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Ending Matters: Special Thanks and Filling Tanks

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Teaching and Learning Center, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC

UpComing Sessions

HR Training:
Paperwork for
Hiring Students
and Temporary
Employees 5/7,
5/15

Register at:
<http://www2.winthrop.edu/tlc/TrainingCalendar/default.asp>

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Rock Hill, SC

Ending Matters: Special Thanks, and Filling Tanks

As another academic year rushes its way to a harried end, so does the Teaching and Learning Center, and so does *The Weekly Reader*. I want to devote this final issue to an overview of the TLC's work, and more importantly to thank the people who helped us complete another successful year.

The TLC does not operate on a large budget. That sentence is quite an understatement: look in the dictionary under "shoestring," and you will find the TLC. But even so, we manage to present many sessions every year, on a variety of topics, to a broad spectrum of Winthrop faculty and staff. Our charge is to provide opportunities for faculty and staff professional development, including teaching, technology, and work skills, as well as personal development (our recent sessions on cooking, photography, and gardening are good examples).

How can we offer such a

variety and number of sessions with such a small budget? The answer in two words: Winthrop people. Because of the expertise and willingness of Winthrop staff and faculty, we are able to operate—and operate well—on that shoestring.

Here is a sampling of the kinds of sessions we offered this year: FERPA Training, Retirement Planning, Mastering the Curriculum Action System, Leading Class Discussion, Using Smart Phones in the Classroom, Easing the Transition to College, Writing Proposals for Research Council Grants, and Global Thinking. I hope you have attended one or more of the sessions we have offered this year, and I hope you will continue to take time to attend sessions in the future. We all have a responsibility to continue our professional development, and TLC sessions are a great (and local) way to do that.

I want to thank the Winthrop faculty and staff

who have presented sessions this year, some making multiple presentations. The list is more or less chronological in order of presentation: Kimarie Whetstone, Gary Stone, Gina Jones, Jo Koster, Tim Druke, Allison Stucker, Marshall Jones, Michelle Wolf, Jeanie Faris, Padmini Padwardhan, Jackie Brockington, Cindy Cassens, Ellin McDonough, Karen Kedrowski, Angie Edwards, Jennifer Sandler, Jennifer Belk, Leigh Armistead, Teresa Justice, Amanda Hiner, Bethany Marlowe, Gloria Jones, Mark Herring, James Hammond, Mark Hamilton, Tammy Rashotte, and Kelly Arana. (If I omitted your name, please let me know!)

I would love to tell these talented and knowledgeable people that the check is in the mail. Sadly, it is not. I do thank you, heartily, for your willingness to share your time and expertise with the Winthrop

“I would also like to thank the readers of The Weekly Reader. I have truly appreciated your words of encouragement. I can’t say how much it means to have someone email me or stop me in the hall to say that an idea of mine or some words of mine made an impact on teaching our students, serving our students.”



Continued from page 1

community. We are richer because of you. I can honestly say that the TLC could not function without you.

I also thank everyone who has attended sessions, with many people coming to multiple sessions throughout the year. I hope you will remember to note your participation on annual reports and other evaluations: you should be rewarded for your participation and for the professional and personal development you have gained. I also thank the people who gave feedback on sessions, as well as recommendations for new topics. We have offered many of our sessions because of special requests.

More thanks are due to Debra Boyd, Vice President for Academic Affairs, for her support of our efforts. (Debra was the director of the TLC when it wasn't the TLC, so from her Office of Effective Teaching Days, she knows our workings well.) Gloria Jones, Dean of University College, oversees the TLC, as well as too many other programs to count, and her support, advice, and encouragement have been beyond invaluable. I am fortunate that my former colleagues in the English Department are

now my supervisors as well.

The largest debt of thanks goes to Dana Bruneau, Program Coordinator for the TLC. Dana makes everything go like clockwork around here, from organizing sessions, scheduling them, sending reminders, evaluating feedback, to compiling data for reports—in addition to being an amazingly creative thinker and problem solver. If you have been to the TLC website, you have seen the wealth of information and resources we now have available to you 24/7. That is there because of Dana's talent and hard work. She is so good that sometimes she has finished a request almost before the words are out of my mouth. Thanks, Dana, more than I can say!

I would also like to thank the readers of *The Weekly Reader*. I have truly appreciated your words of encouragement. I can't say how much it means to have someone email me or stop me in the hall to say that an idea of mine or some words of mine made an impact on teaching our students, serving our students. I have also appreciated those who disagreed a bit with some of my columns—I value those collegial

discussions. Twenty-seven issues of this newsletter this year, and none too soon: my tank is dry, as my man Mark Twain said of his writing. But like my favorite author, I intend to let the summer fill the tank up again.

Exhausting as an academic year can be, it is also invigorating to think of starting up again in the fall. Look for more sessions on a variety of topics, as well as a renewal of our popular Teaching Circles, as well as—ah, I cannot talk about that one yet, since it is only in the planning stages, but come the fall, I should be able to.

And finally, as odd as it is to say in April, happy summer, everyone! May you all find productive ways to fill your tanks.



XXITE 2.0 ----- The Virtual Gathering Place for WU (The Reboot!)

Jo Koster and I invite you to join XXITE (Twenty-first Century Teaching Excellence)—or if you have already joined, to check it out again as it grows and develops. Maybe you have not been there in a long time—if not, you will see many changes in look and content. For example, XXITE now has groups dedicated to HMXP and CRTW, with

those of us who teach those courses sharing ideas and materials. Talk to Jo about setting up your own interest group. Jo is particularly interested in recruiting a few people to blog regularly about their teaching.

Jo set up this interactive site to give Winthrop faculty a virtual gathering space to share ideas about teaching and

technology. You'll find blogs and discussion forums on various topics—and we urge you to add your own ideas. Visit again at <http://wuxxite.ning.com/> Or email Jo Koster for an invitation to join: kosterj@winthrop.edu The TLC website also has links to navigate your way there or to join: <http://www2.winthrop.edu/tlc/>

A New Service From the TLC: Teaching Consultation

The Teaching and Learning Center is offering a new service: teaching consultation. At the instructor's request, I (or another agreed-upon person) will visit your class to observe and consult with you afterwards about your successes and challenges. This consultation has nothing to do with the tenure and

promotion process, and no reports will be made to department chairs or deans (unless you so request). The invitation to the consultant can only come from the instructor, not from a dean or chair or any other person. All conversations will be private and confidential. If you don't want me to visit your class and observe your teaching, we could

just meet and talk about your teaching. If I am not available to visit your class because of my schedule, I will find a qualified person to do the consulting. So please let me know if you would like to invite me into your class or for a consultation. Call or email me at (803) 323-3679 or birdj@winthrop.edu.

Go2Knowledge—Learning On Demand!

Go2Knowledge is a website that offers a variety of video presentations on faculty and staff professional development. You will find presentations by nationally-known experts in seven categories: At-Risk Populations, Campus Safety, Organizational Development, Student Success, Teaching and Learning, Technology,

and Open Educational Resources. Within each category, you will find a number of excellent and informative videos. The Office of Academic Affairs has provided us a one-year subscription to this service.

People often tell the TLC that they would like to go to sessions, but they don't have the time or they can't

at the times sessions are offered. With Go2Knowledge, you can attend sessions on demand, anywhere, 24/7. The TLC will also have frequent Go2Knowledge Groups, where we meet to discuss a presentation. Log in here: <http://www.go2knowledge.org/winthrop> See you there!

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Winthrop XXITE: Passionate Teaching

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A friendly place where Winthrop faculty & friends can share information and experiment with using social networking for teaching & research.

BLOG POSTS

- NEW POSTS ON THE RENOVATIONS**
Posted by [Mark Y. Herring](#) on June 22, 2012 at 2:05pm
- CORE VALUES**
Posted by [Mark Y. Herring](#) on June 5, 2012 at 9:41am
- PLAYING TO TYPE**
Posted by [Blaiz C. Harding](#) on May 25, 2012 at 10:22am
- TEACHING CRITICAL THINKING IN THE CLASSROOM**
Posted by [Amanda Hiler](#) on March 15, 2012 at 12:11pm — [LUC](#)
- GONE WITH THE WIND...**
Posted by [Jo Koster](#) on March 6, 2012 at 10:33am — [2 Comments](#)

[+ Add a Blog Post](#)

NOTES

- DO COLLEGE PROFESSORS WORK HARD ENOUGH?**
Created by [Jo Koster](#) Mar 25, 2012 at 1:34pm. Last updated by [Jo Koster](#)
- WHO OWNS YOUR COURSE?**
Created by [Jo Koster](#) Mar 19, 2012 at 12:07pm. Last updated by [Jo Koster](#)
- STUDENT OWNERSHIP OF TABLETS INCREASES, PREFERENCE FOR GROWING**
Created by [Jo Koster](#) Mar 14, 2012 at 11:24am. Last updated by [Jo Koster](#)

Join XXITE 2.0 or
Register for a TLC
Session

At

www.winthrop.edu/tlc

Thought for The Week

"What is the difference between a taxidermist and a tax collector? The taxidermist takes only your skin."

--Mark Twain