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It's Midterm Already? Who Sped Up the Calendar?

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UpComing Sessions

--Volunteering for a Cancer-Free Tomorrow
10/17

--Identifying Students for ONCA Awards
10/22

--Flipped Classrooms
10/23

--Blackboard Training (various)

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

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It's Midterm Already? Who Sped Up the Calendar?

It's the eighth week of the semester already? How did that happen? Who sped up the calendar?

As rushed and hurried as things are, midterm is a good time to pause and take stock, as well as to plan. We make sure that we have some evaluation of our students by midterm, but it is a good idea to evaluate ourselves and our courses. What has worked as planned? How is that change in textbook or methods going? What adjustments can I make in assignments or projects? What is not working out and could be changed without compromising the course goals?

And it might be a good idea to allow our students to evaluate us. We do evaluations at the end of the course, and while that can be helpful for the future, it does not have any effect on the present. A midterm course evaluation does not have to be elaborate, but it can be helpful. Something as simple as three questions—what are the

strengths of the course and my teaching; what are the weaknesses; what suggestions do you have for changes—can give excellent feedback and allow for mid-course corrections. You can even set up an anonymous poll online to get those answers.

Many of our students, including all freshmen, are now receiving their midterm grades. Those of us who teach ACAD are meeting with freshmen this week to look at those grades and help them decide on a course of action going forward. Leah Kendall, the director of ACAD, gave us excellent training last week on all the support services available to students. It struck me that all faculty and staff should be more aware of this vast array of services.

The Academic Success Center in Dinkins offers free tutoring for the following courses: ACCT 280/281; ARTH 175/176; ANTH 201; BIOL 150/203/204/205/206;

BADM 180; CHEM 104/105/106/108; ECON 103/215/216; FREN 101/102; GERM 101/102; HIST 11/112/113/211/212; MATH 105/150/151/201; NUTR 221; PHYS 250; PLSC 201/202; PSYC 101; QMTH 205; RELG 300; SPAN 101/102/201. The tutors for all these courses are also students, so if you have a student who excels in one of these courses, you should encourage him or her to apply to be a tutor.

The Writing Center, 242 Bancroft, provides help with writing at all stages of the writing process. Tutors in the Writing Center are graduate and undergraduate students who have taken a course in writing instruction and tutoring. Students who need help with their writing for any course can call and make an appointment. The Writing Center is open Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-8:00 pm and Friday 9:00 am-12:30 pm. If you have a student who excels in writing and might be a good tutor, contact the

Continued from page 1

Writing Center Director, Dr. Jane Smith, English, to make a recommendation.

The Math Tutorial Center, 271 Bancroft, offers individual tutoring for students enrolled in math classes. The MTC is open Monday 8:00 am-3:00 pm; Tuesday 9:00 am-12:00 and 1:00 pm-3:00 pm; Wednesday 10:00 am-3:00 pm; Thursday 9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1:00-3:00 pm. Students who excel in math can apply for paid positions as tutors.

The Chem Lab, Sims 301A, offers free tutoring for General and Organic Chemistry three times weekly: Tuesday 11:00 am-12:15 pm; Tuesday 7:00 pm-9:00 pm; and Wednesday 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. They also have several student tutors who offer private tutoring.

The Business Resource Room, Thurmond 107, offers students access to computers with the latest Microsoft Office software and the internet. Tutors are also available for selected business courses. The hours this semester are Monday 12:30 pm-8:00 pm; Tuesday 11:00 am-8:00 pm; Wednesday 12:30 pm-6:00 pm; and Thursday 11:00 am-8:00 pm.

House Calls matches resident students who need help in certain classes with tutors who can help them succeed in those classes. House Calls provides tutors when and where they are needed the most--right in the residence halls. After a student makes an appointment, a tutor, a student who has excelled in selected classes, makes a house call. Hours are Sunday-Thursday 7:00 pm-10:00 pm, offering help in a number of classes.

I must say I was astonished at the scope and range of this academic help for our students. As President Comstock has said, retention must be an important goal for us at Winthrop, and the array of student academic services certainly works toward that end. I will keep this information handy when I meet with my ACAD students this week and with my advisees two weeks from now. A handout containing all the above information is now on the TLC Resources page.

I was also struck by the opportunities for our best students to enhance their learning (and make some money) by becoming tutors in these services. Midterm grades not only

identify students who need help, but also students who excel and could offer their expertise to others. If you identify a strong student in your class, you might suggest she or he become a tutor.

Another use of midterm grades is to identify excellent students who should apply for nationally competitive awards. Winthrop has an office that helps students apply for nationally and internationally competitive awards, scholarships, fellowships, and unique opportunities both at home and abroad. The Office of Nationally Competitive Awards, ONCA, identifies qualified students, matches them with over sixty awards and scholarships, and assists them in the process of applying. Maybe you have a future Rhodes Scholar sitting in your class. To learn more about identifying students for ONCA awards, I urge you to attend ONCA Director Dr. Leslie Bickford's TLC session on Tuesday, October 22 at 11:00 am. You can register at the TLC website.

It won't be long before we are talking about final exams. But let's enjoy the present, watch the leaves change colors and fall, and let the future rush toward us at its own pace.



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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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 — 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 11:34pm. 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

*"We dance round in a ring and
suppose, but the secret sits in
the middle and knows."
--Robert Frost*