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Surfing Around the Country, Learning About Teaching and Learning

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Surfing Around the Country, Learning About Teaching and Learning

When I am stumped for a topic for this weekly column, which seems to happen only once a week or so, I dig into my email folder of saved ideas from various teaching and learning sources, such as the ones I shared links to last week, Faculty Focus <http://tinyurl.com/quzyg9h> and Tomorrow's Professor <https://tomprof.stanford.edu/> The above link to Faculty Focus will lead you to an excellent set of reflections on teaching from a recently-retired professor. I thought about just stealing her ideas (with attribution), but then I hit on another plan.

Google to the rescue!

When I Googled "teaching and learning," I was surprised to see that Winthrop's TLC came up fifth. Wow, we hit the bigtime with the Google. Then I realized that high ranking was just because of my own past Google use. (At lunch, I asked Patrice Bruneau to look it up on his phone. Same result! Hmmm...)

I amended my search to

"teaching and learning strategies." What a wealth of ideas came up. I surfed for about 30 minutes, burrowing deep into some interesting sites. So today's column will be a bit of guided surfing by me. I hope you find something of use. Here come the links! Thank goodness for www.tinyurl.com.

First up is Carnegie Mellon University. I clicked first on "Teaching and Learning Principles," which provides research-based concepts about both principles. Then I noticed "Solve a Teaching Problem." Wow! What a helpful interactive guide. I am going to bookmark that and suggest it to colleagues when they ask about a teaching problem. "Assess Teaching and Learning" also offers very helpful strategies for assessment of many kinds, including assessment of students and assessment of our own teaching. What an impressive site, and a model for what we might do to improve the

Winthrop TLC site.
<http://tinyurl.com/hdy9scr>

Let's go to Harvard. The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning has an excellent resources page. Some of the topics include "Active Learning," with examples from specific courses, as well as a guide to strategies; "Classroom Dynamics and Diversity," which covers topics such as handling "hot moments" in the classroom; "Leading Discussions," with links to some good guides; "Course Assessment," including grading; "Syllabus Design"; "Teaching Portfolios"; and "Teaching With Technology". Their Resources page is especially helpful. Make sure you take a look at their "Tip Sheets." A wealth of material!
<http://bokcenter.harvard.edu/resources>

A quick flight across the country takes us to the University of Washington. Their resources page is an excellent guide to all aspects of college

“These are just from the first couple of Google pages. It is exciting to see how much help there is on the internet—a wealth of information, strategies, concepts, ideas, hints, and practical guides. We have a number of good books on teaching and learning in our library, and I have still love to go to library and wander around in the stacks. I will never stop loving the feel and the smell of books. But it sure is handy to have a virtual library at my fingertips. Indeed, I can now carry all this information around in my pocket!”



Continued from page 1

teaching. “Preparing to Teach” moves from course design to the first day of class to teaching different types of classes. “Engaging Students in Learning” contains sections on flipping the classroom, including videos from people who have successfully flipped; active learning; student writing; discussion; teaching large classes; service learning; and more. “Inclusive Teaching” focuses specifically on teaching veterans, with some helpful links; “Teaching International and Multilingual Students” contains some excellent strategies and resources; “Assessing and Improving Teaching” covers self-reflection, student feedback, collaborating with colleagues, practicing the scholarship of teaching and learning, and assessing student learning. Their CTL Bulletins on Teaching and Learning cover a number of topics. Another really good site.

<http://tinyurl.com/j4vtk8s>

No matter what kind of wine you like, you will like Merlot. I am referring to the Merlot Pedagogy site. They have gathered useful materials, organized in five major areas that cover the gamut of teaching: learners and learning, course instructional

design, teaching strategies, teaching challenges, and assessment. For each topic in these areas, they provide links to material from around the country, and they also have further links. I’ll take another glass!

<http://pedagogy.merlot.org/index.html>

Closer to home, UNCC has a site with some helpful resources. The library of podcasts looks very interesting, and they seem to be relatively short. They also have a long list of 30 minute webinars that looks promising.

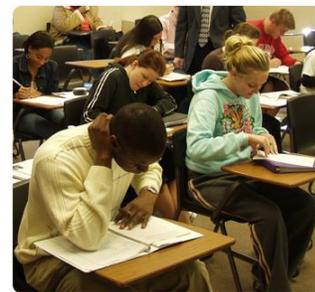
<http://teaching.uncc.edu/>

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As exciting as it is to find

all these sites and all this help, it depresses me when I compare other sites to ours. I know these schools are much larger than Winthrop and have big budgets and many support personnel, but I wish our website could be that impressive. The TLC operates on a minimal budget, and although we achieve a lot with little or no money, it would be nice if our web presence matched our real life achievements. I guess that just give us something to shoot for.

Enough about that. We really have no excuse for not learning to be better teachers. And what I have shared is just the beginning. Happy surfing, everybody!



Thanks For Helping Make the Teaching and Learning Center Work!

Winthrop's Teaching and Learning Center offers a wide variety of sessions each year for faculty and staff, on teaching, technology, professional development, and personal development. From leading class discussion to mastering the Smart podium to tenure and promotion to cooking soufflés, the TLC tries to make sure that all faculty and staff receive

the kinds of professional and personal development that will make them better teachers, administrators, and employees.

To offer this programming, the TLC depends on the talent, expertise, and generosity of our faculty and staff. We do not have a big budget to bring in outside speakers and experts. Even so, we are able to offer engaging,

timely, and valuable sessions every year on a variety of topics. We thank those who have offered their time and talent in past years.

If you have a request for a session you would like to see, please email me and I will try to arrange it. And if you have a session you would like to present, please email me. We will set something up as soon as we can!

A Service From the TLC: Teaching Consultation

The TLC for several years has been offering a 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 (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 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!

Register for a TLC Session
At
www.winthrop.edu/tlc

The 4th Annual Winthrop Conference on Teaching and Learning

Watch this space for information about the 4th Annual Winthrop Conference on Teaching and Learning. The call for papers and proposals will be coming soon!

Thought For the Week

"I tried surf-bathing once, but made a failure of it. I got the board placed right, and at the right moment, too; but missed the connection myself. The board struck the shore in three-quarters of a second, without any cargo, and I struck the bottom about the same time, with a couple of barrels of water in me. None but natives ever master the art of surf-bathing thoroughly."
--Mark Twain, *Roughing It*