

The Joy Shechtman Mankoff Center for Teaching & Learning

Talking Teaching

Spring 2009

Creating Civility in the Classroom

Tuesday, February 10, 8:30 am to 10 am

Hood Dining Room

Have you ever felt frozen or caught off-guard by student comments that seemed uncivil or biased? Inappropriate student behaviors can provide "teachable moments" both to model and to encourage the development of critical academic, civic, and leadership skills. In this session, faculty will reflect on how they respond to various challenging classroom situations, discussing ways that they have fostered deeper reflection, open dialogue, and critical thinking. Facilitator Kathy Obear will offer concepts and tools that can be used to develop responses that are more personally satisfying and effective. *This event is co-sponsored by the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity and by the Office of the Dean of Multicultural Affairs.*

Dr. Kathy Obear is president of Alliance for Change, an independent consulting firm that has worked with numerous universities around the country.

FEATURED DISCUSSANTS: Tristan Borer, Gene Gallagher, Simon Hay, Leo Garofalo, Michael James, Heather McClelland, Denise Pelletier, and Sufia Uddin.

Evaluating the Evaluations:

Campus-Wide Course Evaluations at Connecticut College

Friday, February 13, Noon to 2 pm

Hood Dining Room

Should we institute a College-wide evaluation form, which could be used by faculty to strengthen both teaching and the professional review process? What other advantages and disadvantages could such a uniform questionnaire bring? What kinds of departmental supplementary evaluations might be necessary to make an all-College questionnaire work well? Should it be done online? Should we make course evaluations public to temper the "radical democracy" students seek through unofficial Websites, such as "Rate My Professor"? We already have a College-wide evaluation form for First Year Seminars. Has it been effective and/or helpful? FSCC will be submitting a College-wide evaluation proposal to the faculty this semester, making this conversation especially timely.

FEATURED DISCUSSANTS: Eric Adler, Phil Barnes, Gabe Chandler, Marc Forster, John Gordon, Dorothy James, Chad Jones, Pam Marks, John Nugent, Fran Shields, Jefferson Singer, and Abby Van Slyck.

Grades, Grade Inflation, and Beyond

Wednesday, February 18, 8:30 am to 10 am

Hood Dining Room

Grades, grade inflation, and grade-related policies give rise to questions that have significance for individual faculty and for our institution as a whole. These include: What is the relationship between grading and "academic challenge"? Do grades influence student evaluations? Do grading practices impact enrollment patterns in departments and majors? Grades obviously matter; they can determine whether a student remains at the College, goes on to grad school, or receives a prestigious academic award. Yet, what does an "A" (or a "B" or a "C" or "D") "mean"? Have grades been rendered, through inflation and the vagaries of evaluative criteria, largely meaningless?

FEATURED DISCUSSANTS: Anne Bernhard, Roger Brooks, Marc Forster, Janet Gezari, Eileen Kane, Mike Monce, John Nugent, Rosemarie Roberts, and Lisa Wilson.

:: Please Turn Over ::

Creating an Inclusive Classroom: Teaching a Diverse Student Body

Thursday, February 26, Noon to 2 pm

Hood Dining Room

As the College continues to succeed in attracting an increasingly diverse student population, how can we ensure that we teach courses that are inclusive in both their content and their pedagogy? How can we help students who have not received a college preparatory education compete with those who have? This session will be led by Dr. Frank Tuitt, Connecticut College '87 and member of the College Board of Trustees, whose areas of expertise include inclusive teaching in diverse college classrooms. Tuitt will offer straightforward and specific teaching strategies to help ensure that all students get the most out of our classes.

Dr. Frank Tuitt is currently program Director and Assistant Professor of Higher Education at the University of Denver.

FEATURED DISCUSSANTS: Carol Akai, Hisae Kobayashi, Eva Kovach, Derek Turner, Abby Van Slyck, Stuart Vyse, and Marc Zimmer.

Pedagogies for Public Presentations: Facilitating Student Outreach to the Public

Friday, March 27, 8:30 am to 10 am

Hood Dining Room

From PowerPoint presentations to conference papers, posters to portfolios, students are increasingly presenting their findings and academic accomplishments outside the classroom. While students may be energized at the prospect of sharing their ideas and seeing the relevance of their analysis to the world outside Connecticut College, such presentations pose both logistical and intellectual challenges for the professor. How much risk should you and your students take in preparing a public presentation? How can you design a format that provides each student with an opportunity to succeed? How can you help students with less than optimal writing skills develop an accessible presentation? How can we best help students with limited oral presentation skills communicate effectively? How do you recruit an audience?

FEATURED DISCUSSANTS: Leslie Brown, Michelle Dunlap, Deb Eastman, Heidi Henderson, Tim McDowell, Gary Parker, Julie Rivkin, and Sayumi Takahashi.

Literacy in the Digital Age

Wednesday, April 8, Noon to 2 pm

Ernst Common Room

What does it mean to be literate in a hyper-mediated world? How do we teach students to engage critically with the digital images, sounds, and environments that are an integral part of their everyday lives? Finally, how do we as faculty continue to develop our own digital skills and media fluency and bring them to bear, even within traditional academic disciplines? We will focus on how to integrate digital technology and media literacy in coursework and the classroom.

FEATURED DISCUSSANTS: Allison de Fren; Martin Allen, David Greven, Christopher Hammond, Charles Hartman, Ozgur Izmirli, Nina Martin, Joe Schroeder, and Andrea Wollensak.

Come and enjoy a delicious meal and conversation with your colleagues.

SPACE IN TALKING TEACHING IS LIMITED—RESERVE A PLACE TODAY!
PLEASE E-MAIL MARYANNE BORRELLI AT mabor@conncoll.edu.