



Office of Adjunct Faculty Support Programs

Science East 201 964-4050 adjunct@svsu.edu

Fall Happenings

During 2008-09 academic year the Office of Adjunct Faculty Support Programs is piloting two new programs that are intended to enhance classroom practices, promote teaching excellence, and provide evidence of teaching competence. These programs are the Faculty Professional Development Program and the Faculty Professional Development Funding Program. If you are interested in being included in either of these pilot programs, you can find explanations and applications in the Resource section on VSpace or by calling Ann Coburn-Collins at (989)-964-2130.

We want to remind you that

each semester we offer two awards to those adjunct faculty who use best practices in their teaching and best practices in teaching with technology. This year we have increased the prize for each reward from \$50 to \$100. Information about Best Practices can be found in the Resources section on VSpace or in Science East 201.

Every adjunct office should be equipped with a blue workshop schedule, the SVSU Student Honor Code, an Adjunct Faculty Handbook, and some information about the New Faculty Development Programs. If these are not in your office or you don't know which office space is available,

please contact our office at adjunct@svsu.edu so that we can provide these materials and information.

We will be offering make-up testing to adjunct faculty this semester on Thursday from 4pm-6pm and Friday from 1pm-4pm in SE 223.. If you have a student who must make up an exam you must bring the exam to Science East 201. All exams must be picked up by the instructor. We will not send exams through the mail or email results. Exams are administered only during the scheduled times. Other arrangements should be made between the student and instructor if these times are not sufficient.

New Database in Library

The latest database to be added to the library collection is Westlaw – Campus Research. Campus Research provides access to news, business information and law-related resources. The simple search interface provides access to selected newspapers, magazine, trade journals, company information and other new and business related resources. Law sources included are American Jurisprudence 2d (Am Jur 2d, a law encyclopedia), American Law Reports (ALR, a source of objective analysis of articles on legal topics) and more than 700 law reviews and journals. Well known legal resources such as the

United States Code Annotated (USCA), Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and the Federal register can be searched as well. Librarians are confident that many SVSU students will benefit from this database including those taking courses in business, criminal justice, social work, political science, and nursing. To access Westlaw – Campus Research click on the DATABASES link on the left menu of the library homepage and select it from the alphabetical list displayed. For a demonstration or further information contact the Reference desk, 1st floor Zahnaw Library at (989) 964-4242.

Facilitating Student Learning through Active Learning

Ellen Langer in her article, *How Students Learn* (2003), discusses three areas of research which indicate the ways in which students learn. The first area researched had to do with control. If students are given control over their education by allowing them to be responsible for their own learning they will derive greater benefits than the teacher who tries to control how they will learn. Second, students who have to figure out remedies or answers to questions themselves, through their own volition, learn more than those students who are given the answers. Finally, students will be more mindful of the world if their education is more conditional. Mindlessness is based on categories that are defined for an individual. Mindfulness occurs when students have to process new information on their own by creating new categories and definitions.

One teaching method that addresses all three of these areas is active learning. Active

learning involves more than sitting in a classroom listening. "Active learning involves providing opportunities for students to meaningfully talk and listen, write, read, and reflect on the content, ideas, issues, and concerns of an academic subject" (Meyers & Jones, 1993, p. 6). Active learning is based on two ideas: learning is an active process and people learn in different ways.

Research shows that greater and deeper learning occurs when active learning techniques are employed. A few ideas you might try:

-Divide your class up into small groups and have each group solve a problem or answer a question.

-Have students interview people who are experts in their field who actually know something about some topic related to your class.

-Develop a Web Quest and have your students

collaboratively work to synthesize information from the web.

-Have your students keep a journal about their feelings, ideas and thoughts on the subject matter of your class.

-Ask the students for test questions for your exams and quizzes.

-Find ways for your students to actually do what they need to learn. This learning can be accomplished through role playing, service learning or simulations.

For more information on active learning go to: <http://learningforlife.fsu.edu/ctl/explore/onlineresources/docs/Chptr8.pdf>

Langer, Ellen (2003). "How Students Learn." *The National Teaching and Learning Forum* 12(2).

Meyers, Chet and Jones, Thomas B. (1993). *Promoting Active Learning: Strategies for the College Classroom*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Inc., Publishers.

Laptop Checkout

The Office of Adjunct Faculty Support Programs has three laptop computers that can be checked out by adjunct faculty during the Fall and Winter semesters for use during office hours or for class.

Laptops should be returned to Science East 201 by 8:30pm. Laptops may be checked out for weekend use on Fridays after 3pm and returned on Monday morning.

Laptops may be checked out for a week at a time during extended vacations and during Spring and Summer semesters. For other classroom technology needs, contact the Instructional Technology Center at (989) 964-7475.