

Accreditation '08 UPDATE

Draft self-study available for campus review

The first draft of Western's accreditation self-study report is now available for review by the campus community, according to the Accreditation Executive Planning Group.

According to planning group chair Kris Bulcroft, the group is hoping to solicit feedback and comments from individuals and departments by a deadline of Oct. 31. All feedback will be considered as the group refines and revises the draft into the final self-study report, which will be presented to accreditation evaluators prior to their visit to campus April 7-9, 2008.

The draft is available for downloading online (*see the accompanying box for details*), along with an online discussion board, which can be used by those who wish to post comments publicly.

Bulcroft adds that the Executive

Planning Group would also like to thank the dozens of individuals across campus who devoted their valuable time and efforts into writing the individual self-studies that contributed to the full report, and who provided the relevant data,

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How to get the draft, or submit feedback:

Go to the web and follow links from either the President's or the Provost's home pages. You can download the self-study or post comments to the discussion board. Deadline for comments is OCT. 31.

President: <http://www.wvu.edu/president/>

Provost: <http://www.wvu.edu/provost/>

Or go directly to: <http://www.wvu.edu/depts/vpue/accreditation>

Feedback can also be sent via email to: accreditation@wvu.edu For more information or a hard copy of the draft, contact: Ann.Carlson@wvu.edu, or x/2345

E V E N T S

Advantageous Technologies in Western's Classrooms

Frank Roberts, Director of ATUS Tuesday, October 16, 4-5 p.m., Bond Hall 415

In recent years, Western has upgraded classroom technologies including media devices, computers, internet access, projectors and document cameras, as well as specialized tools, such as Personal Response System and Blackboard Learning Management System. This workshop will provide an overview of these technologies, and how they might be integrated into teaching delivery. (Free, no registration required.)

Environmental Influences and Student Success

Peter Rosenberg, The Spelman & Johnson Group, Fri., Oct. 26, VU 462 (Registration required, three different times, lunch provided)

The physical environment at a university can be inclusive, and support academic success. It can also be confusing, exclusive, and significantly impede student learning. See visuals from WWU's own campus of how environmental variables impact us, and gain strategies for shaping a positive learning environment.

Contact Gretchen.Anderson@wvu.edu for times and to RSVP by Oct. 19. Sponsored by the Teaching-Learning Academy, Academic Advisors Group, and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.

> > **See ALL workshops, INSIDE**

Renowned string theorist visits campus Oct. 17

The President's Distinguished Lecture Series presents physicist/string theorist Brian Greene, Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the PAC Mainstage.

Greene, an enthusiastic communicator of cutting-edge scientific concepts, will speak about "Why Science Matters." A Rhodes Scholar, Greene is a professor of physics and mathematics at Columbia University, focusing on the quantum mechanical properties of space and time.

In his books, *The Elegant Universe* (Pulitzer Prize finalist & Britain's top science book award winner) and *The Fabric of the Cosmos*, Greene outlines how theories of relativity and quantum mechanics have transformed our understanding of the universe.

In the 1990's, Greene and a Harvard colleague discovered mirror symmetry and topology change. Einstein's relativity theory shows that the fabric of space can stretch in time (resulting in our



Physicist/string theorist Brian Greene speak at the PAC Mainstage on Wed., Oct. 17, at 6:30 p.m., as part of the President's Distinguished Lecture Series.

expanding universe); it doesn't allow the fabric to rip. By including quantum mechanics, Greene and his colleagues showed that, in string theory, the fabric of space can tear, proving the universe can evolve in more dramatic ways than Einstein envisioned.

Free (but required) tickets for Western faculty, staff and students are available at the University Box Office beginning Sept. 26. For more information, go to <http://www.lectureseries.wvu.edu> or call x /7545.

CII develops online videos for faculty development

Western's Center for Instructional Innovation has developed an innovative and time-saving approach to faculty development: Online learning modules.



Karen Casto

The modules are in the form of short movies (five minutes or less), and will be available for viewing—anytime by anyone—on the CII website.

According to CII Director Karen Casto, the idea for the modules, or “5-minute Workshops,” was originally conceived by Dr. Todd Zakrajsek, Director of the Faculty Center for Innovative Teaching at Central Michigan University. The modules not only give busy faculty a way to fit faculty development into their schedules, but connects them to additional resources on each topic, or opportunities to connect with others with similar interests. Module topics will parallel workshop themes throughout the academic year. Modules available Oct. 1 are: *Using Clickers in the College Classroom*, and *Connecting Students in the College Classroom*.

To learn more about the modules and see the full schedule and resources, see the insert in this issue or go to: <http://pandora.cii.wvu.edu/cii/resources/modules/>

Eight awards made for enhancement of first-year and transfer experience

The Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education announces the recipients of its 2007–'08 VPUE First-year and Transfer Students Initiatives Grant.

Eight awards (for a total of \$25,000) were made to a variety of departments and areas dedicated to improving the first-year and transfer experience. Awards ranged up to \$5,000.

Recipients are:

Anthropology (Maria Chavez), large GUR course enhancement; Woodring (Bill Lay), course enhancement for EDUC 109; PEHR

(Lorrie Brilla) course enhancement for PE 201; Fairhaven (Roger Gilman) Continuation of Peer Mentorship Program; Admissions (Karen Copetas) Expanding the Distinguished Scholars Program; the departments of Dance, Liberal Studies, and Women Studies, for development of new FYE seminars.

Grant funding is made available through the New Student Enrollment fee. Those proposals which received funding were selected by a review committee comprising faculty, administrators, and students.

Celebrate International Education Week, Nov. 12 – 16

Western will be celebrating the benefits of international education and global exchange during Nov. 12 - 16, with a variety of presentations and exhibits at various campus locations.

International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education. If you're interested in learning more about international ed at Western and in general, check the International Programs & Exchanges (IPE) website for details: <http://www.wvu.edu/ipe>

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appendices, and exhibits.

The self-study report is part of the process for the university to renew its accreditation with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). The intensive process—which happens every decade—includes submitting an in-depth, self-study report that focuses on overall progress on nine standards, and which is capped by a site visit by NWCCU evaluators. For more information go to the Accreditation Resources website: <http://www.wvu.edu/depts/vpue/accreditation/>

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Anthropology—Jocelyn DeHaas, Lecturer

Art—Robin McCauley, Lecturer; Val Valgardson, Asst. Prof.

Biology—Yamini Dalal, Lecturer; Jose Serrano-Moreno, Asst. Prof.

Chemistry—Timothy Clark, Asst. Prof.; Paul Spiegel, Asst. Prof.

Communication—Maximo Barahona, Jennifer Hayes, Darryl Stein, Lecturers

Economics—Farrokh Kahnemou, Visiting Asst. Prof.; Ronald Oertel, Visiting Asst. Prof.; Saumyanil Deb, Visiting Asst. Prof.

Elementary Ed.—Kristen French, Asst. Prof.; Paula Johnson, Asst. Prof.

Engineering Technology—Janet Braun, Asst. Prof.

English—Kaveh Askari, Asst. Prof.; Kristin Mahoney, Asst. Prof.; Alicia Maria Rivera, Asst. Prof.

Environmental Studies—Jason Levy, Asst. Prof.; Scott Miles, Asst. Prof.; Jennifer Seltz, Visiting Asst. Prof.; Paul Stangl, Asst. Prof.

Fairhaven—Christopher Vita, Lecturer

History—Renzo Honores, Visiting Asst. Prof.

Journalism—Jennifer Keller, Asst. Prof.

Liberal Studies—Holly Folk, Asst. Prof.; Kimberly Hossain, Asst. Prof.

Management—William Boulton, Visiting Prof.; Jason Kanov, Asst. Prof.

Marketing—Eyad Youssef, Visiting Prof.

Mathematics—Amy Anderson, Asst. Prof.; Andrew Good, Lecturer; Amites Sarkar, Asst. Prof.

Modern/Classical Lang.—E Jung Choi, Visiting Asst. Prof.; Eduardo Engelsing, Lecturer; Linda Istanbuli, Lecturer

PEHR—Jeanne Freeman, Asst. Prof.; Kerry McFarlane, Lecturer

Philosophy—Dennis Whitcomb, Instructor

Political Science—Ken Cousins, Visiting Asst. Prof.

Psychology—Jonathan Cook, Visiting Asst. Prof.; Rebecca Goodvin, Instructor; Kelly Jantzen, Asst. Prof.; McNeel Jantzen, Lecturer; Jeff King, Associate Prof.; Kate McLean, Asst. Prof.; Aaron Sheerin, Visiting Asst. Prof.

Secondary Ed.—Molly Lawrence, Asst. Prof.

Sociology—Liz Mogford, Instructor

Western Libraries—Bob Thomas, Asst. Prof.

You Are Invited to Join a TLA Dialogue Group!

The Teaching-Learning Academy, Western's nationally-acclaimed forum for bringing students and faculty together for discussion, reconvenes its bi-weekly dialogue groups beginning in October.

The TLA's small dialogue groups – composed of students, faculty, administrators, staff and community members – will discuss the overarching question: *What keeps us from genuine dialogue across multiple perspectives? And what would encourage that dialogue in sustaining a respectful, inclusive learning culture?*

The TLA operates as structured dialogue and participants meet according to a shared, informal agenda that allows members to pursue their interests and questions. In addition to serving as a dialogue think tank, TLA also results in action recommendations.

Dialogue groups meet in Canada House, Fireplace Room, and all interested faculty and staff are encouraged to join. There are four TLA dialogue group options for Fall Quarter: Wednesdays at Noon, 2 pm, or 4 pm, or Thursdays at Noon. Depending on which day you choose, dates are: Oct. 3 / 4, 17 / 18, Oct. 31 / Nov. 1, Nov. 14 / 15, and 28 / 29.

To sign up for a dialogue group, or more information, visit the TLA website: <http://www.wvu.edu/depts/tla> or call x/7329.



Carmen Werder, Director for both the TLA and Writing Instruction Support, will be spearheading TLA discussions and writing workshops this fall. For more information on either venue, call x/7329 or send an email to: Carmen.Werder@wvu.edu

Some Tuesdays series offers the “write” solution

Faculty from all disciplines who wish to develop different approaches to using writing within their courses and connect with colleagues are invited to participate in the “Some Tuesdays” Dialogue Series on Writing Instruction.

This dialogue series aims to bring together people from across campus engaged with writing instruction to swap successful approaches, practices, and classroom activities. During Fall quarter, the dialogues will meet from 3- 3:50 pm in the Writing Center, College Hall 09 for a total of four sessions:

Oct. 9 - Facilitating Group Writing Projects

Oct. 23 - Staging In-class Writing Activities

Nov. 6 - Innovations in Grading Writing

Dec. 4 - Creating (even) Better Writing Assignments

For more writing instruction resources, visit the Writing Instruction Support website:

<http://www.acadweb.wvu.edu/writinginstructionsupport/> or call x/7329.



Dalton Conley
(Photo © Stephen Hudner)

For more information on Western Reads, “Honky,” and how to get a copy, go to:

<http://westernreads.wvu.edu> or call x/3238, or email: mary.metzger@wvu.edu

Western Reads Faculty Panels

Tuesday, Sept. 25, from 4–5:15 p.m.,

Fraser 4 & Arntzen 100

Students and the campus community are invited to hear and discuss different disciplinary perspectives on the ideas in “Honky,” by attending one of two discussion panels of Western faculty.

Fraser 4—Facilitator: Mary Janell Metzger

Larry Estrada (Fairhaven); Tara Perry (Communication); and Kevin Leonard (History)

Arntzen 100 —Facilitator: Carmen Werder:

Joseph Garcia, (Business) ; Jay Teachman, (Sociology); Karen Hoelscher, (Education)



Western Reads Director Mary Janell Metzger will facilitate on one of two faculty panels on Honky, Sept. 25.

Western Reads 2007 – ‘08

Dalton Conley

Author of Western Reads selection “Honky”

Tuesday, Nov. 6, from 4–5 p.m.

Fraser Hall 4, Free

Award-winning sociologist and author Dalton Conley will talk about “Honky,” his memoir about growing up as a white kid in a mostly black and Puerto Rican neighborhood on Manhattan’s Lower East side. “Honky,” the Western Reads selection for this year, combines compelling narrative and comedy with a subtle analysis of the ways in which differences such as race and class shaped Conley’s life experience as a child.

Stay Informed: Free New York Times, Seattle Times available on campus

Monday - Fridays during regular class days, limited daily copies of *The New York Times* and the *Seattle Times* are available for free, courtesy of the American Democracy Project at WWU, AS Students, and University Residences.

The newspapers are provided in keeping with Western’s mission to promote civic engagement, leadership, effective citizenship, and social responsibility in all members of the campus community.

Locations are: Biology Building; Bond Hall; Wilson Library (north entrance). Viking Union (market area); Ridgeway Commons; Fairhaven Commons; The Haven; Rock’s Edge; Carter Sub Connection; Underground Coffeehouse; and Viking Commons. Remember, copies are limited: Subscriptions are available at the AS Bookstore, and faculty who require *The New York Times* in class are eligible for a complimentary subscription.

PRAXIS is published quarterly throughout the academic year by the Office of the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education. Created as a forum for faculty and student support professionals on Western's campus, PRAXIS promotes the exchange of ideas and provides information on upcoming events and topical issues in teaching and learning at the undergraduate level.

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Woodring faculty member Angela Harwood (second from right) was one of four Western representatives who traveled to Kenya this summer to begin an international service learning project there. Harwood is shown with Maasai tribesmen and volunteers from the Bellingham-based Slum Doctor Programme. (Photo courtesy of Tim Costello)

Western team explores service learning in Kenya

This past summer, a team of Western faculty and staff traveled to Kenya to explore future international service-learning sites for Western students and faculty.

According to Tim Costello, Campus Director for the Center for Service-Learning (CSL), the Center plans to initiate an international service-learning program for Western students at the Ombogo Girls' Academy in Kenya for next summer (2008). CSL is working with the Bellingham-based Slum Doctor Programme (of which Costello is also executive director) on the project. The Ombogo Academy is one of Slum Doctor's rural sites, where 50 orphaned secondary school girls are being supported by local sponsors to complete their high school education.

The WWU team that traveled to Kenya to help develop the project are: Costello, Angela Harwood, Woodring College Distinguished Faculty Fellow in Service-Learning; Lisa Spicer, adjunct faculty in documentary production, and Deborah Kithome, a Kenyan WWU pre-med student.

At Ombogo, the Western group worked closely with the Academy administration, faculty and students to identify the most pressing needs at the school and in the community, which has been decimated by the effects of extreme poverty and a 30% adult HIV infection rate, Costello explained. The team explored local housing options, assessed health and safety risks for incoming Western students and faculty, and used video to document their cross-cultural experience.

The group also visited a nursery school for orphans in Rabour Village and a remote Maasai village.

For more information about this project, contact Tim Costello at x/2503, or Timothy.Costello@wwu.edu

Nominations Sought for CII's Innovative Teaching Showcase

Justina Brown, Center for Instructional Innovation

The Center for Instructional Innovation will be accepting faculty nominations for this year's Innovative Teaching Showcase, "Creating a Culture of Writing."

Each year the CII works with nominated Western instructors to document and publish their innovative instruction online in a multimedia showcase of best practices. This year's Showcase theme highlights faculty who embed the writing process into their coursework and engage students with quality writing assignments.

As Western's graduates face the world of gainful employment, it is more important than ever to give them the skills to use written communication effectively. According to Bob Kerrey, chair of the National Commission on Writing for America's Families, Schools, and Colleges, which recently prepared a report on the growing importance of writing for employment. "Writing is both a 'marker' of high-skill, high-wage, professional work, and a 'gatekeeper' with clear equity implications... I believe that much of what is important in American life depends on clear oral and written communication."

Western faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to nominate an instructor whose course work reflects the showcase theme. Examples of innovative work might include: a writing class, a discipline-specific course with a focus on writing, an internship or service learning placement, research project, or assignments or activities in which writing plays a major role

Nominations must be received by Nov. 15. To fill out the nomination form online and see previous showcases, go to <http://pandora.cii.wwu.edu/cii/> and click on "Innovative Teaching Showcase." For more information, contact Karen Casto at X/4943, or Karen.Casto@wwu.edu, or stop by the CII in College Hall 310.