Center for Teaching and Learning Launch

In October 2008, Chabot College was awarded a federal Title III grant to improve the success and retention of students needing developmental education courses. The grant proposal established three major avenues of focus for accomplishing this goal:

1. The formation of Focused Inquiry Groups (FIGs) to investigate specific identified areas related to students enrolled in developmental level courses and courses involved with academic support services. These groups of faculty and staff explore factors involved in the success/non-success of these students and in their continued enrollment at Chabot.

2. The support of learning outcomes assessment to focus course delivery on student achievement of stated goals. The Learning Assessment Coordinator, working with the SLOAC committee, will assist faculty members, FIGs, and departments undergoing program review to develop and monitor assessments of their program and course level objectives.

3. Institutionalize the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) through the development and enactment of a college-wide professional development plan and through the dissemination of program and faculty inquiry efforts and review results.

These three directives will intertwine their efforts to impact the 92% of Chabot students who need developmental coursework in either math or English. By identifying the hurdles these students face in completing their education and by purposefully intervening in the process of their course of study, we aim to better serve our student population.

A key element of achieving our goals is professional development. How do we best teach students whose learning style does not fit best within the traditional lecture format of higher education? One of the top places to look is within our campus; within our classrooms. The aim of this newsletter is to share what our own instructors are doing on our own campus. As with all teaching, some techniques will reach students, spark their interest and effort and, ultimately increase the knowledge they walk away with. Other techniques, well, we acknowledge that that did not work as well as hoped, and we try a different tack. This newsletter will report on all – what works and what doesn’t – so the insight spreads from the single classroom to the entire campus.

Welcome to Faculty Spotlight.

Chabot’s Great Teachers 2009

Everyone enjoys being appreciated and recognized for all of the hard work that they do everyday helping students, planning lessons, delivering inspiring words. While many are recognized for doing the big tasks, how often is recognition given to the always dependable behind-the-scenes worker? Not nearly enough!

Chabot is honoring one instructor from each division who is always working to improve our school, but is typically not widely praised for their continuous efforts.

Nominated by their deans, Chabot’s Great Teachers 2009 will receive a paid trip to the Community College League of California’s Great Teachers Seminar, which is being held this year August 2-7 at La Casa de Maria in Santa Barbara.
Doris Hanhan – Math & Science Mathematics Instructor

Doris is a natural teacher who is always thinking of how to better instruct and assist her students. She has been instrumental in reworking several courses as well as in evaluating and planning sub-division activities. She is always able and willing to participate in new initiatives to support students and bring them innovative learning opportunities, such as in her work with the service learning program, developing a K-12 math & science teacher pathway program and with the ALEKS mathematics diagnostic software. She is a leader in the Basic Skills Initiative project that is piloting the use of a new software product in developmental math courses.

Dmitriy Kalyagin – Applied Technology & Business Business Instructor

Dmitriy Kalyagin has provided leadership in all the important areas that truly define Chabot College. Students are grateful for his co-advising the Gay-Straight Alliance, his managing of the scholarships for Business majors, and building bridges with Eden Area ROP and CSUEB to provide student pathways and transfer options. His colleagues are thankful for his leadership during the unprecedented growth of the Business Division including: development and instruction of online courses, creation of three new AS degrees and six new certificates of achievement, completely revamping the departmental website, and pioneering the use of learning assistants and tutors in business classes. Dmitriy has reached out to the local community through marketing club events and organizing Business Education seminars. Dmitriy is a great teacher and has brought opportunity to students, colleagues, and the community.

Jason Ames – Language Arts Speech and Forensics Instructor

Jason's passion for lifelong learning is evidenced by his commitment to participating in the meetings of a number of speech professional organizations, reading professional journals, and learning about new technologies—all related to enhancing his teaching. His students are responsive to his implementation of activities and course assignments relevant to current issues and to applications relevant to their needs. Jason has developed rubrics to clearly communicate his expectations to students and to assess their performance. He has worked to increase the participation, success, and persistence of ESL learners in the speech curriculum. As Forensics coach, Jason has brought students and the program recognition through local and national award-winning performances.
Joe Kuwabara – Psychology - Counseling Counselor, Instructor
Joe is the lead instructor for PSCN 10 - Career and Education Planning as well as PSCN 25 - Transition to College, a role with requires coordinating and mentoring several other instructors. He has also served as the Assessment / Orientation Counselor Coordinator for many years. In his work with faculty he is generous in sharing his experience and his course materials, often handing over all the materials he has used in his courses for other instructors to use for their own class development.

In the many years he has Worked at Chabot, he is always Positive with fellow faculty members and with students. Students appreciation of his upbeat attitude and his “golden” advice is evidenced in his number of repeat customers – students returning to counseling who insist on only working with Joe. In his “free” time, he frequently volunteers to drive the Chabot van, taking colleagues and students to local events.

Dov Hassan – Arts & Humanities Theater Arts Instructor
Dov is an instructor who consistently goes above and beyond his required duties to encourage his students and to improve the theater program. In his interactions with students, faculty, and staff he is straight-forward and honest, while retaining an amenable joy. With his colleague, Rachel LePell, he worked to review, analyze, amend and update all Theater Arts curriculum, which enhanced the division’s ability to manage course offerings and to provide enhanced access and curricular options for Chabot students. Dov spends uncountable additional hours at school working with students, mentoring future thespians, and building sets for plays and musicals. His students regularly praise Dov's presentational skills, engaging classroom management style, and encouraging classroom persona. Many cite him as a primary inspiration to continue their studies in theater arts.

Jane Wolford – Social Sciences History Instructor
Jane Wolford taught as an adjunct History instructor at Chabot before being hired as a full-time instructor in 1991. Since that time she has taught both American History classes and Women's History (a course she developed and which is part of the interdisciplinary Chabot Women's Studies Program of which she was a founding member.) Jane is esteemed by students and colleagues alike for her passion for history, women's rights, and the support of her students' progress. She applies high standards and expectations to herself and to her students. Jane has taken the opportunity to closely focus on the assessment of the basic skills needs of her students through research supported by the College's Basic Skills Institute Grant. Her presentations on Women's History to the Chabot community are frequent and well received.
Nicole Scoles – Health, Physical Education & Athletics
Dental Hygiene Instructor

Nicole is a recently tenured faculty member in Dental Hygiene. She has been highly engaged in the development of the new Dental Hygiene Clinic and has recently assumed the role of lead instructor for the second year students’ clinical experiences both on campus and off-site. She also spends time mentoring new adjunct instructors, freely sharing her knowledge and experience in working with students. She is a co-chair of the Student Dental Hygienist’s Association (a branch of the American Dental Hygienist’s Association for dental hygiene students) with the responsibilities of organizational planning and designing the students’ experience.

An excellent instructor, Nicole seeks opportunities to for continuing education in both pedagogy and new techniques in the field, ensuring that her students are up-to-date in a rapidly changing field. She challenges her students to be professionals who use critical thinking to decipher evidence and determine the best route for patient care.

CTL Advisors Needed

As the Center for Teaching and Learning starts running, I would like to ensure the professional development requirements of all areas of campus are being met. This means that I need to hear voices from each division that are identifying needs and providing feedback as to the level to which those needs are being met. As a starting point in fall, the advisory group will aim to identify current and ongoing needs for professional development in:

- pedagogy
- course development and delivery
- assessment planning and enactment, result interpretation and enacting classroom change
- technology

If you are interested in joining the CTL Advisory Group, please e-mail CTL Coordinator Jennifer Lange at jlang@chabotcollege.edu.