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The Growing Epidemic of Academic Dishonesty - We Need to Talk

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UpComing Sessions

1. Retirement Counseling Sessions
10/8
2. Boots to Books: Student Veterans
10/8
3. Identifying Students for ONCA Awards
10/22
4. Flipped Classrooms
10/23
5. Blackboard Training (various)
Register at:
<http://www2.winthrop.edu/tlc/TrainingCalendar/default.asp>

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The Growing Epidemic of Academic Dishonesty—We Need To Talk

According to surveys in *U.S. News and World Report*, 80% of “high-achieving” high school students admit to cheating. 51% of high school students do not believe cheating is wrong. 95% of cheating high school students said that they had not been caught. But that’s just high school, right?

Well, 75% of college students admitted cheating, and 90% of college students don’t believe cheaters would be caught. Almost 85% of college students said cheating is necessary to get ahead.

But it’s just those crazy kids, right? According to an NPR survey, two-thirds of parents think cheating is “no big deal” and that “all students do it.”

I could go on and on with such statistics from numerous studies and surveys, both scientific and informal. Academic dishonesty has always been a problem, but the problem now is epidemic.

Winthrop’s Academic Council, chaired by Jo Koster, will be addressing the issue this year. About a decade ago, Winthrop formed a taskforce on academic honesty, chaired by Alice Burmeister. I was part of that taskforce for a time, which met for two years, culminating in a report and a presentation to the campus community, including students. The time has come to return to this important issue.

I found a short article on The Teaching Professor website that makes three recommendations for preventing cheating: 1. Affirm the importance of academic integrity; 2. Reduce opportunities to engage in academic dishonesty; and 3. Develop fair and relevant tests (and/or forms of assessment).

How much time do we spend on step one in our classes? Do we do anything beyond putting an academic honesty policy on the syllabus? Do we talk with students

about the penalties and processes for cheating? Do we even know the penalties and the processes? If not, Student Affairs has recommendations and guidelines on their website: <http://www.winthrop.edu/ai/> You can contact Dean of Students Bethany Marlowe for more information.

The Teaching Professor article contains eight recommendations for the second step, reducing opportunities for cheating. These are clear, practical ideas, like knowing our students’ names and faces, requiring that they do not wear hats or hide their eyes on test days, having them spread out in the classroom if possible, and having more than one version of tests for large classes. Here is the link to the full article:

<http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=1011&search=>

The last step suggests that we develop fair and

“Some of those same national studies contain disturbing findings about faculty: over 60% of faculty report that they knew of cases of cheating but did not report them or do anything about them. If student attitudes about cheating have become looser and most of the faculty do not care or do not want to go to the trouble of dealing with cheating, we are in big trouble”



Continued from page 1

relevant tests. They recommend taking the test yourself, timing yourself, then multiplying that time by five for first-year students. They also recommend writing new tests every semester. We know that fraternities and sororities have test files, right?

The TLC has had sessions on academic honesty regularly in the past few years, and we will no doubt have more in the future. But it is time for the discussion of academic honesty to become much more widespread, among both faculty and students. Academic Council will no doubt spark such discussions.

In their meeting last week, the conversation turned to faculty conduct. Some of those same national studies contain disturbing findings about faculty: over 60% of faculty report that they knew of cases of cheating but did not report them or do anything about them. If student attitudes about cheating have become looser and most of the faculty do not care or do not want to go to the trouble of dealing with cheating, we are in big trouble.

. This discussion will continue...

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!

FACULTY CLUB MY PAGE DISCUSSION FORUM BLOGS CHAT LINKS GROUPS HMXP CR

Winthrop XXITE: Passionate Teaching

WINTHROP'S INITIATIVE FOR 21ST CENTURY TEACHING EXCELLENCE

A friendly place where Winthrop faculty & friends can share information and experiences 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 [Bibi C. Herring](#) on May 25, 2012 at 10:22am
- TEACHING CRITICAL THINKING IN THE CLASSROOM**
Posted by [Amanda Hiler](#) on March 15, 2012 at 12:11pm — 1 Comment
- 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

"I think we never become really and genuinely our entire and honest selves until we are dead--and not then until we have been dead years and years. People ought to start dead, and they would be honest so much earlier". --Mark Twain