August 2010

Announcements

Staffing changes at the Institute

Suzanne Weinstein, Ph.D., is the new Director of Instructional Consulting, Assessment, and Research. Dr. Weinstein has a doctorate in Psychology and has been with the Institute in a variety of positions since 2002.

Ann Echols, Ed.D, Ph.D., has taken a teaching position at Bucknell University. We thank her for her contributions to the Institute and wish her well in her new position.

Welcome graduate consultants!

The following graduate consultants have joined the Institute for the 2010/2011 academic year beginning August 16, 2010.

Crystal Ramsay, Instructional Consultant, is a graduate student (ABD) in the department of educational psychology.

Beate Brunow, Graduate Consultant, is a graduate student (ABD) in the German department.

Destiny Aman, Graduate Consultant, is a graduate student (ABD) in the department of geography.

Andria Andiliou, Graduate Consultant, is a graduate student (ABD) in the department of educational psychology.

Testing Center timeslots rapidly filling for fall finals week

The deadline for scheduling a fall 2010 final in the Penn State Testing Center is August 23, the first day of classes. However, the Testing Center is almost completely booked for fall final exams, so faculty who want to schedule e-testing during finals week should do so as soon as possible.

Finals need to be scheduled through your department using the normal ISIS process on the ARUAF screen. Your department must request the Pollock Testing Center specifically and must also copy eTest@psu.edu on the request.

The Center houses an e-testing lab that features more than 160 Windows machines, state-of-the-art security measures to ensure academic integrity, and staff to answer students' questions about hardware and software. To meet high demand during fall finals week, several technology classrooms will be used for e-testing, including Boucke 111, 112, 214, and LifeSc 6 and 7.

The Center is jointly operated by Information Technology Services and the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence. To learn more about the Testing Center: http://testing.psu.edu/.

Events

1) **New Instructor Orientation**   Aug. 18 – Oct. 1

　　　This online, self-directed workshop, open to all new instructors at Penn State, is offered at the start of each semester through ANGEL, Penn State's course management system. This workshop will provide you with a brief introduction to the resources and strategies that are crucial to good teaching and planning. Once registered, please allow 16 business hours to pass until you are able to access ANGEL.
To register: http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Register/Detail.aspx?ID=10295

2) **International Teaching Assistant Training**   Aug. 19, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Or
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Aug. 25, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　315 Rider Bldg.

　　　This interactive workshop will focus on topics such as U.S. student culture, establishing rapport and effective communication, and classroom management.
To register for Aug. 19: http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Register/Detail.aspx?ID=10304
To register for Aug. 25: http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Register/Detail.aspx?ID=10302

3) **TA 101: A Guide to the Teaching Assistantship**   Aug. 19, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Or
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Sept. 1, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　315 Rider Bldg.

　　　Participants will get pointers on how to clarify faculty expectations, grade in an effective (and time-efficient!) way, and handle student conflict. The workshop is designed for new teaching assistants but is open to anyone who could use some tips on being a TA.
To register for Aug. 19: http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Register/Detail.aspx?ID=10305
To register for Sept. 1: http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Register/Detail.aspx?ID=10303

4) **Graduate Student Coffee Hour**   Sept. 1, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　315 Rider Bldg.

　　　This is an informal opportunity for graduate students to meet over coffee to share teaching ideas, concerns, and resources. Natalie DePalma of Penn State's Counseling and Psychological Services will attend to share tips about stress reduction and time management.
To register: http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Register/Detail.aspx?ID=10306

5) **SRTE Question and Answer Session**   Sept. 7, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　7A Sparks Bldg.

　　　Faculty, administrators, and staff are invited to bring questions to this informal Q & A session. Particular attention will be paid to how to interpret students' written comments, the statistics reported in SRTE summaries, and other techniques for gathering feedback about teaching. Polycom is available.
To register: http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Register/Multi-Item-Registration.aspx?ID=10253

6) **SRTE Workshop for Graduate Students**   Sept. 9, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　315 Rider Bldg.

　　　Graduate consultants at the institute will present an SRTE workshop for grad students. Participants will learn how to read and analyze SRTE results for information that can help improve teaching.
To register: http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Register/Detail.aspx?ID=10301

7) Course in College Teaching   Sept. 14, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
                                                                    315 Rider Bldg.

This 8-week course provides an opportunity for instructors, professors, and graduate instructors to share ideas and strategies for successful teaching. The Course is held every Tuesday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. beginning September 14 and concluding November 2.
To register: http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Register/Detail.aspx?ID=10300

8) Best Practices for PowerPoint: Tips for Instructors   Sept. 16, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
                                                                    315 Rider Bldg.

Graduate consultants will share best practices in PowerPoint design and use, expanding on ideas developed and tested in the classroom by Professor Michael Alley.
To register: http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Register/Detail.aspx?ID=10299

9) Getting Through the Stack: Grading for Learning   Sept. 23, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
                                                                    315 Rider Bldg.

This interactive workshop will give you strategies on how to grade efficiently and effectively. We will discuss grading rubrics, time-saving strategies, and ways to provide meaningful, learner-centered feedback on assignments and exams. To register: http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Register/Detail.aspx?ID=10298

10) Perceived Difficulty Assessment Questionnaire (PDAQ): What's it all about?
A Noontime Roundtable Discussion with Nuno Ribeiro, Careen Yarnal, and Xinyi (Lisa) Qian

                                                                    Sept. 30, Noon – 1:30 p.m.
                                                                    315 Rider Bldg.

The PDAQ is a simple self-measure of difficulty that can be included in every assignment completed by a student (e.g., exams, quizzes, homework assignments, fieldtrip reports, etc.). The PDAQ uses Likert-type scales to assess, for example, perceived difficulty and perceived length on any assignment, and also incorporates short open-ended questions that request the student's opinions and/or comments on the assignment. Polycom is available.
To register: http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Register/Multi-Item-Registration.aspx?ID=10316