Office of ADJUNCT FACULTY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

intheLoop

Upcoming Community Learning Activities

In an effort to reach different kinds of faculty, our office is sponsoring three new learning activities, the first of which is titled *The Grapes of Wrath Book Club*. In the Book Club, participants will be encouraged to share their teaching experiences (wrathful or excellent) and gain new ideas for their teaching in a lively and relaxed setting (aged "grapes" will be provided for refreshment as will the book). The Book Club will be reading, *What the Best College Teachers Do* by Ken Bain during the fall semester. The first date for our club is September 9th at 4:30 P.M.

The second activity is a *Lunch and Learn*. You bring your bag lunch and we will provide the topic of conversation. The first *Lunch and Learn* is scheduled for Noon on Friday, September 23rd. Anita Dey, Head of Reference Services in the Zahnow Library, will discuss ways to foster information literacy with your students.

The last activity is the *Course Design Workshop*. This Workshop used to be an all day event, but it was decided that instructors wanting to design or redesign their course would benefit from three separate meetings over the course of the semester. Therefore, the Workshop will be held on Saturdays from 9:00 until 11:00 starting on October 29th.

For more information on these activities or other workshops offered by the University, go to www.svsu.edu/workshops.

Discover Zahnow Library Collections with Encore

Encore, the library's discovery catalog, provides unique search options to easily find many resources from various library collections. This is made possible by Encore's search structure. It offers a single search box to search books, e-books, videos, magazines, newspapers, journals, and other library collections. Depending on the search, unique results may display that are not possible with the classic or traditional library catalog (CardCat). The search results could be a combination of relevant, multiple formatted resources. A discovery search also allows many limiting options permitting users to narrow original results to a specific collection, location, resource and more. Here are two recent examples:

A student asked about an e-book titled *Reflective Practice for Healthcare professionals* by Beverley J. Taylor. Searching this title with Encore displays not only the e-book link but also a link to a full text book review from the *Journal of Community Nursing*. This is only possible using Encore because of the software's capability to simultaneously search pre-selected library databases and have those results combined with the title search. The integration of multiple library collections/resources makes Encore a powerful search system.

The second example reveals another key aspect of the Encore discovery library catalog. A student asked about children's books that were both at Zahnow Library and the Regional Education Resource Center. A keyword topic search in Encore produced a list of results. The limit features located on the menu to the left of the search results allowed the librarian to limit by children's' books, then by those at the RERC or only those at Zahnow Library. Again, the powerful "discovery" by limiting to collection and location worked only because the librarian was using the Encore system.

These examples illustrate "discovery" approach to research. You may find an additional resource when using with the limit features to tweak your search results to meet your research needs. Either way, discover all the library has to offer by using the "Find Books" tab on the library home page or go directly to Encore using this url: http://encore.svsu.edu.

Parking On Campus

Please check the new campus map to inform yourself of the changes to parking lots and drives on campus. Also, most adjunct faculty are eligible for free parking permits. For an updated map and a parking permit application, please visit: http://www.svsu.edu/universitypolice/parking-information.

You may return the completed parking permit form to our office in Science East 201 or go directly to University Police and Parking Services, located in South Campus Complex A. If you have a permit from last year, it expires on September

Unlearning to Learn

There is a popular YouTube video which shows Harvard graduates explaining how seasons occur. When asked, most of these graduates explained that as the earth gets closer to the Sun, summer happens and as the earth moves away from the sun, winter occurs. The content in this video is an example of the fact that many students graduate with their heads full of misinformation (the seasons are the result of earth's tilt and rotation around the Sun). According to Martin (2001), "A significant barrier to learning for mature students is the extent to which established perceptions, values and beliefs can filter and block their ability to transform their understanding of the world in which they live." In essence, in order for learning to occur one has to be open to new ideas. And to be open to new ideas one has to be willing to challenge one's fixed ideas and biases. Many students tend to rely on information that is formal and rote…not doing the kind of exploration that humans do as children. Information that is formal and rote is habitual and not subject to the changes that new knowledge create. For students to be able to grasp the constant change in ideas and technology they must change and challenge some of those old ideas and biases by learning to unlearn. Here are a few tips to help students learn how to unlearn:

Have your students explore the unfamiliar: Approaching problems or new technologies with established ideas does not allow we humans to fully consider all of the possibilities. If we encourage our students to explore the unfamiliar they will find new and different ideas and technology uses.

Encourage students to change their learning location: travel to a foreign country challenges existing habits and forces one to consider other possibilities. Such considerations are a form of unlearning.

Create situations where student can engage in learning with professional opposites: Studying or making friends with new people from different backgrounds or experiences can help students gain opposite perspectives.

Suggest that students learn side by side with a child: Children are natural explorers. By watching how children attack the keyboard of a computer or a video game, students can be reminded of the many avenues such exploration can lead.

Essentially the process of unlearning is to, "simply and continuously …challenge yourself to think and learn about things from different perspectives and angles" (Blowers, 2009). If you would like to learn more about "learning to unlearn" strategies, there is a workshop being offered on September 16th at Noon in Curtiss 140. You may register for this by going to www.svsu.edu/workshops or by calling (989-964-4050) or writing us (adjunctfaculty@svsu.edu).

Martin, Paul R. (2001). Unlearning and Learning. *Teaching and Learning Forum 2001.* Retrieved from http://otl.curtin.edu.at/tlf/tlf2001/martinp.html.

Course Evaluations

There has been a minor change since the last report on evaluations. Adjunct Faculty should complete their course evaluations for the fall and winter semesters one month prior to the end of the semester. For Fall 2011 that date is November 23rd and for Winter 2012 that date is April 4th. Your evaluations will be returned to you by your department chair, either in person or through the mail, by February 15th for the Fall 2011 semester and May 30th for the Winter 2012 semester. Our office encourages you to contact your department chair if you do not receive your evaluations by the dates listed above. Please contact our office with any questions or concerns about the procedure or if you need evaluations for your class.

The illiterate of the future are not those who can't read or write but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and re-learn.
-Alvin Toffler