



The Center for Excellence in
Teaching and Learning

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CETL Moves to ML 88

When Stewart Ross began working at the Center for Excellence in Teaching Learning, the office was one of the first things people noticed. “They called it the broom closet,” he said, “and faculty thought it was funny until they realized no one was kidding.” With the move to the lower level of Memorial Library, no one will have to worry about that anymore.

“The new office is an exciting place to be,” Dr. Ross, the former Director of CETL, said. “It’s amazing to see how far we’ve come. In ten years, we’ve gone from one half time employee to a full-time director, an administrative assistant, and a graduate

assistant. We’re also in a space where it will be much easier to schedule rooms for our many programs. It’s a dream come true.”

According to Dr. Ross, the move to the new space began as an idea a few years ago. “There was a suggestion that we put all the offices together to have one central location for faculty to go to find resources.” It’s more than just a nice new space, however. CETL will be sharing it with a variety of campus departments, all of whom are eager to help faculty in any way they can. “Between the Center for Excellence in Scholarship and Research (CESR), Instructional Design, and Teaching and Learning, faculty now have a whole host of resources in one place. And we can now ask more questions about what faculty

need and how we can better serve them.”

For CETL, the new space also helps mark a new beginning. Dr. Ross stepped down as the Director of the Center last spring, and is now on phased retirement. He will still be with CETL on a part-time basis for the next two years, but Dr. Patricia Hoffman has taken over the position of Director. To go along with the new space, Dr. Hoffman has also introduced a variety of new programs and learning communities, the full list of which can be found on pages 3 and 5. Check out page 2 for photos of the new space, and don’t forget to write to cetl@mnsu.edu with any questions. We look forward to seeing you in ML 88.

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New Fall 2012 Programs

5 Minute Workshops-This Fall, CETL plans to create a series of 5-minute videos and podcasts featuring demonstrations of effective active learning strategies and exercises. If you have a favorite activity, please contact patricia.hoffman@mnsu.edu or brett.biebel@mnsu.edu and we'll set up an interview!

Hot Topics-These are one hour presentations, discussions or workshops around a specific topic or skill. They can be customized for departments or you can individually attend one that is scheduled. They will be offered regularly this fall, and will focus on covering a specific topic that could be incorporated into your class.

Brown Bag Discussions-Join us in ML88 for a one hour lunchtime discussion on a variety of themes. You can attend the series or just come to one of the discussions depending on your schedule and interests. The goal of Brown Bag Discussions is to bring faculty together to discuss pressing issues in higher education.

Schedule for September:

- Professional Development Plans (PDP), Thursday, Sept. 6th, 12-1PM.
- Using Technology to Engage Learners, Tuesday, Sept. 11th, 12-1PM.
- PDP's, Wednesday, September 12th, 12-1PM
- Technology and Knowledge Creation, Thursday, Sept. 20th, 12-1PM.

The Scot Program Looks for New Consultants

By Brett Biebel



Brett Biebel is the current GA for CETL. He holds an MA in Communication Studies from the University of Minnesota, and is currently a member of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at MSU-Mankato. He has taught at Century College, Metropolitan State University, and the University of Minnesota.

Welcome to another semester at MSU-Mankato. At CETL, we are excited about the opportunities provided by our new office space. We look forward to collaborating with all the campus departments currently working to better serve faculty. One program we are especially excited about is the SCOT program.

For those who are new to campus, or who aren't familiar with it, SCOT stands for Students Consulting on Teaching. At CETL, we know how helpful and important student feedback is for instructors, and we also know that sometimes those end of semester forms are unable to measure everything faculty would like measured. The SCOT program offers the opportunity for faculty to gather detailed, specific student feedback on any course at any time during the semester. SCOTs are motivated undergraduates trained to gather feedback from your students. If you would like a SCOT consultation, please contact me at brett.biebel@mnsu.edu, and we will set you up with one of our consultants. After an initial meeting, the consultant will observe your class, gather feedback, and set up a time to share it with you. SCOT consultations usually occur between the fifth and tenth week of the semester in order to allow faculty time to incorporate student feedback into the course.

Student consultants are paid for their time, as they provide an invaluable service to faculty members on campus. We'd like to welcome Grace Webb, our newest SCOT. Congratulations, Grace!

Currently, we are looking for additional SCOTs, so if you know any organized, hard-working undergraduates, please encourage them to contact Brett Biebel and apply. We look forward to hearing from you. We wish everyone a great beginning to the new semester!

Message From the Director



Dr. Patricia Hoffman

Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known. -- Carl Sagan

For the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), it has been an amazing and busy start to the 2012-13 academic year. First of all, we welcomed nearly 50 new faculty members to campus. Many were able to participate in a day-long orientation designed to acquaint them with key programs and individuals on campus. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful group energizing our campus!

At the same time, CETL moved from our old location in 267 Morris Hall to our new **Center for Faculty and Staff Innovation and Excellence** in the basement of the library (ML 88). CETL is joined by Dr. In-Jae Kim and his staff from CESR (Center for Excellence in Scholarship and Research) and Dr. Jude Higdon and numerous staff from Educational Technology who will be sharing office space and making their services

available to faculty and staff. We are working together to provide many amazing opportunities in the areas of research, professional development and technology.

We will be having an Open House the first week in October and will be sending out more information in our next newsletter. However, we are open for business and welcome you to come and take a look at our beautiful new space whenever you have time. We will soon have our tables and chairs so you can bring your lunch, converse, or meet with other faculty.

We begin Certificate programs and Brown Bag discussions this first week in September. Information on these programs is listed in the newsletter, but if you have any questions or would like to register for one of the Certificates please email me at patricia.hoffman@mnsu.edu or go to our website (mnsu.edu/cetl) and fill out a registration form. I am pleased to report that over 50 people have registered so far for our first four certificates.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the amazing support provided from our Graduate Assistant Brett Biebel and our temporary administrative assistant Judy Hammerschmidt, who is filling in for Yvonne Schmelting, who is currently on medical leave. Judy gives new meaning to the phrase "hit the ground running" as she was called upon to master any number of new skills in a very short time so we could begin our programming. Brett is in his second year with CETL and therefore could provide an extra helping hand in so many endeavors. Thank you, Brett and Judy! I also wish to thank everyone who has provided support and expertise as we are getting the Center up and running.

New Faculty Spotlight



Christopher Brown,
Communication Studies

Before coming to MSU-Mankato, Christopher Brown earned a Ph. D. from the University of New Mexico and served as a post-doctoral fellow at The Ohio State University. Last year, Dr. Brown participated in CETL's Faculty Teaching Certificate Program. "The FTCP helped me become more organized and got me back on track with teaching after being away from the classroom for two years. The instructional design and rubrics sessions were especially helpful," he said. He also found the welcoming atmosphere at MSU important. "The university offers a lot of opportunities to get involved with the work of different programs and committees, and the smaller campus atmosphere allows you to get to know faculty in other departments," he said. Dr. Brown has taught a wide variety of courses, including Interpersonal Communication, Argumentation, Intercultural Communication, Public Speaking, and Communication Research. He's especially fond of his Communication Research courses. "I love writing and research," he said, "so it's great when I get to share those experiences with a class." Originally from Chicago, there's one thing about the Mankato community that really makes Dr. Brown feel at home. "I'm from a place that really values their sports teams, so it's great to be in a community with so much passion for the Vikings and Twins," he said.

CETL Certificate Offerings

Fall 2012

Faculty Teaching Certificate-This series has been the flagship of the Center for Teaching and Learning. We will continue to provide a learning community for new faculty as well as provide feedback on their teaching through Peer Faculty consultations or SCOT consultations (Student Consultations on Teaching). *All* faculty are welcome to request a Peer Faculty or SCOT consultation by contacting Stewart Ross. The FTCP will meet the first week of the month on Tuesday at 1PM OR Thursday at 11AM. Meetings are currently scheduled for Sept. 4th/6th, Oct. 2nd/4th, Nov. 6th/8th, and Dec. 4th/6th. All meetings will take place in ML 88.

Excellence in Online and Technology Enhanced Teaching-These workshops will go beyond the technology of teaching online to create an awareness of how to effectively engage students. Prior to beginning the certificate, participants must complete the introductory Quality Matters training with Linda Jacoby. Our introductory session will begin with Effective Course Design. Other aspects of online teaching will include Online Course Management, Student Engagement in Online Discussion Groups, Technology Tools for Online Learning, and Course Accessibility. The group will meet the third week of the month on Wednesday from 2-3PM OR Thursday from 10-11AM. Meetings are currently scheduled for Sept. 19th/20th, Oct. 17th/18th, and Nov. 14th/15th. All meetings will take place in ML 88 or ML 94B.

Teaching the 21st Century Learner-This series will meet eight times to explore some essential characteristics of teaching and learning in the 21st Century. Strands include: Creating an Awareness of Today's University Students; Collaboration and Communication in Local and Global Contexts; Social and Cross-Cultural Skills; Critical Thinking and Creativity; Problem Solving and Innovation; Life and Career Skills. The final two sessions will be determined by participants' interests and needs but may include Information Media and Communication Technology; Citizenship and Service Learning; or Leadership and Responsibility. This group will meet the second week of the month on Wednesday from 3-4PM. Meetings are currently scheduled for September 12th, October 10th, and November 14th. All meetings will take place in ML 88.

Team-Based Learning (TBL): An Alternative to Lecturing-Facilitated by Mary Hadley. In this set of meetings you will learn to define and describe the four essential principles of Team-Based Learning (TBL), identify the benefits of TBL, and list the steps to implement TBL in a course. This group will meet either Tuesday afternoons or Wednesday mornings. If you are interested in this certificate, please fill out a registration form indicating possible times you are available. The full schedule will be announced shortly.

Chairs Leadership Certificate-Whether you are an experienced department chair or have taken this responsibility for the first time you may wish to connect with and learn from other faculty who serve in this important capacity. This group will meet the first week of the month on Tuesday from 2-3PM OR Friday from 10-11AM. Meetings are currently scheduled for September 4th/7th, October 2nd/5th, and November 6th/9th.

If you are interested in a certificate program, please contact Patricia Hoffman at patricia.hoffman@mnsu.edu

If you have any questions, you can contact us at cetl@mnsu.edu.