

CTE etcetera

October Workshops

All workshops are at
*10:00 -11:00 a.m.
In the CTE Training
Classroom DH 3032

- Grad & Faculty Learning Commons Roundtable
Friday Oct. 19
- Active Teaching & Learning with PPT
Monday Oct. 22
- FLI Brown Bag Lunch Series
Bring your own bb
Thursday Oct. 25
*11am -12pm
- Career Assessment & Planning
Friday Oct. 26
- Technology: Respondus: Printing Tests
Monday Oct. 29

CTE...etcetera

A Faculty Newsletter

Faculty Illustrated



Jerry Falwell Sr. was often quoted, "If it's Christian it ought to be better." Those words ring true for Chris Nelson, Assistant Professor for the Department of Theatre Arts. The arts, at times portrayed as being a "gray" area by some Christians, can be a powerful medium for impacting faith. Nelson sees the potential for Liberty University to be a "mecca for young Christian artists" to come and perfect their talent.

Theatre tells the story of humanity and offers a commentary on its culture, its values and morals. "What makes theatre so influential is its immediacy," Nelson says. Theatre is an interactive medium where the audience is forced to deal with culture in real time. This has positive and negative connotations, but

Nelson is clear to point out that Liberty's Theatre is not about the controversy for the sake of controversy. Conflict is a tool to show redemption. "Every show ought to be redemptive," Nelson explains. It may not be in the main character, but there is always an element that reveals the better way, the moral way, the redemptive way.

Nelson's passion for rescuing the arts from the secular point of view has guided him to invest in summer programs. He sees these programs as an opportunity to mentor and develop young people in their God-given aptitudes. One of these programs is a day camp, *Liberty University Theatre Camp*. Nelson describes the camp as a "self-confidence" builder for the kids. He is given the opportunity to facilitate the opening of their personalities as they discover their abilities. Another summer program is *Acting Uncut*, a summer intensive camp for high schoolers. This program provides the perfect occasion for his college students to mentor future thespians. In addition to these summer programs Nelson directs two plays during the school year. Nelson is always working with students to develop their craft and mentor them.

Outreaches are focused around the concept that Liberty University and its productions can and will "shine a light on the concerns of the culture" with a Christian perspective. Nelson understands that sometimes the reality about life is, in fact, life without Christ. "Our faith in God is so strong that we should never fear the world," he declares. This is his students' greatest strength for confronting the culture of Hollywood, New York and the theatre. Yet, it is his job as producer and director to be careful to always reflect God's way, which is the better way. Nelson's desire is to share the love of storytelling on the stage but to do so with discernment, reflecting God's redemption, and as always entertain.

CTE Expands Faith Learning Integration Resources

The Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) recognizes that the integration of faith and learning is a critical component of an excellent education from a Biblical Worldview. In an effort to be more intentional and supportive in this endeavor, the CTE has expanded its faith learning integration (FLI) professional development opportunities and resources for faculty.

The Center has planned a series of brown bag lunches centered on the topic of faith learning integration. The format resembles that of a roundtable discussion with audience input and participation. Upcoming sessions include:

- Oct. 25: Dr. C. Fred Smith, *Universal Questions: Using a Multidisciplinary Rubric for Integrating Faith and Curriculum in the Liberal Arts and Sciences.*
- Nov. 29: Dr. Gary Habermas, *Eternal Perspectives Inform How We Teach.*
- Jan. 24: Dr. Elizabeth Sites, *FLI: Separate Threads or Woven Pieces.*
- Feb. 28: Dr. Daniel Mitchell, *The Integration of Faith and Learning.*
- Mar. 28: Barbara Sherman, *Are We a Great Commandment Institution in the Pattern of Early American Higher Education?*
- Apr. 25: Stephen Bell, *A Christian Critique to Romanticism.*

All brown bag lunches are held on select Thursdays from 11 a.m. – noon in the CTE training classroom, DeMoss 3032. The term brown bag suggests that faculty bring their own lunch (CTE provides drinks and snacks). To better promote discussion and participation, seating is limited to 30. Interested faculty members are encouraged to sign-up early in the Pro Dev Portal.

Other upcoming professional development opportunities and presentations in the area of faith learning integration are scheduled for



10 a.m. in the CTE (unless noted) and include:

- Nov. 30: Randy Miller, *Theological Research for Non-Theologians.*
- Jan. 9: Dr. Harold Willmington, *On Making the Trinity Understandable.* DH 1090.
- Mar. 8: Drs. Will Honeycutt and Lew Weider, *FLI: Incorporating Biblical Worldview in My Discipline.*

The Center recently expanded its resources on its website, www.liberty.edu/cte to include additional links to other centers and institutes, journals, and scholarly articles. The website also features a "Faith Learning Integration Gallery" that showcases several successful examples of Liberty University faculty seamlessly integrating faith and learning. The CTE is interested in expanding the gallery. Interested faculty should contact Shawn Bielicki for submission guidelines. Anyone interested in reading more about integrating faith and learning should stop by the CTE or ILRC and borrow one of several new books on the topic.

November Workshops

- **Information Literacy, Learning Outcomes & Support**
Friday Nov. 2
- **Classroom Management in Large Classes**
Monday Nov. 5
- **Develop Your Skills as a Peer Reviewer**
Friday Nov. 9
- **Technology: Help Tickets Best Practices**
Monday Nov. 12
- **Technology: Twitter in the Classroom**
Monday Nov. 16
- **The Student Resumé**
Monday Nov. 26
- **FLI Brown Bag Lunch Series**
Bring your own bb
Thursday Nov. 29
*11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- **Theological Research for Non-Theologians**
Friday Nov. 30

Did you know: Technology Trends

- Undergrad ownership of cellphones is down but smartphones have gone up +5545% in the last six years
- Desktop computer ownership is down -48% and Laptops have gone up +83%

EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research, "ECAR Study of Undergraduate Students and Information Technology, 2012"



Resources for Faculty Working with Military Students

Liberty University is blessed to have tens of thousands of active military, reserves, guards, cadets, and veterans from all branches of the service studying residentially or online. To help better prepare faculty to teach and reach our military students and veterans who sometimes have unique circumstances and needs, the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) has expanded its resources.

On the CTE website www.liberty.edu/cte, a new page has been created under the "Faculty Resource" tab, specifically designed for faculty working with military students. This resource page was developed to better acquaint faculty with the challenges that student soldiers face and better prepare faculty to successfully guide these students toward degree completion. The "Working with Military Students" page contains links to Liberty University offices and supports on campus, suggested scholarly articles, guides, and reports, and a list of books. The page also contains resources from other institutions and organizations.

Faculty members can also access new training materials on the Faculty Communication Center - Center for Teaching Excellence (FCC_CTE).

Faculty can find a link to the FCC_CTE in the My Bb Courses box in their Blackboard Portal. A snapshot of available presentations includes:

- Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Robert F. Dees, Associate Vice President for Military Outreach, *Educating and Empowering Military Students*.
- Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dr. Bruce Bell, Associate Dean of College of General Studies, *Instructing the Online Military Student*.
- Sgt. Dr. Will Honeycutt, Assistant Director of Christian / Community Service, *Teaching the Residential Military Student*.
- Capt. John A. Ezzo, US Army ROTC Recruiting Operations Officer and Senior Military Science Instructor, *Liberty University ROTC*.
- Liberty University Military Student, *Perspectives from a Military Student*.

Faculty members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these new resources.

New Faculty Mentoring Program: KOINONIA

KOINONIA

(koy-nohn-ee'-ah) n. fellowship, meaning to share or to partner, to invest in

The Center for Teaching Excellence introduced its new faculty Koinonia Mentoring program to twenty new full-time faculty hires. The term koinonia originates from Greek and is found in the New Testament to mean communion by intimate participation. The Koinonia Mentoring program is designed to help new faculty better assimilate into our unique Liberty University culture, provide effective training and guidance, and create an environment rich in constructive influence that results in collegial interest and peer investment. Teaching Advisor Shawn Bielicki designed the

KOINONIA

program to be semi-structured, but openly conversational and relational. Interested new faculty members opted-in to the mentoring program, requesting a confidential mentor outside of their department who is willing to take them under their wing for one year.

A critical part of the program involves matching mentors and mentees based on backgrounds, experience, and interests. The mentor and mentee relationship is a nurturing one. In essence, the mentor assumes the roles of a guide, role model, friend, advisor, and cheerleader; the mentee assumes the roles of a listener, learner, friend, advisee, and colleague. According to mentor Dr. John Vadnal, "The most positive experience [thus far] was how well we were matched and how well we connected due to our similar backgrounds. Being matched with someone at LU in Lynchburg who also happened to graduate from the University of Iowa and is a runner would be a rather unusual coincidence if it were left to chance, which certainly demonstrates that there are no coincidences in God's plan."

The inaugural class of Koinonia mentors includes Andrea Beam, Bruce Bell, Catherine Buck, Jeanne Brooks, Mary Deacon, Donna Donald, Sundi Donovan, David Duby, Melanie Hicks, Gary Isaacs, Bruce Kirk, Anita Knight, Chad Magnuson, Alison Pettit, Anita Satterlee, Barb Sherman, Carolyn Towles, Matthew Towles, John Vadnal, and George Young.

Liberty Nominates Two Faculty for the SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award

Liberty University nominated two faculty members for the Outstanding Faculty Award (OFA) through the State Council

'SHUT UP & WRITE' Underway Again

As part of a Communities of Practice (CoP) initiative, the CTE hosts a "Shut Up and Write" group. With the goal of supporting faculty writing and scholarship, the COP provides a quiet, comfortable place to write, free of students and office distractions. The group is led by teaching advisor Shawn Bielicki and meets on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the CTE Forum, DeMoss 3032.

of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), Dr. Amanda Rockinson-Szapkiw and Dr. Lucinda (Cindi) Spaulding. Both professors demonstrate the mark of a good professor: a love of learning, teaching and facilitating intellectual growth. They are passionate about their subject matter and their students. They find new and innovative ways to connect, counseling and educational technology mentor and develop their students.

Szapkiw uses her "background in counseling ... to facilitate the emotional, social, and cognitive growth of undergraduate and graduate students and online colleagues." She actively uses technology such as Skype, Google chat, and a program on SharePoint she designed to guide her doctoral students through the dissertation process. This allows her to connect with students outside of the classroom, particularly since many of them are online. These technologies are elements that assist her in creating community and mentoring opportunities.

Spaulding focuses on instruction and the importance of scholarly publications. In addition to co-authoring a resource book, *Navigating the Doctoral Journey: a Handbook of Strategies for Success*, Spaulding assists her students in publishing their research. One of them was selected to participate in the Council for Exceptional Children's Division for Research Doctoral Student Scholar's Seminars. Spaulding views teaching as a privileged responsibility. Several of her courses are instructional design courses in teaching methodologies and understanding taxonomies. However, she "know[s]



December & January Workshops

- **LUO: Tutor.com**
Monday Dec. 1
- **Carols & Cocoa**
Monday Dec. 7
*10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- **On Making the Trinity Understandable**
Wednesday Jan. 9
DH 1090
Continental Breakfast
- **LUO: Building Community in the Online Environment**
Monday Jan. 14
- **Poll Everywhere**
Friday Jan. 18
- **Mentor Training**
Monday Jan. 21
- **FLI Brown Bag Lunch Series**
Bring your own bb
Thursday Jan. 24
*11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- **Winning Teaching Styles**
Friday Jan. 25
- **Preparing for Publication – Book Focus**
Monday Jan. 28

SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award

success in the field also requires [her] students to be equipped with strategies for managing challenging behaviors and differentiating instruction to meet diverse need of students.” By example, Spaulding teaches and mentors her students through life experiences, scholarly research and her active role in working with underprivileged children.

Liberty University is pleased to have these dedicated teachers representing them in the OFA competition. Szapkiw and Spaulding were past recipients of Liberty's highest honor for academic excellence, the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Recommended Reading

The recommended reading corner is a new section for the CTE ETC newsletter. It details several excellent reads that are available for faculty to borrow from either the CTE Lending Library or the ILRC.

CTE Lending Library

- Bain, K. (2004). *What the best college teachers do*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

- Dockery, D.S., & Thornbury, G.A. (Eds.). *Shaping a Christian worldview: The foundations of Christian higher education*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing.
- Elmore, T. (2012). *Artificial maturity*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Gabriel, K.F. (2008). *Teaching unprepared students: Strategies for promoting success and retention in higher education*. Sterling, VA: Stylus.
- Nilson, L.B. (2010). *Teaching at its best: A research-based guide for college instructors*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

ILRC

- Baumann, E. (2011). *Worldview as worship: The dynamics of a transformative Christian education*. New York: Wipf & Stock.
- Bender, T. (2011). *Discussion-based online teaching to enhance student learning: Theory, practice and assessment*. Sterling, VA: Stylus.
- Doyle, T. (2011). *Learner centered teaching: Putting the research into practice (e-book)*. Sterling, VA: Stylus.
- McHaney, R. (2011). *New digital shoreline: How Web 2.0 and millennials are revolutionizing higher education (e-book)*. Sterling, VA: Stylus.
- Vander Ark, T. (2011). *Getting smart: How digital learning is changing the world*. San Francisco: Wiley.

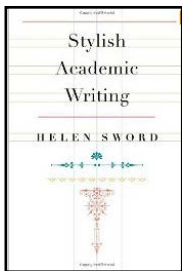


Faculty Weigh In

Stylish Academic Writing

by Helen Sword. Cm: Jossey-Bass, 2003.

Reviewed by Mrs. Carolyn Towles



As a writing professor, I want to review books that deal with “how to write” as a way to help my students develop the art of writing. Of course there are the old standards – Strunk and White’s Elements of Style, or more recent books like *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*, which offers a humorous look at language. Every writing professor has a favorite book that should provide the groundwork for students to improve their writing. In her work, *Stylish Academic Writing*, Helen Sword shifts the focus from students to professional writers who want to write and who want others to read and enjoy their work. She proposes that we should take the advice that we give our students: to write with clarity. Her work is part study and part challenge to change our writing approach.

Her work is divided into two parts: “Style and Substance,” and “The Elements of Stylishness.” In the first part, she explains her analysis of over a thousand peer-reviewed articles across ten disciplines. Surprisingly, she did not find any journals that mandated a stodgy style, but she did find many articles that “thwarted [the reader] by gratuitous educational jargon and serpentine syntax” (5). While she doesn’t discount the need for technical report writing, she does support shifting the prevalent style of academic writing into “something truly worth reading” (31). Sword’s review of these journal articles is quite revealing of the false restrictions that we put on our writing.

In the second part, “Elements of Stylishness,” she takes us back to the basics of writing, all the way to the word and sentence level. Even her chapter titles are creative touches that drew me into the chapter: “Voice and Echo,” “Tempting Titles,” or “Hooks and Sinkers” --- all made me remember the chapter content. Within each chapter, she breaks up the text with sections that she labels “Spotlight on Style.” Each one focuses on an author who writes with an engaging style that demonstrates that making a connection with your reader is vital. Each of these “Spotlights” continues Sword’s focus on the art of writing. At the end of the chapter, she has a section of “Things to Try.” I was particularly interested in one that was described as “a playful insight into what ails a sagging paragraph” (60). By submitting a paragraph to Writer’s Diet Web site, your paragraph can be analyzed for its fitness. While the paragraph that I submitted fell into the category of “fit & trim,” without having read this book, I am fearful that I would have been in the “heart attack territory.”

While some readers might state that she is just telling us what we already know, sometimes we need to be told again. Perhaps this time, I will remember that in an essay “sentences are the bricks; paragraphs are the walls and windows” (122). If I build my essay from the ground up as she recommends, then I will have a “building” others will want to visit.

Center for Teaching Excellence

Empowering Effective Educators

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