’s first service learning project. They partnered with New Ground, a Long-Island based non-profit organization that help at-risk families with education assistance, as well as with guidance in achieving financial independence. For more information on how student teams worked with New Ground personnel go to: http://www.stjohns.edu/academics/graduate/tobin/news/ev_aca_tcb_120130_aslmgmt2301.news_item@digest.stjohns.edu%2facademics%2fgraduate%2ftobin%2fiev_aca_tcb_120130_aslmgmt2301.xml

50 Years at St. John's
Francis A. Lees, Professor of Economics and Finance, is celebrating 50 years of service to the University. During the course of his long career, he has taught both graduate and undergraduate students, and has also authored 14 books. To learn more about Dr. Lees go to: http://www.stjohns.edu/academics/graduate/tobin/success/faculty/francis_lees.stj

Along with the profile of Francis Lees, there are also stories on several other faculty from the Tobin College of Business at: http://www.stjohns.edu/academics/graduate/tobin/success/faculty.

Global Certificate Program
Last fall the Provost announced a new Global Initiative which includes two major objectives: a) to integrate themes and perspectives from around the world into courses taught on our New York campuses, and b) to create more opportunities for St. John's students to study abroad. As part of this initiative, the Office of Global Programs and the Center for Teaching and Learning designed a Certificate Program in Global Education for faculty. The certificate will be awarded to those who complete at least three of the four workshops being offered in the program this semester.

The next sessions are:

What Does It Mean to Teach Abroad?
- Frank Cantelmo, St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Jeff Sherman, Office of Global Studies
- Heidi Sung, College of Professional Studies
  Monday, March 12, 1:50 to 3:15 p.m., D’Angelo Center 416A

How Can a Course Be Redesigned for Overseas Instruction?
- Mitch Casselman, The Peter J. Tobin College of Business
- Harry Denny, St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Tara Roeder, Institute for Writing Studies
  Monday, March 26, 1:50 to 3:15 p.m., D’Angelo Center 416C

How Can International Research Be Integrated into Your Career?
- Zhe-Sheng Chen, College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions
- Yvonne Pratt-Johnson, The School of Education
- Konrad Tuchscherer, St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
  Monday, April 23, 1:50 to 3:15 p.m., Bent Hall 277B

Lunch will be served at these events.

To register: Contact the CTL at CTL@stjohns.edu or call ext.1859.
Collaborations

During the week of February 13, the CTL partnered with two different colleges to sponsor sessions on teaching and learning with their respective faculties. First, the Peter J. Tobin College of Business had one of their monthly Conversations on Teaching, where Associate Dean Ben Silliman presented on how to construct meaningful multiple choice questions. He based his presentation on the article, “How to Prepare Better Multiple-Choice Test Items,” by S. Burton et al. which contains a great deal of useful information, clearly laid out. For example, it suggests that all answers be in the same syntax, that the question be worded carefully and succinctly, and that the answers be unambiguous. Dean Silliman also discussed tricks for constructing an exam from test bank questions, and how to organize exams to reduce opportunities for cheating. This was the kind of information every faculty member needs to be reminded of from time to time.

Later in the week, the College of Professional Studies had a meeting of the Teacher Exemplar Program in which three senior faculty members, the Teacher Exemplars for the year, discuss a particular issue in teaching and learning. Their brief presentations are always followed by lively discussions among a mix of senior and junior faculty. This time the focus of the discussion was a op-ed piece from The New York Times by Lawrence H. Summers, “What You (Really) Need to Know.” He makes six points about how higher education has to change because of how technology has changed our use of information. He sees education becoming more about processing and using information then just presenting it, involving much more collaborative work, and greater analysis of data. Needless to say his comments sparked a lively discussion, with the Exemplars each having a different take: Glenn Gerstner compared the need for new methods of teaching to the use of new analytics in baseball, as exemplified by the book and film, Moneyball; Ellen Tufano compared how computer programmers used to do their work in isolation, and now always work collaboratively, and Sharon Norton called for radical change to deal with the new climate of higher education. This was by the far the longest Teacher Exemplar session we’ve had; people just didn’t want to stop talking about teaching—a wonderful commentary on those present and their commitment to their students’ learning.

Flipped Classrooms

Every month, Educause, the organization for computing in education, publishes a new entry in its “7 Things You Should Know About . . .” focusing on new technologies for teaching. This series began several years ago with 7 items, but that number has doubled several times over, as new technologies and ways to use them proliferated. The latest addition to the list is “Flipped Classrooms,” admittedly a curious title, but a rather intriguing concept (http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7081.pdf).

Faculty Writing Initiative: How Do You Know When to Stop Writing?

Frank Brady, College of Professional Studies
Elaine Carey, St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Completing writing project is never easy. There is always the temptation to do yet one more experiment, consult another book, ferret out an additional article. How do you know when you’ve done enough? When doing more is just a way to delay letting go of your work? Please join us for a discussion of these questions with two authors who have thought through this writing dilemma.

Lunch will be served.

Date: Tuesday, March 6
Time: 12:15 to 1:40 p.m.
Location: Institute for Writing Studies Conference Room, Library 150
To register: Contact the CTL at CTL@stjohns.edu or call ext. 1859.
A Faculty Writing Retreat

Location: Institute for Writing Studies, Library Room 150, Queens Campus
Dates: Saturday, March 24, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
To Register: Contact the CTL at ctl@stjohns.edu or ext. 1859; participation is limited.

The Faculty Writing Retreat offers you the opportunity to commit to a day of writing surrounded by your colleagues who will have made the same commitment as you. Published research – and our own experience from previous St. John’s Faculty Writing Initiative writing retreats we’ve held – tells us the positive energy of being around faculty peers who are also writing (and struggling to write) helps faculty get substantial work done, even in one day.

As to the schedule for the retreat, you will arrive and begin writing. We are certain there will be much writing advice to be shared during lunch, which will be served at 12:30pm. We hope you will be able to join us. Please remember that participation is limited; please RSVP at ctl@stjohns.edu or ext. 1859. If you have any questions, email Anne Geller (gellera@stjohns.edu) or Maura Flannery (flannerm@stjohns.edu).

If you would like to learn more about writing retreats or you are interested in research about faculty writing productivity, go to the CTL Forum Writing Page at http://stjohns.campusguides.com/aecontent.php?pid=71651&sid=589816.

Academic Service-Learning: A Theology of Service

The Office of Academic Service-Learning will be hosting a program with Rev. Robert Maloney, C.M., Vincentian Chair for Social Justice. The program will be held on Thursday, March 29 from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bent Hall room 277A.

Fr. Maloney will be sharing the historical roots and perspectives of our Vincentian Mission and how this can permeate your teaching, research and service. In addition he will share inspiring examples of global service.

The session is open to all full-time and part-time faculty as well as administrators who teach. You will have the opportunity to hear from faculty members who have included AS-L into their coursework – tying together the academics with the mission. This will be followed by a group discussion relating to your coursework at St. John’s and the sharing of some practical applications to your teaching and research.

To attend, please e-mail Lynn Stravino by March 22 at: stravinl@stjohns.edu.

Faculty Growth Grant Program

The upcoming deadline to apply for a Faculty Growth Grant is: April 30, 2012.