

# SSU Teaching and Learning Center Spring Newsletter 2016

## ***Let Your Students Do the Work: Group and Problem-Based Teaching Strategies***

Tryphina Robinson, Ed.D, Assistant Professor, Education &  
Justin Rex, PhD, Assistant Professor, Political Science

March 29 3:30-4:30 pm      Library Learning Lab

“Prepared, engaged students...a college classroom humming with active learning and time for rich, structured problem-solving; who wouldn’t want the chance to create such a learning environment?” Tryphina and Justin shared what they learned about using group work and problem-based learning strategies in classrooms to prepare SSU students to succeed in today’s work environments where most will be expected, if not required, to function in groups and solve problems.

Sibly, Jim. “Teamwork that Works”



Friday, April 1, 2016      10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Library Learning Lab

## ***How to Make Your Teaching Effective***

Mitra Devkota, PhD, Mathematics

Mitra returned from the Lilly Conference excited about many effective teaching tips he gained from attending several sessions. Participants experienced his infectious love for the classroom and learned of new ideas as well as affirmed approaches they may already instinctively practice.

## ***Using Free Software in Your Course***

Sean Dunne, PhD, Sociology

*What can we use to keep today’s students informed and engaged?*  
Sean offered information about free software that can make classroom life easier. He also provided handouts about free online resources and demonstrated one program (REMIND) which helps with retention by easily and privately allowing him to set up a text reminding system in his class without using his private text number. He discussed his reactions and student responses to its use.

## ***Using Humor in Teaching: Creating a Culturally Specific Corpus for International Students***

Beverly Ochieng-Sande, PhD, Assistant Professor, Education

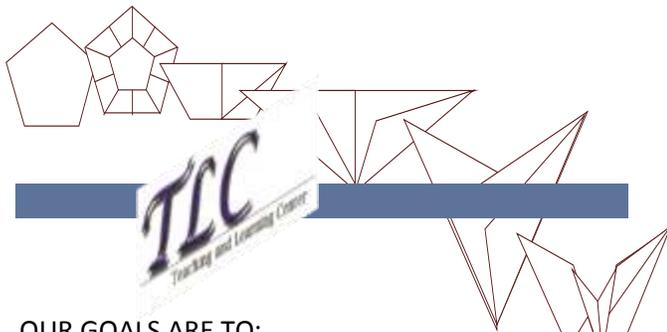
## ***Tips for Teaching International Students***

Ryan Warner, Director, CIPA

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Library Learning Lab

Those curious about how college instructors have addressed the challenges of working with international students heard Beverly Ochieng-Sande draw from two Lilly Conference sessions for this presentation. Beverly modeled a process used by professors from various disciplines at Miami University, Oxford, OH, to identify the linguistic and cultural references that may be difficult for international students to comprehend. She also explained the benefits (and pitfalls) of using humor in this situation.

***This one-hour session closed with a brief discussion about positive interaction with international students hosted by Ryan Warner***



**OUR GOALS ARE TO:**

- ✚ Improve student proficiency levels in basic knowledge and skills needed for success in the 21st century, such as oral and written communication mathematics, and computer skills.
- ✚ Create a "culture of planning" to guide decisions about possible changes in academic programs and services.
- ✚ Sustain academic and student services supporting technical, career-oriented, and professional programs.
- ✚ Promote the value of higher education to the community.

February 1 and 2, 2016, the campus community and the general public were invited to Shawnee State University to celebrate faculty achievement. The goals of the Festival are to provide faculty a platform for showcasing published research among colleagues, students, and the public. In addition, the Festival seeks to create community engagement and authentic dialogue and enhance the university's academic reputation as a best-value university that offers a high-quality academic program. The event also helps faculty receive peer criticism/ input into their research interests in a cooperative work environment, leading to an atmosphere that values continuous improvement.

During this two-day event, faculty shared scholarly research in oral presentations. Throughout the week, the Clark Memorial Library also displayed published articles, books, and research projects by SSU faculty and administrators. For complete details and photos, visit <http://www.shawnee.edu/offices/teaching-learning-center/festival.aspx> A permanent link has been established on the Clark Memorial

# *Faculty Festival of Achievement 2016*

Library page. A total of 239 attendees enjoyed the presentations, many of whom were repeat audience members and students.

The first day, Neil Carpathios, Deb Davis, Coby Long, Thomas Piontek, Tim Hamilton, Shirley Crothers, and Phil Blau gave oral presentations from 9:00am-4:00pm in the CML Learning Lab.

On day two Tony Dzik, Lavanya Vemsani, Sarah Boehle, James Simmons, Crystal Sherman, Michael Barnhart, Laura Hakala, Mich Nayawalo, Jane Shoemaker, and Leila Lomashvili spoke from 9:00am-5:00pm in the CML Learning Lab.



Dr. Laura Hakala presents her paper titled *Back to the Cabin: Reconstructing the Spaces of Slavery in Mary White Ovington's Hazel*



Dr. Michael Barnhart demonstrates his latest musical project.

# Faculty Writing Retreat

Join us for a morning of creative writing in a relaxed, supportive environment.

**All disciplines welcome.**

No prior creative writing experience necessary!

**Saturday, April 2nd**

**9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Clark Memorial Library Learning Lab  
Presented by the Teaching & Learning Center and the Writing Center

**Workshops by Neil Carpathios**



**and Christina Baker Jones**



The SSU- TLC IS OFFERING A “TAKE HOME” CD-ROM SET FOR CONVENIENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

In a recent survey, 75% of SSU’s faculty responded that they would be most interested in training aimed at helping students in their classroom learn and utilize ***critical thinking skills***.

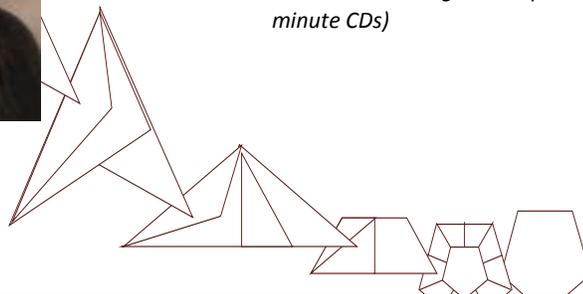
PICK UP THESE CD’S IN THE TLC. KEEP THEM FOR A WEEK. WATCH AT YOUR CONVENIENCE ON A COMPUTER AT HOME OR IN YOUR OFFICE. WRITE A BRIEF ONE PARAGRAPH REVIEW EVALUATING THE CONTENT AND THE SESSIONS’ ADDED VALUE TO YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AS A CLASSROOM INSTRUCTOR.

EMAIL THAT REVIEW TO THE [TEACHINGLEARNINGCENTER@SHAWNEE.EDU](mailto:TEACHINGLEARNINGCENTER@SHAWNEE.EDU) OR USE THE SURVEY MONKEY LINK TO SUBMIT IT. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SV2HZBB>

RECEIVE ONE SSU-TLC CERTIFICATE (DELIVERED UPON RECEIPT OF PARAGRAPH AND RETURN OF CD-ROMS) FOR EACH SESSION.



Titles: *How can I design critical thinking into my course/ What activities and assignments promote critical thinking?* (20 minute CDs)



## ***ACTIVE SHOOTERS AND WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW***

According to the FBI and NYPD, Active Shooter incidents quadrupled in 2013-14 versus the previous five years' average. (However, seventy percent of Active Shooters are in workplaces versus campuses.) According to the same source, three people die and usually more than three are injured in the average Active Shooter incident. Active shooters strike malls, high rises, healthcare and factories and college campuses. Do you know what to do and what NOT to do in the event of an active shooter on campus? This conversation is an important one for faculty and administrators to have in order to be better prepared in the event of such a frightening situation.

Tuesday, April 19 & 20, 2016, at 3:30 pm and 4:00 pm in the Facilities Conference Room Joe VanDeusen and Jon Peters from the SSU Safety Department will be showing a video and talking with interested faculty and staff about what to do in the event of an active shooter on campus.

Registration appreciated, but not required:

**TUESDAY, APR 19**                      **3:30 pm**

**FACILITIES CONFERENCE ROOM**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/preparing-for-an-active-shooter-video-and-discussion-i-tickets-23829128565>

**WEDNESDAY, APR 20**                      **4:00 pm**

**FACILITIES CONFERENCE ROOM**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/active-shooter-video-and-discussion-wed-session-ii-tickets-23829776503>

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ACADEMIC ADVISING ROUNDTABLE  
LEARNING COMMUNITY SPRING 2016



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The Academic Advising Roundtable is a forum created as a learning community to improve advising on campus. Lindsey Monihen is the leader of the community and has hosted a series of engaging and conversational workshops designed to equip and inform faculty advisors about strategies, information, and best practices in higher education academic advising in hopes to improve student support and retention.

***Motivational Advising*** was the topic of February's meeting of the roundtable for thirteen members who left with a strategy for helping students struggling and/or losing perseverance/grit. Success Center Advisors explained the application of empathy, tough talk, & campus sources.

***Keep Calm and Call Counseling*** was the title of March's meeting during which twenty-one faculty and administrators learned strategies to deal with student depression, anxiety, suicide, and behaviors of concern inside and outside the classroom from Dr. Linda Koenig from Counseling and Health Services Office. ***The final topic for the Roundtable is "ADA Compliance"***

The event is free, registration encouraged:

Thursday, April 21                      4:00PM-5:00PM  
Library Learning Lab

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advising-andada-thursday-session-tickets-21355976300>

Friday, April 22                      11:00AM-12:00PM                      Library Learning Lab

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advising-andada-friday-session-tickets-21355997363>