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Another Year Almost in the Books: Looking Back on a Great Year for Winthrop's TLC

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Another Year Almost in the Books: Looking Back on a Great Year for Winthrop's TLC

Another academic year is coming to a close, which also means the end of the year for the Teaching and Learning Center. In this last issue of *The Weekly Reader* for the year, I'd like to recap our year and offer thanks for all who have contributed to the TLC's offerings.

The TLC has offered or sponsored numerous sessions, some offered through offices like Human Resources and Health and Counseling Services, but most offered by individual faculty and staff. We began in August with "Training for CMS Web Authors" by Kimberly Byrd (who offered two more sessions over the course of the semester) and "Turnitin Training" by Gale Teaster-Woods.

September brought the beginning of another round of Blackboard Training by Kimarie Whetstone, who offered numerous sessions on various Blackboard topics over the course of the year. If you have never learned how to use Blackboard, which is an

excellent supplement to regular classes, as well as our portal for online classes, you should take advantage of Kimarie's expertise. Gina Jones offered three sessions of "FERPA Training," and then one more later. Everybody should learn about FERPA, which affects all of us and all of our students.

Marshall Jones drew a large crowd with "MOOCs and Their Potential Impact on Higher Education." Health and Counseling Services offered sessions called "MAM 101: Breast Health and Mammography" and "Red Cross Ready: Preparing For Emergencies."

In October, Human Resources gave sessions on "South Carolina Deferred Compensation," "VALIC," and "Open Enrollment Webinar." This busy month for the TLC continued with "Boots to Books: Working With Student Veterans in the Classroom and on Campus" by Katie Sardelli, "ACAD Midterm

Grade Primer" by Michelle Wolf and Alex Mahon, and "How to Identify and Mentor Students for ONCA Awards" by Leslie Bickford.

Health and Human Services offered "Volunteer Today for a Cancer-Free Tomorrow," and Marshall Jones came back for an encore with "Do More, Talk Less: What's a Flipped Classroom and How Do I Flip Mine?"

In November, Katarina Moyon began a series five sessions for HMXP instructors that concluded just recently, covering topics such as paper grading, class discussion, and critical reading. Did you know that you can offer programs and sessions for specialized audiences, and that the TLC will coordinate registration? The College of Education did that for a workshop they held in November.

As 2014 began, Carolyn Shields and Teresa Justice gave a session on "Writing Proposals for

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Council Grants,” and Mark Herring informed us about “Conundrums of Copyright.” Brian Hipp agreed to offer two sessions on “Introduction to Qualtrics,” which proved so popular that he agreed to three more, all very well-attended. The College of Business brought in an outside speaker and invited a larger campus audience to “Changing Students and Changing Understandings in the Classroom.”

We started another round of Teaching Circles, with six people forming two circles and observing each other teaching. They have just concluded their observations, and they tell me they learned a lot from the experience. In February, Jennifer Sandler led a session on “Creating a Faculty-Led Study Abroad.”

Just in time for spring planting, I led a March session, “Introduction to Square Foot Gardening.” I hope that crowd has those gardens going by now. Time to plant tomatoes, at last! April brought showers, as well as Joni Marr’s “Using Technology in the Classroom: Useful Apps,” as well as “Negotiating Skills: You Just Have to Ask” by Martha Spears. Both of these sessions had large attendance. Human

Resources rounded out the year with “Harassment and Discrimination Training” and “South Carolina Deferred Compensation.”

The TLC also helped organize two conferences this year. In September, the GLI held a conference, “The Global Learning Initiative at the Midpoint,” which had 12 sessions and over 30 presenters. In February, we had the first of what we hope will be an annual event, “The Winthrop Conference on Teaching and Learning.” As the 100+ attendees can attest, this inaugural conference was very successful, with 15 sessions, over 30 presenters, and an inspiring plenary address by Dr. Gloria Jones, Dean of University College. Our plan for next year is to make this a one-day regional conference, so stay tuned!

The TLC conducted four teaching consultations this year. (See the short explanation on page three.) I always learn from these classroom observations, and I think they are helpful to the faculty whose classes I visit. Think about this for next year! I can certainly do more than four...

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I must also thank President Jayne Comstock Williamson and Provost Debra Boyd for their support of the TLC, financial and otherwise. Dean Gloria Jones is my University College boss, and we have adjoining offices in Dinkins, so she is always ready to give advice and ideas, as well as her financial and personal support. Dana Bruneau, the TLC Program Coordinator, lets me share a cubicle in this corner of Dinkins. Dana makes everything at the TLC run smoothly, and she does much more. I have thanked you before, Dana, but not enough! I doubt I could...

Finally, thanks to all the presenters who have volunteered their time, talent, and expertise to make the offerings I have listed above. You rock!

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 this year and in past years.

We also thank those of you who have attended TLC sessions. Your time is valuable, and we appreciate you taking some of it to enrich yourself through professional and personal development.

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!

Register for a TLC
Session
At

www.winthrop.edu/tlc

Thought For the Week

"There are two times in a man's life when he should not speculate: when he can't afford it and when he can."

--Mark Twain, *Following the Equator*, Pudd'nhead Wilson's New Calendar