Dates to Note!!

Monday, May 17
Faculty Writing Retreat
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Library 150

Tuesday, May 18
Planning a Syllabus
9 a.m. to noon
Library 110

Tuesday, May 18
Designing Assignments
1 to 3 p.m.
Library 110

Wednesday, May 19
Creating a Wiki for Your Class
10 a.m. to noon
Library 110

Wednesday, May 19
Using CampusGuides Software for Teaching
1 to 3 p.m.
Library 110

Thursday, May 20
Creating a Website for Your Class with Google Sites
10 a.m. to noon
Library 110

Thursday, May 20
Using MovieMaker Software to Edit Videos
1 to 3 p.m.
Library 110

To RSVP phone us at ext. 1859 or email us at CTL@stjohns.edu.

CTL May Newsletter

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

Highlights from our May issue include:

- A Modest Proposal: Academia.edu
  Maura C. Flannery  
  Technology and Teaching  
  Faculty News  
  PAF Workshop  
  Items of Interest  
  CTL Summer Journal Club  
  May Workshop Series

Faculty News
If you would like to send an entry to “Faculty News,” the deadline for the September issue is August 31. We prefer that you email the information to CTL@stjohns.edu. Please have your entries follow the style presented in “Faculty News.”

Remember:
The best places to look for faculty-related information are the CTL Webpage and the CTL Teaching and Learning Forum.
A Modest Proposal: Academia.edu

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

For years I have been wishing for a database of faculty teaching ideas. There are so many creative teachers at this University doing so many interesting and innovative things, that it would be wonderful if their ideas could be documented and organized. It turns out that for a number of reasons—too numerous and dull to mention—having my wish fulfilled is much easier said than done.

On the other hand, the need for a database continues to grow. As I talk to faculty and administrators, it becomes ever clearer that not only do we need to document teaching ideas, but research interests, service learning projects, and other areas in which faculty are working. It seems to me that all three major goals of the Strategic Plan would be furthered by having a way to share information on faculty projects dealing with student engagement, mission, and global education.

Ideally, I would like this database to appear NOW, but since I have yet to meet my fairy godperson, I have a more modest goal. As a starting point and a stop-gap until a more sophisticated tool can be developed, I am suggesting that we all become ardent users of Academia.edu. This is a free social networking site for academics. There is already a site for St. John’s University, so you can create your own page and link to it. My site is hardly a great example, but it will give you a sense of what the page looks like.

Academia.edu has many interesting features, and I’ll mention a few of them later, but right now I want to stress Research Interests, which appears on the left-hand navigation bar. If every faculty member at St. John’s created a short list of their interests, we would begin to build a database available to all of us because Academia.edu is searchable. For example, you can put in one of your research interests, and this will give you links to all the other people, including those at St. John’s, who work in the same area. If your interests include international topics, social justice issues, or educational topics, then the interests of the Strategic Plan could obviously be served by this tool.

As more and more people at the University sign on, there would develop information on a critical mass of people with similar interests, and those in different parts of the University with commonalities could begin to find each other. In addition, as you search for people with like fields of inquiry, you will notice that users are from institutions all over the world. This is a great way to make global contacts.

I have to admit that I have not really dedicated my life to my Academia.edu site, but as I use it more and more, I realize how it can help me in my work. I have already found a number of individuals who have posted resources on their sites that have been useful to me. You can upload articles you’ve written or other files, such as syllabi, that you think might be of interest to colleagues. You can also get feeds from journals you select, so you can keep up on the latest literature. Academia.edu can be linked to your Facebook page and to Twitter; in addition, it can tell you when someone searches for you on Google.

(continued on next page)
Like any Web 2.0 tool, Academia.edu is not perfect. It has its quirks and takes some getting used to. However, the more I use it, the more I like it. And the more benefit I derive from it. So as the summer begins and you make your resolutions about what you want to accomplish this summer, put Academia.edu on your list—and also help to fulfill my wish list.

Technology and Teaching

Pecha Kucha
PowerPoint is now often considered a dead technology because of its overuse and abuse, but it is the tool of choice for many teaching presentations by both faculty and students. Writing in the May 2010 issue of *The Teaching Professor*, Valerie Bang-Jensen of Saint Michael's College in Vermont suggests that one interesting and useful approach to PowerPoint is Pecha Kucha, the Japanese for “chitchat.” This technique was developed by two Western architects working in Japan and involves a 20 X 20 format, that is, 20 slides with a 20-second narrative for each. Bang-Jensen finds it a helpful way to organize student presentations. It sets limits and teaches the need to speak succinctly and have clear and informative slides—but not overpowering ones. If you’d like to learn more about this method, go to [http://tmp.pecha-kucha.org/](http://tmp.pecha-kucha.org/) where there are many examples as well as information about “Pecha Kucha Nights” when proponents get together and show off their presentations.

Student Tools
Caroline Fuchs of the University Libraries suggests two web-based tools that might be of interest to your students. **GradShare**, as the name implies, is for graduate students. It’s essentially a social networking site where they can get answers to questions and find other students with similar interests. For students at any stage in their education, there is also a site with a wonderful name, **Brainify**. It was developed by the founder of WebCT, and it’s a social bookmarking site, meaning that it is a place to store bookmarks or favorite URLs. What makes this site different from more general social bookmarking sites like Delicious is that Brainify is aimed at students. It encourages them to store and share the websites they use in their studies with the aim of creating a huge repository of sites with academic content. There is also a place for faculty to store websites that they think would be useful to students in their classes. Both Brainify and GradShare are interesting tools which may or may not be worth your time. As more and more such tools become available, we have the luxury of picking and choosing the ones that are just right for a particular teaching goal.

Voicethread
One of the beauties of Web 2.0 technologies is that you are able to create audio and visual presentations easily—and then communicate them to others. **Voicethread** is one such technology that Heidi Upton, who teaches in the Discover New York program, has been experimenting with. Using a simple webcam, you can make a video of yourself explaining an uploaded image, and even draw on the image to emphasize a point. You can see a demo on the Voicethread website which will give you a better idea of its capabilities.
Faculty News

Dr. Zhe-Sheng Chen (Pharmaceutical Sciences, chenz@stjohns.edu) and his student were awarded a Biomarker Discovery Grant from Ray Biotech, Inc.; published with Dr. Charles Ashby Jr. (Pharmaceutical Sciences, ashbyc@stjohns.edu) an article, “BCR-ABL Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors in the Treatment of Philadelphia Chromosome Positive Chronic Myeloid Leukemia: A Review” in Leukemia Research (May 2010).

Dr. Maura C. Flannery (Computer Science, Mathematics and Science, flannerm@stjohns.edu) published an article, “Crazy Genes,” in the American Biology Teacher (April 2010).

Dr. Anna D. Martin (Economics and Finance, martina@stjohns.edu) co-authored the article “CEO Gender: Effects on Valuation and Risk” in the Quarterly Journal of Finance and Accounting (2009).

Dr. John J. Neumann (Economics and Finance, neumannj@stjohns.edu) and his co-authors received a 2009 Graham & Dodd Scroll Award for their published work, “Absence of Value: An Analysis of Investment Allocation Decisions by Institutional Plan Sponsors,” from the Advisory Council and Editorial Board of Financial Analysts Journal (November/December 2009 issue).

Dr. Sandra E. Reznik (Pharmaceutical Sciences, rezniks@stjohns.edu) published the article, “Plan B: How it Works,” in Health Progress Journal (January-February 2010) and was invited to travel to Ohio and address the media as well as Ohio legislators working to pass legislation that would allow Plan B to be administered to survivors of sexual assault in hospital emergency rooms (May 2010).

Dr. Richard Stalter (Biological Sciences, stalter@stjohns.edu) co-published the abstracts “The Vascular Flora of Cape Henlopen, Delaware” and “The Shaman’s Medicinal Plants of the Higher Ecuadorean Andes” in the South Carolina Academy of Science Proceedings.

Professor Anne Tedesco (Fine Arts, tedescoa@stjohns.edu) chaired the Associated Music Teachers League’s Scholarship Auditions—piano competitions for 4th-12th grades held at the Lighthouse School in NYC (March 2010); performed works by Franck, Schumann, Ginastera, Bartok, Chopin, and Moszkowski at her 16th solo piano concert for the Fine Arts Scholarship Fund in Marillac Auditorium (April 2010);

Faculty News

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PAF Workshop

The Office of the Provost, in conjunction with the Center for Teaching and Learning, will sponsor a workshop on Preparing Personnel Action Forms (PAFs) and the May Memo. All documentation necessary for the personnel action procedure are posted on the Provost’s Web Page: http://www.stjohns.edu/academics/provost/resources.

More workshops will be scheduled for the Summer and into the Fall semester, dates and times to be announced.

Date: Thursday, June 10
Time: 2 to 4 p.m.
Location: Marillac 225
To register: Contact the CTL at CTL@stjohns.edu or ext. 1859.
Items of Interest

Visit the University’s European Campuses
Are you going to Rome or Paris this summer? If so, the Office of Global Studies (OGS) invites you to tour our centrally located European campuses. If needed, OGS can also provide you with a WiFi connection, phone, and desk if you need time to complete research—or a place to Google the latest tourist information while on vacation. Please contact Matthew Pucciarelli, Associate Vice President, Global Studies at x7614 or pucciarm@stjohns.edu for more information.

Researching New York Conference
Susan Schmidt-Horning of the History Department suggests that this conference might be of interest not only to historians but to those teaching Discover New York. The conference will be held in November in Albany, and the deadline for proposals is June 28. For more information go to: http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=176027.

CTL Summer Journal Club
The CTL will be hosting a brown bag discussion series this summer. Each week we’ll look at an article dealing with issues in teaching and learning. These sessions will be very informal and provide a chance to relax and spend time talking about what we all love—teaching. You will be eligible for a CTL Certificate if you attend at least 3 of these events.

Date: Thursday, June 3

Date: Thursday, June 10
Article: “Why Magic Bullets Don’t Work”

Date: Thursday, June 17
Article: “Can Learning Be Improved When Budgets Are in the Red?”

Date: Thursday, June 24
Article: “Mobile Learning”

Date: Thursday, July 1
Article: “Group Work Can Be Gratifying: Understanding & Overcoming Resistance to Cooperative Learning”

Time: 12:45 to 2 p.m.
Location: Library room 110 in the Academic Commons, Queens Campus
To register: Call the CTL at ext. 1859 or email us at CTL@stjohns.edu
May Workshop Series

The University has great resources available to help in your development as a faculty member. Evidence of this is the May Workshop Series we are planning. The Center for Teaching and Learning is collaborating with University Libraries, the Title III Project, and the Writing Across the Curriculum program to provide a week of activities to help you get off to a good start with your teaching and research work for the summer.

We start off the week of May 17 with a Faculty Writing Retreat, a follow-up to the retreat held in February that got rave reviews from participants. This is a day of writing, simply writing. You can organize your notes for an article you are planning to write, or get a section of a manuscript completed, or do some revisions. The Writing Institute in the Library is a quiet and comfortable place to work, and we will break for lunch and conversation—so things won’t be too monastic.

The next three days offer a variety of workshops to assist you in planning your courses and assignments and in trying out new technologies you might find useful in your teaching. On Tuesday, there is a three-hour workshop on Planning a Syllabus. You can bring your syllabus and revise it, or start from scratch. Your work won’t be over by the end of the session, but you will be well on your way to creating a document that will be useful to you and your students.

After the syllabus session you might be ready to stay for lunch and then participate in a workshop on Designing Assignments. This topic was suggested by those attending a Library/CTL event on Faculty/Library Collaborations. Several of the participants spoke of very positive experiences working with library faculty in creating assignments that emphasize critical thinking skills and the development of information literacy, as well as reduce the likelihood of plagiarism. While you are planning your syllabus, this might be the perfect time to work on assignments, or you may want to sleep in and just attend this session.

Now that you have your research and course development in hand, you might be ready to work on some new technology for your courses. On Wednesday morning, Heidi Upton will show you how to get started Creating a Wiki for Your Class with PBWorks. She made this presentation in the spring, and participants were impressed by how wikis can improve student engagement and the quality of student writing.

After lunch on Wednesday, you could stay for Using CampusGuides Software for Teaching. The University Libraries have a subscription for this web authoring tool that is easy to use and great for putting your syllabus and other information on the web. The CTL has a CampusGuides site if you would like to see what it looks like: http://stjohns.campusguides.com/ctlforum. You can start small at the workshop and then spend the summer enlarging your site. This is also software you could use to create a website to highlight your research interests.

If you are really ambitious, you can attend one or even two workshops on Thursday. They are being cosponsored by the University’s Title III Project—Transforming Teaching with Technology. In the morning, there is a session on Creating a Website for Your Class with Google Sites, free software available from Google. In two hours, you can get the basic framework of a site completed—and then spend the summer developing it.

If you want to stay after lunch, you can learn about Using MovieMaker Software to Edit Videos. MovieMaker is easy to use and you will be surprised how simple it is to add music and titles to your “film.” This is a fun way to end a busy week of learning.

One of the most important features of this series is the Follow-Up that’s available. At the end of each
Campus Guides: CTL Teaching and Learning Forum

The site’s main aim is to highlight the great teaching strategies developed by St. John’s faculty.

Please visit: http://stjohns.edu/campusguides.com/ctlforum.

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Managing Editor: Lisa Getman

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program, the participants can decide if they wish to schedule a follow-up session later in the summer so they can get continuing support for their projects. We are grateful to all the presenters for agreeing to this plan.

Now that you have an idea of what’s being offered, the list below gives you an easy summary to help you in planning your week. **You can sign up for any or all of these events, but please remember space is limited.**

**Faculty Writing Retreat**  
Cosponsored by Writing Across the Curriculum  
Monday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Institute for Writing Studies, Library room 150  
Lunch 12:30 p.m.

**Planning a Syllabus**  
Presented by Maura C. Flannery  
Tuesday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to noon in the Title III Learning Lab, Library room 110  
Lunch from noon to 1 p.m. for participants.

**Designing Assignments**  
Cosponsored by the University Libraries and presented by Ben Turner  
Tuesday, May 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Title III Learning Lab, Library room 110

**Creating a Wiki for Your Class**  
Presented by Heidi Upton  
Wednesday, May 19 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Title III Learning Lab, Library room 110  
Lunch from noon to 1 p.m. for participants with Barry Brenton discussing mapping resources on the web.

**Using CampusGuides Software for Teaching**  
Cosponsored by the University Libraries and presented by Ben Turner  
Wednesday, May 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Title III Learning Lab, Library room 110

**Creating a Website for Your Class with Google Sites**  
Cosponsored by the Title III Project and presented by Gina Marandino  
Thursday, May 20 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Title III Learning Lab, Library room 110  
Lunch from noon to 1 p.m. for participants with Charles Livermore demonstrating Second Life.

**Using MovieMaker Software to Edit Videos**  
Cosponsored by the Title III Project and presented by Gina Marandino  
Thursday, May 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Title III Learning Lab, Library room 110

**To register:** Please contact the Center for Teaching and Learning at CTL@stjohns.edu or ext. 1859.