

# TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER NEWSLETTER

## Our Goals are to:

Support advanced effective teaching

Improve student proficiency levels in basic knowledge and skills needed for success in the 21st century, such as oral and written communication mathematics, and computer skills.

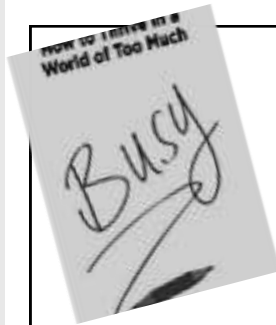
Create a "culture of planning" to guide decisions about possible changes in academic programs and services.

Sustain academic and student services supporting technical, career-oriented, and professional programs.

Promote the value of higher education to the community.



The SSU TLC has been able to provide informal assistance to faculty members seeking help with individual needs, such as counseling students who are at-risk, navigating Blackboard, getting settled within our community as new faculty, hosting mathematic scholars from China within our office space, loaning books on teaching and learning, re-designing courses for next year, understanding assessment, giving verbal and written feedback, and offering support to other offices that serve the university community. It has been a pleasure to assist faculty needs for development as an open walk-in office available to those interested in growing as teachers and learners.



## Using Doodle: "How to Thrive in a World of Too Much *BUSY*"

Faculty, students and staff complain frequently that sometimes we are just too darn busy and it has become almost impossible to find times to meet. To address this problem, the TLC offered workshops on software designed to help. Monday, September 14 and Wednesday, September 16, 2015, ten faculty and staff members learned how to utilize the free software called "Doodle" as Steve Doster from the College of Business held two convenient brief training sessions in the library. Doodle enables users to survey others to determine optimum meeting times for a small group or large group of colleagues or students to meet. One faculty member commented that she intended to utilize the software for individual sessions with small groups she had organized for classroom projects. Another attendee noted that the training was especially beneficial because it was hands-on and the small group made asking questions easy, certainly for veteran teachers who might have otherwise felt embarrassed asking newer faculty members how to use software they might have learned in more recent graduate school experiences.



## Assessing Student Writing Faculty Development Sessions

Recent research about assessing student writing is shaking up the composition world. In these sessions held Sept. 24 & 25 participants heard from an expert on the topic, Dr. Marc Scott, and learned about choosing practices that are in line with what the experts know to be "BEST PRACTICES" when it comes to evaluating student writing. Fourteen faculty members attended. Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive and, as one said, "The session was great!" Another suggested we "encourage faculty who used something learned at a session in a class to give follow-up presentations.



### Faculty Focus Articles

Faculty Focus articles on teaching are sent out every Thursday with the free coffee invitation via e-mail. Copies of each article were also made available in the Teaching and Learning Center office.

These articles highlight teaching tips the faculty could use to help faculty members get their students engaged, retain information, hold discussions, and succeed in class. The TLC received responses from faculty about the weekly articles.



### Advising Roundtables

The TLC in cooperation with Lindsay Monihen, academic advisor for CPS, hosted a series of sessions devoted to creating a community interested in advising on SSU's campus. The first of these advising "roundtables" was held on Thursday, October 1, 2015, and was designed as a "meet and greet" session followed by an interactive discussion to learn more about advising needs and topics of interest in order to introduce a series of future conversations about faculty ad-



**Hours ADM 032**


Monday 8 am-11 am

Tuesday 1 pm-5 pm

Wednesday 10 am-3 pm

Thursday 8 am-10 am & 12:30 pm- 5 pm

**\*Faculty and Staff Article & Coffee Day\***



Session two of the Advising Roundtable Fall 2015 focused on the tools of advising. Lindsay Monihen conducted this session and led faculty attendees through many aspects of academic advising necessary to help our students navigate registration and schedule planning. A powerpoint, designed by Lindsay, is available to help those who attended and those who could not attend with advising basics. The screenshot below shows topics, which, after downloading the slideshow, you may click on to find out more information about how to proceed.



Lindsay Monihen

<http://www.shawnee.edu/offices/teaching-learning-center/advising.aspx>

\*\*THE FACULTY RESEARCH DIRECTORY OF PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS LIST THE TLC WEBSITE HAS BEEN UPDATED!

<http://www.shawnee.edu/offices/teaching-learning-center/publications.aspx>



EIGHTEEN FACULTY MEMBERS JOINED RYAN WARNER, CIPA DIRECTOR, AND HIS GUEST JOHN DIZDEN, DIRECTOR, KIIS, FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION ABOUT TEACHING ABROAD. TOPICS INCLUDED:

- ◆ Opportunities available
- ◆ How many courses faculty would teach
- ◆ Payment for travel
- ◆ Lodging details
- ◆ Available locations around the world
- ◆ SSU and other students who go with faculty
- ◆ Stipend opportunities
- ◆ Courses which might work
- ◆ Application procedure and deadlines



[WWW.KIIS.ORG](http://WWW.KIIS.ORG)



Theresa Jackson

### ***How am I doing now? A Demonstration of the IF-AT Method in Teaching***

#### ***(Immediate Feedback Assessment Technique)***

*Nursing Professor Theresa Jackson conducted two faculty learning workshops that demonstrated a teaching method called IF-AT (Immediate Feedback Assessment Technique). Jackson explained the theory and research supporting the method, then led ten faculty members through a demonstration that utilizes scratch off group quizzes as tools to engage students and spark discussion. One attendee noted that it was his first session and he enjoyed learning about methods others have found to work for them.*



### **WILL SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION IMPROVE YOUR COURSE RETENTION NUMBERS?**

Supplemental Instruction (SI) Session Leaders provide additional academic support to a variety of classes. SI courses incorporate an SI Leader, usually a student peer, into the course who attends course lectures. The SI Leader then conducts scheduled review sessions each week that follow the course lectures. The SI sessions provide a chance for students to get together with classmates to compare notes, discuss important concepts, and develop strategies for studying the subject. The sessions are facilitated by a trained SI leader. The leader is closely guided by the professor. The leader does not re-lecture or give his/her class notes, but helps the students become independent learners by planning activities (structured by the instructor) that encourage students to work together and process material themselves. Faculty received information from the TLC and the Office of Institutional Research indicating course with alarming retention statistics, indicating that the course was tough for our students to complete (sometimes due to challenging materials, underprepared students, and/or a combination). This TLC session defined Supplemental Instruction and the research behind it, according to Glenna Heckler-Todt. Two faculty members, Linda Hunt and Jason Witherall, then demonstrated how they utilize supplemental instruction leaders in their courses and offered suggestions to the twelve faculty members in attendance as to how this approach might help them address retention issues in their classrooms.



Lilly Conference: A Place to Grow Together

November 2015

The Teaching and Learning Center and the Provost's office sent five faculty members, Tryphina Robinson, Justin Rex, Beverly Ochieng-Sande, Sean Dunne, and Mitra Devkota, to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio for the 35th annual *Lilly Conference on College Teaching*. During the conference teachers from across the world shared innovative pedagogies and discussed questions, challenges, and insights about teaching and learning. The five returned to SSU eager to share ideas from the conference and recommending attendance to others. During the spring semester at SSU they are planning three TLC sessions to share what they learned about teaching effectiveness, utilizing free software in the classroom, group and problem-based teaching strategies and tips for using humor to reach international students.



Tammy Waldron, QM Instructor

### Quality Matters Rubric Training: November 13, 2015

*Fifteen faculty members explored the QM process in preparation to be a part of the initiative to positively impact the design of online/blended courses by learning the QM peer-reviewed quality assurance review process. Participants became familiar with the QM standards and gained hands-on experience with identifying the principles of QM, learning how to use the QM rubric, making decisions on whether a sample course meets the standards of the QM rubric, understanding alignment, and writing helpful recommendations for course improvement by citing the QM standards. QM sets the standards the SSU Distance Learning Committee uses to approve our online courses.*

### Two Helpful Classroom Tools Demonstration TLC Sessions

Michael Barnhardt is known throughout campus for his innovative use of computers in the music department. He is also known as an expert at using Google-Docs. Dr. Barnhardt shared his expertise with fourteen faculty members November 12, 2015 in a session titled "Going Google for Google Docs". During this session attendees gained hands-on practice with google sites, documents, and forms.

In a similar session, aimed at helping faculty interested in harnessing BIG data for grants and research writing, Chris Schaffer demonstrated how to use Tableau for twelve interested faculty members December 8, 2015.

Michael Barnhart and Chris Schaffer



## *Faculty, Staff & Student Coffee and Conversation*

October 14, 2015

The SSU Faculty and Student Coffee and Conversation was held inside Jazzman's as a quick break from classes and the daily business of running a university.



This campus-wide event brought together faculty, students, and staff to build community and develop friendships. *Coffee and Conversation* offered a relaxed atmosphere with snacks and beverages to sustain everyone until lunch. Approximately 40 students joined 20 university personnel (faculty, administrators and staff members) to briefly hold conversations about classes, graduation, and careers, activities, current events, and life in general. Conversations and comments from students were shared with interested faculty and administrators, and included remarks about interests students had on campus, things they would like to see happen, issues they have had with deciding careers, and encouragement for different programs they would like to see on our campus.



## The Teaching and Learning Center Welcomes New Faculty to SSU

We welcomed new faculty members during the fall of 2015 with a pizza party gathering at the Brew Pub Arcade on Second Street in order to introduce them to some of the best pizza in Portsmouth. Also, the TLC presented these lucky newbies with the choice of a new book to guide their teaching: *Student Engagement Techniques: A Handbook for College Faculty*, by Elizabeth Berkley, *Teaching naked: How Moving Technology Out of Your College Classroom Will Improve Student Learning*, by Jos Antonio Bowen, and *What the best College Teachers Do*, by Ken Bain. As a follow up, the group got together again in November at Coffee at the Lofts for informal conversation and relaxation. Faculty new to SSU for the fall of 2015 included: Laura Hackala, English and Humanities, Monica Orlando, English and Humanities, Valerie Long, Math, Justin Rex, Political Science, Sarah Boehle, Business, Sarah Clausing Business, Mariah Woodward, Dental, Kristina Darnell, Radiology, Alberto Poxes, Sports, Jodi Dunham, Teacher Ed, Loretta Harvey, Teacher Ed., Coby Long Teacher Ed, and Tryphina Robinson, Teacher Ed.

*Copies of these books are available to all in the TLC.*