Library Journal Evaluation Project: Preliminary Results

In the first phase of the library’s journal evaluation project, faculty members were asked to review lists of journals in their discipline and rate the usefulness of individual print and online-only titles to which the library maintains current subscriptions. Suggestions for new titles to be added were also solicited.

All full-time faculty received the link to access the project web page and their department’s list from their library liaison. Articles publicizing the journal evaluation project appeared in the Academic Affairs newsletter and the adjunct faculty newsletter. A total of 56 completed surveys were returned.

The results have been compiled and are reported on a new web page, Journal Evaluation Project – Candidates for Cancellation and Addition – Winter 2010 (http://librarysubjectguides.svsu.edu/journaleval).

Results: Candidates for Cancellation

Based on faculty ratings and other evaluation criteria, 320 journal titles have been identified as candidates for cancellation. Of that number, 227 (71%) are currently available online in one or more of the library’s full-text journal databases.

In addition to online availability of print titles and faculty ratings, other evaluation criteria were low usage from 2006 to 2009, high subscription cost, and cumulative four-year cost increase. All of this information is provided in the Candidates for Cancellation lists that are posted on the web page.

Results: Recommended Additions

Faculty recommended 52 journal titles for addition. Of those titles, the library already provides access to 18 (35%) of them. The complete list of titles can be viewed by clicking on the Proposed Additions tab at the top of the Journal Evaluation Project web page.

Action Requested:
Faculty should review the lists of Candidates for Cancellation. Two lists are provided:

- Titles by department under the related College tab at the top of the Journal Evaluation Project web page
- Alphabetical by title under the Candidates for Cancellation tab at the top of that page

Requests to retain subscriptions to specific titles (including a brief justification for keeping each title) should be sent to Jennifer Dean, Head of Collection Development & Acquisitions (jdean@svsu.edu), by Friday, April 9.

The final list of canceled subscriptions will be posted on an updated Journal Evaluation Project web page. All cancellations will become effective with the 2011 subscription year.
Encouraging Student-Faculty Contact On-line

The last article I wrote was about Chickering & Gamson’s first principle, Encouraging Student-Faculty Contact. This month, we are going to move onto the second principle, Encouraging Cooperation among Students. As most would agree, no one of us is as good as all of us, particularly in a scholastic environment. It is why researchers collaborate, why faculty members discuss their theories with one another, and why we have meetings. Sometimes this explanation can be lost on our students, especially students who have been previously burned when it comes to working with their peers. This challenge can be further exacerbated when teaching online or hybrid courses because we do not have the ability to read body language to see when our students are frustrated or easily tell when one student is checking out of a group.

So, how do we take this principle and make it work for us when teaching at a distance? Here are some suggestions to help your students be more successful in their online (and possibly on-ground) collaborative learning groups:

1. Make sure that there is a deliberate purpose for collaborative assignments. It isn’t enough just to ask students to work together just for the sake of working together. When creating a collaborative learning assignment, be sure that you can articulate the end goal for yourself and your students. Ideally it will be one that corresponds to one of the learning objectives for the course.

2. Devise a method to assess each team member’s contribution to the group and make it available to the students at the beginning of the project. Many students are concerned about depending on others for “their” grade and rightfully so. If a student knows how he or she will be assessed prior to beginning the work, it will lessen the confusion for everyone. Rubrics, checklists, or even just a list of expectations for contributions can be handy here.

   * In a related note, while you may let students write assessments of one another’s contributions during the project, remember that as the faculty member, you are the person solely responsible for providing the grade for the project.

3. Remember that one of the key stages that any group needs to reach is when they think that they need each other to survive and thrive—true interdependence. However, you want to still be able to grade the students separately, so you might want to consider giving the project in stages: one where each person has a solo project he or she has to complete and then the group puts it together for a final, polished product. This might reduce the likelihood of social loafers and still assure the students that they will be graded on their work, but that the final product will require everyone’s efforts.

4. Check in frequently with the group areas online. Be a visible, but not overwhelming presence to let the students know that you are watching, but do not take over. Part of any successful student experience is the joy (yes, joy) of solving their own problems. However, much as in an on-ground classroom, you want to present in case of an issue that students cannot resolve alone or a pressing need of a “higher” authority with whom to discuss things. Make rules about when they can go to you if you must, but make sure that they know you are watching and listening.

5. Help the students work through the normal stages of any group formation. You might want to do this through the use of formal roles (leader, researcher, etc.) or just require them to send you individual notes of how they think their group is working so that you can spot any issues before they become large problems.

There are many more ideas and suggestions, but these are perhaps the most salient for online group work. If you have any additional questions, please be sure to contact me at x2025 or sherri@svsu.edu for further assistance. You can also find some excellent resources online and in print. Some great recommendations are:

Allen Foundation Grant Announcement

Support is available for student/faculty summer research!

The Allen Foundation Student/Faculty Research Grant is accepting proposals to support student/faculty research that addresses various health and nutritional issues facing the region and the world from 6/01/10-8/31/10. The maximum request is $5,000. Student wages, supplies, travel, equipment are supported; faculty stipend and/or summer wages are not supported. Go to www.svsu.edu/sponsoredprograms. Click on internal grants (left hand side). Click on The Allen Foundation Student/Faculty Research Grant and log in to start your application. The guidelines are posted as a word document for your convenience.

Proposals are due by 4:30pm on May 15 yearly or the next business day. Award notification will be made by the end of May. Should you have questions, please call Sponsored Programs at 964-4295 to assist you.

Events & Schedules

Speakers and Events

Presentations

Sponsored by the College of Business and Management

Mr. Clarence M. Rivette, President of Wirt-Rivette Financial and Leasing Services
Vietnam: Success, Challenges and Future
Wednesday, April 7, at 3:00 pm and 6:00 p.m.
Rhea Miller Performing Arts Center

Dr. Michael Agyekum Addo, Chief Executive Officer of Kama Group Ghana Limited
The KAMA Principles of Leadership and Entrepreneurship: Lessons from a Ghanaian Entrepreneur
Wednesday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m.
Rhea Miller Recital Hall

Library

Exhibits

Student Book Collection Contest: Displays and Awarding of Prizes
Tuesday, April 13, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
First Floor, Zahnow Library

Faculty and Staff Authors Display and Reception
Thursday, April 15, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Roberta Allen Reading Room, 4th floor, Zahnow Library
Display of the published research, writing and creative works produced by SVSU faculty and staff during the past year. SVSU grant recipients will also be recognized at the reception.

Reading

Bonnie Jo Campbell, author of American Salvage, Q Road, and Women and Other Animals
Wednesday, April 14, at 3:00 p.m.
Roberta Allen Reading Room, 4th floor, Zahnow Library

Campbell’s latest book, American Salvage, was a finalist for the 2009 National Book Award for fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award. A native of Michigan who currently resides in Kalamazoo, Campbell will be presented with SVSU’s Stuart and Vernice Gross Award for Literature at the reading.

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum

Sketches to Sculptures: Rendered Reality, Sixty Years with Marshall M. Fredericks
Reception to see the exhibition of 31 small bronze sculptures and 36 related drawings and sketches never before exhibited and meet members of the Fredericks’ family at the Museum.

Friday, April 30, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
RSVP required by April 23, call 964-7082.
Hosted by Eric and Cindy Gilbertson and Museum Board and staff.
University Art Gallery

“Alphabets & Excursions: Recent Paintings by Nikkole Huss”
March 15 through April 10
Artist Reception: Thursday, April 8, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Nikkole Huss is a visual artist from Illinois. She incorporates the use of drawing, painting, fiber, sculpture and photography into her work. Professor Huss is currently an Assistant Professor of Art at Concordia University. Reception is free and open to the public. For more information about this exhibit, visit www.svsu.edu/artgallery.

STUDENT BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS EXHIBIT
April 19 through May 1
Artist Reception: Thursday, April 22, 4:30-7:00 p.m.
This exhibit is a show of the works of SVSU senior art majors, Kady Allen, Meghan Ordus, Eric Sinicki, and Julie Lake, graduating with BFA degrees with a concentration in Graphic Design. This exhibit serves as a completion of their undergraduate program. Reception is free and open to the public. For more information about this exhibit, visit www.svsu.edu/artgallery.

Performing Arts

Theatre Productions

One for the Pot
Friday & Saturday, April 9 & 10, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 11, 3:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday, April 16 & 17, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 18, 3:00 p.m.
Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts
Ticket information (989) 964-4261

Concerts

Senior Voice Recital
Tami Snyder, soprano
Monday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.
Recital Hall - No admission charge

Cardinal Singers Concert
Thursday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.
Recital Hall - No admission charge

Concert Band Concert
Wednesday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.
Theatre - No admission charge

Jazz Ensemble Concert
Thursday, April 22, 7:30 pm
Recital Hall - No admission charge

Rhea Miller Recital Concert
Mr. B, Blues & Boogie-Woogie Piano
Saturday, April 24, 7:30 pm
Recital Hall - No admission charge

Music of the Renaissance XVIII
Tuesday, April 27, 7:30 pm
Founders Hall - No admission charge

Workshops

Register Online: http://www.svsu.edu/workshops/

Academic Affairs

Course Design: From Course Description to Assessment
Learn best practices to achieve course goals.
Saturday, April 24, Emeriti, 9:00 - 3:30 p.m. x2130

Mind Mapping
Useful technique to increase student success.
Tuesday, April 5, C-157, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. x2130
Wednesday, April 6, C-140*, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. x2130
Friday, April 9, C-157, noon - 1:30 p.m. x2130
** These workshops will be offered via interactive television to the Macomb Campus, room LC-101.

Highlights of Research and Creativity

SRCI Poster Session
Tuesday, April 6, Roberta Allen, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. x4296

Office Productivity

Instant Messaging: Spark
Send IM notes to coworkers. Include screenshots, conference with multiple users.
Wednesday, April 14, C-154, 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. x7471

Word 2007, Level II
Customizing charts, graphics, styles & advanced formatting.
Wednesday, April 7, C-154, 2:00 - 3:30 x7471

Sponsored Programs

Learn about the Fulbright Application and Review Process
Wednesday, April 14, Z-235, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. x4295
Thursday, April 15, Z-235, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. x4295