Enriching Education through the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

By Michelle Drouin, PSY

On March 20, IPFW faculty members convened for a conference highlighting the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL), aptly titled "Enhancing Learning through the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning." SoTL day was the brainchild of the IPFW Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) Committee, a group focused on enriching education through SoTL. In November 2008 IPFW was accepted as a CASTL affiliate, and one of the goals of the CASTL committee here at IPFW was to raise the awareness of SoTL on campus. One way they felt they could do so was to invite IPFW faculty to present their research on teaching at a campus-wide conference.

The CASTL committee had several goals for this conference: (1) bring in an expert on SoTL to talk about SoTL; (2) highlight the work of IPFW faculty members who were already involved in SoTL work; (3) motivate participants to think about the difference between *scholarly teaching* and the *scholarship of teaching and learning*; (4) discuss what constitutes scholarship and counts as "evidence" in various disciplines—accomplished by creating a panel of speakers from various disciplines (e.g., Biology, Sociology, Philosophy); and (5) reflect on what might be the next step for IPFW as a community regarding SoTL.

They accomplished these goals with great success! More than 60 people attended the conference, which was co-sponsored by CELT, the VCAA, ORES, and FACET. Overall, 16 departments and all schools/colleges were represented, and 24 faculty members participated in either presentations or the panel discussion. Moreover, 11 faculty members from 10 different departments presented their own SoTL work.

The conference was built around the keynote address by Dr. Kathleen McKinney, Cross Chair for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at Illinois State University, who emphasized the importance of evaluating the impact of our efforts on student learning and also drew attention to the distinction between scholarly teaching and SoTL. At ISU, they define SoTL as "the systematic reflection/study of teaching and learning made public." According to McKinney, making the switch from scholarly teaching (i.e., asking yourself how you know your class efforts are working, assessing whether your efforts are working, and keeping up with the literature) to SoTL (possibly the same as what is already done in scholarly teaching, but making it public and having it peer reviewed) may for some take only a few minor modifications. More specifically, she suggested that instructors hoping to convert their scholarly teaching efforts to SoTL be systematic and intentional about their course changes and take an empirical approach to examining the effectiveness of these changes.

Overall, SoTL day was about enhancing student learning. McKinney's address supported this effort by encouraging participants to think intentionally about their teaching. Faculty and CELT presenters supported this by explaining their recent SoTL projects and giving participants insight into the processes of both scholarly teaching and SoTL. Meanwhile, the panel members, CASTL committee members, and the co-sponsors supported student learning by bringing attention to the importance of SoTL work in furthering the mission of this university.

CELT Summer 2009 Grants Awarded

By Jennifer Stewart, ENGL

Congratulations to **Dina M. Mansour-Cole, OLS**, and **David Liu, ETCS**, for each receiving a CELT Summer Grant for Instructional Development. Each year, CELT awards Summer Instructional Development grants to promote instructional development initiatives for significant transformation of existing courses to enhance student learning.

Mansour-Cole will be developing a series of self-guided/on demand content modules for OLS 485 Leadership for Team Development. According to Mansour-Cole, these content modules "have the potential to significantly increase student understanding of course goals, satisfaction with the course, and learning."

Approximately four or five modules will be developed and "topics will include team identity, shared leadership and team development models." Mansour-Cole determined the topics according to "1. Content that appears to be giving students the most trouble on tests (and presumably students likely need to hear the content multiple times); 2. Content least likely to be covered sufficiently in the text or article treatment; 3. Previous CATs shown that students want more information/time with the subject; and 4. [The] subjects students most request team consultations about."

Liu will be working on the OpenMIPS project, which "designs and implements an open

Upcoming Events for Spring 2009

SoTL Reading Circles
4/17 from 12:00pm - 1:15pm in KT 119

12 O'clock Scholars Brown Bag Series: Classroom assessment techniques
4/20 from 12:00pm - 1:15pm in KT 234

Digital Assessment with Acrobat
4/17 from 1:30pm - 3:30pm in KT 214 (Studio T^2)

Teaching and Learning with Technology Conference, "Changing the Learning Landscape" with keynote speaker Sarah "Intellagirl" Robbins. 4/21-22 at Purdue, West Lafayette For more information and to register for this free conference go to http://www.itap.purdue.edu/tlt/conference/index.cfm . If there is enough interest CELT will arrange for transport for Tuesday's events.

Registration is required for all CELT events. For additional information or to register, please visit www.ipfw.edu/celt

Congratulations to Linda Lolkus, Associate Professor, CFS, who will become FACET's newest member in May. Linda is an outgoing CELT Advisory Board member and past recipient of the Friends Teaching Award.

Technology Frontier Days: Roundin' up Media Technologies for Teaching

Howdy, Partners! Join your colleagues in taming the Wild West of Media Technologies for Teaching as CELT and ITS help you bronco bust your way through wikis, blogs, Second Life, digital audio and basic video creation and editing. So, saddle up for our 3 day experience as we hit the trail exploring Web 2.0 and Multimedia basics for teaching and learning.

Your trail boss and drovers for this Round Up include: Samantha Birk (CELT), Moon-Heum Cho (CELT), Han Fei (ITS), John Ladd (CELT/Studio M), Darlene Miller (CELT/Studio T^2), Kathy Surface (ITS), and Scott Vitz (ITS). Faculty ramrods will be riding with us part of the way.

All sessions begin at 9 am and will end at approximately 3:30 pm, with a break for a CELT provided lunch. Snacks provided during the day. Register for either day sessions or the series only. Sorry, no individual sessions.

CELT Summer Grants...Cont. from pg. 1

source web-based simulation environment" for CS 271 Computer Architecture. He contends this project will enhance student learning and the teaching of Computer Architecture. Liu states, "Through active interaction with OpenMIPS, students gain better understand[ing of] concepts …[and] obtain instant feedback and assess their learning while [the] teacher can assess learning and teaching through activities recorded in the OpenMIPS server."

"This project also provides examples for designing simulations for other courses of computer science and other disciplines, and provides opportunities for students to design and simulate other computer systems with the same open source technologies," according to Liu.

Both Mansour-Cole and Liu will present their projects at CELT Faculty Showcases in Spring 2010. Please consider submitting an application to transform your own course for Summer 2010.