Fall Faculty Reception

On Monday, November 21st, General Education faculty gathered in the Solarium for a reception to honor their contributions to the program. After Provost Lori Gonzalez and Director of General Education Paulette Marty made brief remarks acknowledging the many faculty who have dedicated time and energy to General Education, faculty mingled and discussed their teaching over wine, cheese and chocolate.
First Year Seminar Goes International

Dr. Michael L. Krenn, Faculty Coordinator for First Year Seminar, had the great pleasure and honor of being the guest of the United Arab Emirates University in Al Ain, UAE, from November 27 through December 2. He was invited to present workshops on the First Year Seminar experience at Appalachian State University and meet with interested faculty and administrators at UAEU. The reason for his visit was because UAEU is currently considering a similar program of introductory seminars for their first year students. A representative from ASU was chosen because of the similarities between the two universities: size of the student body (UAEU has approximately 14,000 students; ASU, about 16,000); histories (both started out as relatively small institutions and are fairly young—UAU began in 1978-79 and Appalachian became a university in 1967); changing areas of focus (both are moving from a strictly teaching focus to more emphasis on research); and perhaps most important, both universities have recently undergone dramatic revisions of their general education programs. During his six days at UAEU, Dr. Krenn held four workshops discussing the design, delivery, and assessment of our FYS program. He also met with the Provost, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of the University College, various officials from the Library, Admissions, and numerous academic departments, individual faculty from all across the University, and students. The exchange of ideas will hopefully continue in the future as the two universities continue to search for the best methods and approaches to take in providing their incoming students with the most positive and beneficial introductions to the academic rigor of a university education.

Reevaluating Learning Outcomes

The original General Education Task Force designed the twenty-one General Education Program learning outcomes in consultation with the campus prior to the implementation of the program. Now that the campus has been teaching and assessing the program for over two years, it is time to evaluate how well those twenty-one learning outcomes align with the curriculum we have developed. A faculty survey will be the first step in this process of reevaluating the learning outcomes. The survey will ask faculty to identify which learning outcomes they address in their general education course(s). General Education faculty will receive the survey link prior to the holiday break and will have approximately two months to complete it before the survey closes. The results will inform possible revisions to the learning outcomes in the subsequent months.

Upcoming General Education Council Meeting

The final General Education Council meeting of the fall semester will be held on Friday, December 9 at 3:00pm in 1118 Anne Belk Hall. To view the agenda, visit: http://generaleducation.appstate.edu/general-education-council.
**Gen Ed Overview** - This workshop is for faculty and staff who want to better understand the General Education Program. We will describe the Program philosophy, goals, and curriculum and answer any questions you may have.

Facilitated by: Paulette Marty, Director of General Education

Offered on: 1/12 @ 10am; 1/23 @ 3pm; 2/2 @ 3pm; 2/15 @ 11am

Location: 1114 Anne Belk

Workshop Registration URL: [http://workshops.appstate.edu/detail.aspx?key=621](http://workshops.appstate.edu/detail.aspx?key=621)

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**Creating a Learning Centered Syllabus for First Year Seminar** - This workshop will assist First Year Seminar faculty in refining their course syllabus using a learning centered model. Learning centered syllabi are intentionally crafted to clarify course expectations, learning outcomes, and processes that support academic success. This workshop will specifically address ways to include the common expectations in FYS, such as problem based learning, active learning, multiple modes of inquiry and co-curricular components. The graphic syllabus model will also be introduced as a method for assisting students in making meaningful visual connections between course objectives, activities, and assignments. Faculty should bring a copy of their current FYS syllabus to the workshop. Laptops are also encouraged.

Facilitated by: Elaine Gray

Offered on: 1/20 @ 1-2:30pm; 1/30 @ 1-2:30pm; 2/2 @ 10 – 11:30am; 2/8 @ 9:30 – 11am; 2/10 @ 12 – 1:30pm; 3/5 @ 2 – 3:30pm

Location: 1114 Anne Belk


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**First Year Seminar, Student Research, and the Library** - This workshop will provide First Year Seminar faculty an introduction to curriculum-integrated library instruction designed to address student learning of both academic tools and research strategies. The UCO 1200 library instruction curriculum introduces students to the skills necessary to find, locate, and evaluate information resources. Participants will receive information on library resources and services designed to support their teaching and student learning.

Facilitated by: Kelly Rhodes McBride & Amanda Bird, Information Literacy Librarians

Offered on: 1/25 @ 2-3:30pm

Location: 421 Belk Library & Information Commons


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**How to Assign More Writing and Grade Less** - This Writing Across the Curriculum workshop will offer an overview of strategies for assigning low and high stakes writing, responding to student writing efficiently, creating peer writing groups, and teaching with portfolios.

Facilitated by: Sherry Hart & Travis Rountree, Writing Across the Curriculum

Offered on: 1/27 @ 1-2pm

Location: 1118 Anne Belk

Early Intervention - Dealing with Students in Distress - The Early Intervention Team is a faculty and staff-led entity whose main function is to meet with students who are showing signs of difficulty. This discussion will address typical signs of student distress, strategies for reaching out to students, when and how to refer to the EIT, and ways in which the EIT would intervene with a student or get them connected with a more immediate campus support system.

Facilitated by: JJ Brown, Dean of Students, Martha Marking, EIT faculty chair, & Nikki Crees, EIT staff co-chair

Offered on: 2/3 @1 – 2:30pm
Location: 1118 Anne Belk
Workshop Registration URL: [http://workshops.appstate.edu/detail.aspx?key=626](http://workshops.appstate.edu/detail.aspx?key=626)

Advising Students on General Education - This workshop is for faculty who serve as advisors to students majoring in their department or program. We will review the General Education Program and discuss how advisors can use available tools and resources to ensure students have fulfilled General Education requirements.

Facilitated by: Kristin Hyle, Assistant Director of General Education

Offered on: 3/5 @ 4pm; 3/7 @ 11am; 3/20 @ 11am 3/26 @ 3pm; 3/28 @ 2pm
Location: 1114 Anne Belk

Designing Effective Research Assignments in First Year Seminar - Looking for more “research” in your students’ research assignments? This workshop will provide insight into how students find and use information in the digital age. Participants will learn tips and strategies for creating effective research assignments and discover how collaboration between librarians and FYS faculty can result in more effective research assignments.

Facilitated by: Kelly Rhodes McBride & Amanda Bird, Information Literacy Librarians

Offered on: 3/6 @ 10-11:30am; 3/21 @ 3-4:30pm
Location: 028 Belk Library & Information Commons
Workshop Registration URL: [http://workshops.appstate.edu/detail.aspx?key=659](http://workshops.appstate.edu/detail.aspx?key=659)

This newsletter is published by the Office of General Education (Meira Shuman, editor). If you have suggestions or questions, please contact Dr. Paulette Marty, Director of General Education, at martypjw@appstate.edu.