Message from the Director

Fall 2010 marks the beginning of my fourth year directing the Center for Teaching and Learning, and my return from two years that included sabbatical breaks in the spring semester. Many thanks to Claudia Perry for her outstanding leadership directing the Center these past two springs!

I look forward to a stimulating year in which technology will take center-stage. This builds upon several ongoing (and some new) projects which rely on Internet- or classroom-based technologies:

- Our ePortfolios initiative continues to grow. We have over 500 users in Epsilen. Many of these users are students taking classes with ePortfolio requirements. Some of these users are faculty using this platform to carry out work related to faculty development or College service. We have received funding to establish an ePortfolio mentors group.
- We have received a grant from the CUNY Office of Academic Affairs to develop hybrid courses, an opportunity which greatly enhances many of our activities focusing on teaching online. This past June was our inaugural event for the hybrids teaching project: an intensive week of training for 17 members of our faculty, who will be teaching courses that incorporate some online instruction in place of face-to-face time.
- We are working with OCT and with several departments to develop best practices for Tech Fee funded clickers (also known as classroom response systems). We look forward to having an intern from Turning Technologies join our team, to work with faculty on the technology and pedagogy involved in using clickers.
- We are working with the Office of General Education on a project that will distribute netbook computers to a group of undergraduate students enrolled in FYI communities.

Check the Projects area of our website for more updates on all of these. We will announce workshops and lectures as well as calls for proposals for training and funding opportunities related to teaching with technology.

In addition to technology, look for continued progress on other fronts:

- Last year's College-wide focus on general education continues this year. The Center for Teaching and Learning is working closely with the Office of General Education, with committees of the Academic Senate, and with faculty and administrators as we re-build the College's major. Our objective is for students to succeed and grow intellectually as they make progress through their general education courses.
- We are looking forward to an expansion of the Undergraduate Research / Mentoring Education (UR/ME) program launched last fall.
- We will be building a new collaborative space for faculty to explore service learning and experiential education, with the guidance and support of Yasemin Jones (Office of the Provost) and Emanuel Avila (Student Affairs).
- We will continue to work with the Academic Senate, the Office of Converging Technologies, a soon to be formed student task force on, and other groups on campus, to improve response rates on teaching evaluations.

To learn more about our work, explore our website or participate in one of our Events. And please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or suggestions.

We're located in Razran 316, where we are part of the Razran Complex: the coordinated headquarters of the Office of General Education, Writing at Queens, and the Ed Tech Lab.

Have a wonderful entry into the new semester!

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