



# Connections

Connecting Teaching, Learning, Research and Service

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 5, 2010

*To be a teacher in the right sense is to be a learner. I am not a teacher, only a fellow student."*

- Soren Kierkegaard

### Hold The Dates

- **Faculty Showcase: Grantsmanship**— Wednesday, October 20, 3pm–4:30pm
- **Strategies for Effective Grant Proposals**— Thursday, October 28, 12:30pm
- **Leveraging Banner in the Advising Process**— Friday, October 29, 12:30 pm
- Additional Workshop Dates on page 4.

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## 21 New Faculty Join Chicago State University This Fall

The CTRE hosted this year's annual New Faculty Orientation on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

The orientation consisted of two days of panel presentations and workshops geared toward providing new faculty with information, skills and resources to help them successfully begin their teaching, research and service activities at CSU.

Orientation consists of a variety of activities meant to introduce faculty to individuals necessary to a successful first year at CSU. A welcome from President Watson and Provost Westbrook started the orientation off on the right foot, as an ice breaker provided some new information and a few

chuckles. New faculty then heard from representatives from the Counseling Center, the office of Freshman Experience, Student Support, Campus Police, and UPI. In addition, new faculty had the opportunity to hear from panels

of first-year faculty members and students who provided their perspectives and insights into what makes a successful professor.

Based on the feedback from the participants, orientation was a success.



President Watson engages new faculty members in conversation during New Faculty Orientation.

## Grants Available to Support Faculty Development and Research

The CTRE and the Office of the Provost are proud to announce that the university will be offering \$25,000 in funding to support faculty members in research and development projects, an increase over the 2009-2010 funding made available to faculty. Applications and information will be available at the Faculty Showcase on Oct. 20.

Last academic year, with the support of the Office of the Provost, the Professional Enrichment Seed Grant was established and two grants in the amount of \$5,000 each were awarded. The CTRE received an overwhelming number of applications for the Professional Enrichment Seed

### 2009-2010 Enrichment Grant Winners

- Elizabeth Arnott-Hill, Psychology
- Timothy J. Bell, Biological Sciences
- Carolyn Breitbach, Geo, Soc, Econ & Anthro
- Venkateswara D. Potluri, Biological Sciences
- Jane Florine, Music
- Troy Harden, Social Work
- Suzuko Morikawa, History
- Christine N. Ohale, English
- Patricia L. Steinhaus, Education
- Shaila Christofferson, Art
- Melany Puglisi-Weening, Pharmaceutical Sciences

## Someone You Should Know: Lois Davis—Registrar



Ms. Lois Davis,  
Chicago State University's Registrar.

Lois Davis began her career at Chicago State University in 1980 as a program advisor; however, for the past 15 years, she has served CSU as its registrar. Her office is primarily responsible for processing registrations, class lists; transcript services, enrollment verifications; grade processing, and residency verifications.

### Registrar's Office

773-995-2517

128 Cook Administration

Monday—Friday 8:30 am—5pm

Extended Hours on

Thursday to 7 pm

When asked to reflect on the 30 years she has spent working with students at Chicago State University, Lois responded, "The students here are wonderful and I enjoy interacting with them. All of our students have a story to tell. Many of them are working against the odds, yet they stick it out while maintaining a good attitude."

### Advice to Faculty from Lois:

- Utilize the academic warning system.
- Don't think of the registrar as a last resort, get us involved early if there is a problem.
- Start advising when advanced registration begins
- Use the CAPP system to avoid any surprises to the students
- Be aware of the calendar deadlines.
- Post a grade for every student in every class.

## Tidbits—Teaching, Technology, and other Thoughts

### Tomorrow's Professor

An eMail Newsletter

Rick Reis, from Stanford University, hosts an email newsletter that provides excellent ideas on improving teaching and learning. Once you subscribe, you receive an email about every three days. The information is timely, creative, and relevant to teaching our students.

Please check it out at:

<http://tinyurl.com/teachprof>

### JING—Screencasting Software

[www.jingproject.com](http://www.jingproject.com)

Have you ever needed to show someone what was happening on your computer? Need a way to explain the steps of a process, without having to write out lengthy instructions. Then you need to check out JING. Jing is a free program available for download at the URL above. Liz Osika, interim associate dean, says this is her favorite technology find of year.

### 147 Practical Tips for Teaching Professors

by Robert Magnan

#### Tip #6: Be a Person

Students expect teachers to be human. We are not "teaching machines" - we all have feelings and experiences. Be human—in class and outside. Inspire trust in your students. Encourage them to express their ideas, opinions, and feelings freely. Sure, sometimes being human is not as efficient as being a machine. But sometimes a moment "off the track" can enhance learning more effectively than a long lecture.

Seed and enrichment grant applications will be available at the Faculty Showcase on Wednesday, October 20 at 3:00 pm in LIB303.

## Grants Available for Faculty (continued from cover)

Grant. After careful review of the applications by a committee of nine faculty members, Dr. Kevin Swier in the department of Biological Sciences and Nadeem Fazal in the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences were identified as recipients. Both faculty members used the funds to support ongoing research projects in which

they were already engaged.

A total of ten \$1,000 and one \$500 Research and Teaching Enrichment Grants were awarded to other faculty members to support their academic endeavors including travel to professional conferences.

These grants are one example of the CTRE and the Pro-

vost's commitment to providing ongoing support of faculty's research and development even in these tough economic times.

Applications for this year's grant will be made available at the October Faculty Showcase on Wednesday, October 20 at 3:00 pm in LIB 303. Please mark your calendar.

## HLC Update—Plans have Begun

CSU's preparations for the 2012/2013 Higher Learning Commission (HLC) comprehensive visit are well underway. On September 23, over 200 members of the CSU community heard Dr. Karen Solomon of the HLC describe the accreditation process and how everyone needs to play a role.

We are currently revising our

core values, mission, and vision, and you will be asked to weigh in on the proposed changes.

In addition, as part of the HLC self-study process, your input is extremely important. Faculty will be asked to complete a variety of surveys and provide input on all aspects of campus life. Please take

the time to fill out any surveys completely and thoroughly.

For more information, please log onto Cougar Connect from the CSU home page and view our HLC Accreditation Channel. This will be continually updated throughout the process.

Among the public's many expectations of higher education, the most basic is that students will learn, and in particular that they will learn what they need to know to attain personal success and fulfill their public responsibilities in the Twenty-first Century.

- Higher Learning Commission

## Mastering Moodle: Faculty Satisfaction Results

Two weeks into the semester, the Office of eLearning conducted a survey in order to take a snapshot of faculty satisfaction with Moodle. While only 65 people responded, a baseline of satisfaction gained. It was a pleasant surprise to find the average rating on a 10 point scale was 6.1. While some people were obviously very frustrated by the change, others saw some potential in the new system.

The survey also revealed that workshops, our traditional method for training were the least preferred. What was desired is to be able to call with a question, sit down for 1-on-1 instruction, and have resources available when needed.

With a small staff this becomes difficult. However, we will be installing this week into the CSU-INSTRUCTOR organization a resource that combines videos, exercises, and tip sheets into one integrated

system. In addition, we are in the process of filling two of the open positions in Distance Learning in order to provide more opportunities for one-on-one support.

Moodle is one of the most critical systems on campus in terms of teaching and learning. It is our goal to meet and exceed the expectations of faculty as we move through the transition to Moodle.

***Moodle***  
***Tip of the Month***  
**Communicate frequently with your students.**

Simply add a message to the News Forum and the message will be emailed to each student's CSU email account. This is a great way to post announcements, information, words of encouragement, and reminders.

## Who is the CTRE: Rosilind Fielder

Rosalind Fielder is an assistant professor in the Library and a reference and instruction librarian. She joined the CSU faculty in July 2010 and is currently responsible for collection development and faculty liaison services in political science, law, military science, and African American studies. She holds a Master of Science in Library and Information Science and a Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is ABD in the Department of Political Science at Illinois. Her research has focused on comparative politics, Latin American politics, racial and ethnic politics, identity politics, nationalism, ethnic conflict, and social movements, particularly in Latin America and the United States.

Prior to changing careers to become an academic librarian, Professor Fielder served as Assistant to the Director of the Latina/Latino Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and as Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago.

Professor Fielder enjoys working with the CTRE because it gives her opportunities to meet and work with faculty beyond her assigned subject areas. She hopes to work more closely with



faculty in the coming months, providing one-on-one research consultations, collaborating on bibliographic instruction sessions, and developing instructional materials related to class assignments.

Professor Fielder strongly encourages her faculty colleagues to see librarians as partners in the education of our students; to consult with them early and often while preparing syllabi to ensure assigned materials and other resources are available; and to schedule bibliographic (library) instruction sessions for classes.

Instruction sessions can be scheduled through the Reference Desk at 773-995-2235.

## October 2010 CTRE Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
4	5	6 ePortfolio Update 12:30 BHS502	7 Using Respondus to Create Exams and Study Materials (12:30 LIB301)	8 Moodle Gradebook (12:30 LIB301)
11	12 Leveraging Discussions in Moodle (12:30 LIB301)	13 Portfolio Evidence (12:30 pm LIB301)	14 Building Partnerships Between Universities and High Schools through STEM (Online at 2:30pm)	15 Creating Assignments in Moodle (12:30 LIB301)
18	19 Groups in Moodle (12:30 LIB 301)	20 Faculty Showcase (3pm—LIB301)	21	22
25	26 Using Elluminate to Create "Live" Classes at a Distance (12:30 LIB301)	27	28 Strategies for Effective Grant Proposals (12:30 pm LIB301)	29 Banner in Advising (12:30pm, LIB301)

### Center for Teaching and Research Excellence

The purpose of the Center for Teaching and Research Excellence (CTRE) is to build a community among the faculty at Chicago State University, where best practices and current research is shared with the intent to improve the quality of teaching and learning; promote involvement in areas of service, integrate 21<sup>st</sup> century tools and technologies into instruction, and encourage and support research.

Director: *Open Position*

Faculty Associates:

- Tiffany Davis
- Mark Eahart
- Rosilind Fielder
- Brandon Taylor

Office: Library 318  
Phone: 773-995-2960

Mark Your Calendars

## Faculty Showcase

Wednesday, October 20

3:00 to 4:30 pm

Library 301

Join us to celebrate the accomplishments  
of your fellow colleagues.

There will also be resources and information on  
writing and obtaining grants, including applications  
for CTRE seed and enrichment grants.

Refreshments will be served.