CII Innovative Teaching Showcase

Three faculty members profiled for best practices in educating global citizens

*Justina Brown, Center for Instructional Innovation*

Educated citizens need to know what it means to participate in and contribute to a global society. Helping students to extend their perspectives beyond academic, ideological, cultural, and physical borders enriches their minds and enhances their personal and professional pursuits. First-hand experiences are an ideal way to immerse students in foreign concepts, languages, and politics; learning from instructors who model the scholarship of operating in a global society can also be inspiring. It is these practices that the Center for Instructional Innovation will spotlight in the 2005-06 Innovative Teaching Showcase.

This year’s Showcase theme, “Educating Global Citizens,” reflects ideas expressed by President Morse in her Fall 2005 State of the University address: “Our liberal arts core must prosper if we are to prepare our students to innovate and compete in the global marketplace for goods, services, and ideas.”

This year’s Showcase features three WWU faculty members who provide experiences that encourage students to look at their world from new perspectives to achieve greater understanding, and that give their students the ability to shape the world as its next generation of leaders:

—Dr. Larry Estrada is an associate professor

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WWU embarks on first phase of 2008 accreditation

Every decade, Western must renew its accreditation status with its accrediting body, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

Now, university departments and programs must begin the first phase of the school’s 2008 accreditation process, which includes contributing to an intensive self-study report that focuses on overall progress on a number of standards, and is capped by a site visit by NWCCU evaluators in April 2008.

The Provost’s Office has convened an Executive Planning Group to oversee the gathering of data for the self-study report, which is due in final format prior to the site visit. In March, NWCCU Vice President Albert Johnson made a preliminary site visit to campus, and briefed Planning Group members on the accreditation timeline.

For more information on accreditation and for a list of Planning Group members, visit the Provost’s website: http://www.wwu.edu/cms/WWU_Provost_Planning/accreditation.html

Earth Day Service Learning Projects

April 22, 8:30 AM — Noon

There are many ways that faculty can connect their courses and students to Earth Day service learning projects.

Western’s Center for Service Learning is spearheading a wide variety of Earth Day projects alongside Bellingham community members and organizations. Projects include invasive plant removal, park clean-up and park restoration. The day is sponsored by New Student Services/ Family Outreach, Residence Life, the Center for Service Learning, Campus Community Coalition, University Dining Services, and the Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support Services.

For more information about how to sign up for an Earth Day project, call x/7542 or email service.learning@wwu.edu

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Western Reads selects ‘Persepolis’ for 2006-’07

Western Reads, the campus wide reading program designed to promote intellectual engagement and civil discourse among members of the campus community, has selected Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis* as its book choice for the 2006-’07 academic year.

A graphic novel and autobiography, *Persepolis* tells the story of Satrapi’s life as a young girl in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. As reader after reader testifies, if you’ve considered graphic novels a lightweight form of reading, Satrapi will surprise and delight you.

In a humorous and yet profoundly historical way, Satrapi’s words and images combine to powerful effect, helping readers explore the meaning of personal and collective freedom, the nature of political expression and representation, and the danger of absolutism of any kind.

To participate in public discussions of *Persepolis* or other Western Reads programs, or if interested in incorporating the book and its ideas or history into classes, (or for more information or a copy of the book), contact Western Reads Director Mary Janell Metzger, at x/3238, or via email, mary.metzger@wwu.edu Updates will also be posted at http://westernreads.wwu.edu

Woodring’s CEP launches online interdisciplinary journal on educational controversy

Woodring College’s Center for Educational Pluralism (CEP) has launched a new electronic, peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal of ideas: the *Journal on Educational Controversy*.

According to Lorraine Kasprisin, Center director and the journal’s editor, its purpose is to provide a national and international forum for examining the dilemmas and controversies that arise in teaching and learning in a pluralistic, democratic society. This unique journal will pose a different dilemma or controversy in each issue.

The first issue focuses on *Liberty and Equality: Conflicting Values in the Public Schools of a Liberal Democratic Society*. To read the journal and learn how to contribute, go to: http://www.wce.wwu.edu/Resources/CEP/eJournal/

**WWU forms new study abroad opportunities**

In the last year, Western has three new study abroad opportunities, designed to promote student and faculty exchange relationships. Reciprocal exchange agreements have been signed with Trent University (Canada), Bordeaux School of Business (France) and Universidad Latina de America (Mexico). Other partnerships under consideration are University College of the Fraser Valley (Canada), Chungbuk National University (Korea), and Ivan Franko National University (Ukraine).

For more information, contact Liz Partolan-Fray, International Programs and Exchanges, x/7970, or liz.partolan-fray@wwu.edu

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**TLA on the Move**

*Carmen Werder*,
Teaching-Learning Academy

Besides moving our offices to College Hall, the Teaching-Learning Academy generated an action agenda during winter quarter. Using a combination of post-it activities, open questions, and structured conversation, TLA members addressed the year’s overarching question of what it means to be an educated person. By building on the definitions elicited during fall quarter, members collectively drafted proposals that envision this ideal kind of educational experience at WWU.

The TLA will pursue these action items in spring term, as it turns to honoring those individuals and groups who are helping to realize this ideal. In addition to advancing the winter proposals and identifying exemplary individuals and groups, TLA members will also determine a study question for 2006-07.

About 40 students are participating in the TLA, as part of practicum experiences for various courses from a range of areas: Communication, Education, Fairhaven, and the Masters in Teaching Program. And, of course, faculty and staff from across campus are enthusiastically welcomed into this ongoing and energizing dialogue on teaching and learning.

**JOIN TLA for SPRING QUARTER**

All faculty, staff, and of course students are welcome to join the ongoing TLA dialogue. There are four spring study group options: Wed. or Thurs., Noon or 3 PM. All groups meet in the Canada House Fireplace Room every other week, beginning April 5 and 6. Interested? Hope you’ll let me know: carmen.werder@wwu.edu x7329.
Mark your calendars now for these energizing and useful faculty development workshops, sponsored by the Center for Instructional Innovation and The Teaching-Learning Academy, with support from the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. Updates and additions are posted online at: http://pandora.cii.wwu.edu/cii/events/default.asp

SPRING QUARTER 2006

Using Humor and Play for Learning
THURSDAY, April 6, at 4—5 PM, Miller Hall 160
“Humor is also a way of saying something serious.” — T.S. Eliot
Taking advantage of a humorous situation—and having fun—in class can be great ways to create “teachable moments.” Appropriate and intentional use of humor in the classroom can also create a learning environment that boosts cognition, eases student anxiety, facilitates group cohesion, and enhances instructor appeal. At this interactive workshop, join Vice Provost Kris Bulcroft and Writing Center Director Robert Kjesrud, and hear more about how humor heightens “funderstanding.” Come laugh and learn with us!

Beyond the Classroom: Service Learning, Internships, International Experiences
THURSDAY, May 4, at 4—5 PM, Miller Hall 160
Preparing students as active participants in the global community requires a variety of innovative pedagogies, as well as forging explicit connections between the in- and out-of-classroom experience. Join the Center for Service Learning and Office of Undergraduate Education to explore ways to deepen the “real world” learning experience of Western undergraduates through work experiences and international exchanges.

Innovative Teaching Showcase Open House (CII)
Thursday, June 1, from Noon—2 PM, Miller Hall 156 (CII)
Every year, the Center for Instructional Innovation creates a cutting-edge multimedia showcase, featuring the best practices of Western’s most dynamic instructors. Several instructors are nominated annually to work with the CII to create this online resource, which is published on the CII’s website at the end of each academic year. This year’s theme is “Educating Global Citizens,” and at the open house, you can see it all, as well as meet the directors and staff of the CII, enjoy refreshments, learn more about the Innovative Teaching Showcase, and meet this year’s Showcase’s featured instructors.

The Center for Education Pluralism’s Eighth Annual Educational Law and Social Justice Forums: We Can’t Teach What We Don’t Know
There are four, free and open faculty forums on the topic “What teachers need to know”:
—April 5: Native American Perspectives, at 5:30-7:00 PM, Wilson Library Presentation Room
—April 12: Asian American Perspectives, 3-5 PM, 210 Miller Hall
—April 26: Latino Perspectives, 5:30-7:00 PM, Wilson Library Presentation Room
—May 3: African American Perspectives, 5:30-7:00 PM, Wilson Library Presentation Room
For a complete list of forum participants, go to http://www.wce.wwu.edu/Resources/CEP/

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES:
MAJOR BRENT BEARDSLEY
Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 PM, PAC Mainstage (Free, tickets required)
“Lessons Learned or Not Learned from the Rwandan Genocide of 1994: Towards an Effective Response to Genocide in the 21st Century”
Major Brent Beardsley, Operations Manager for General Romeo Dallaire, United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Rwanda, and recipient of the Meritorious Service Cross for leadership and bravery in Rwanda, will speak on his first hand experience with the genocide there.

Open Class Discussion: April 25 - 3:30 - 5 PM, Old Main 590 (Solarium)
Major Beardsley will answer questions from the audience in an open talk. Free to any interested students, faculty and staff. For evening lecture tickets: http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~lectures/

Free New York Times “Select” subscriptions available
Because of Western’s participation in the New York Times’ Readership Program, we have a limited number of free subscriptions to the Times Select online articles and archives. The subscriptions are good through June 2006, and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and to get some for your classes, contact Ann Carlson, x/2345 or ann.carlson@wwu.edu

SUPPORTING UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION AT WWU
Attention faculty:
You’ve got writing instruction support opportunities

Carmen Werder, Director, Writing Instruction Support

Are you one of those heroic faculty members teaching/using writing at Western? If you’re looking for some support, you might consider two upcoming opportunities:

Statewide writing instruction retreat, Friday, April 21, 1:30 PM to Sat., April 22, 3 PM, Dumas Bay Retreat Center, Federal Way. The topic is “Addressing Context, Content, and Correctness: Examining Conflicts in Evaluating Writing.” The cost is only $35 per person (plus travel expenses), which includes one night’s lodging, meals, refreshments, and materials. Funds are also available to cover these costs with priority going to those who are teaching Writing II (Communication GUR, Block C), and Writing Proficiency courses. Registration due date: April 3.

Writing Faculty Fellows. WWU faculty interested in developing new Writing II (Communication GUR, Block C) courses or in revising current Writing II or Writing Proficiency courses with a prominent assessment component, are invited to apply for $1,000 fellowships. Successful applicants will work as part of a faculty collective to integrate assessment into writing course design, including piloting writing expectations for WWU students composed by the campus Writing Assessment Group.

Writing Faculty Fellows will begin meeting during spring quarter 2006 to consult on fellowship expectations, develop courses individually during the summer, and continue meeting to consult as well as to share results through spring 2007.

Resulting findings and materials will eventually be made available to all WWU faculty via the Writing Instruction Support website. To apply, write a one-page proposal explaining 1) the kind of writing course you want to develop and 2) a rationale for why you could both benefit from this fellowship and also contribute to enhanced student learning as a result of receiving it. Proposals due by Friday, April 7.

If you’re interested in either or both of these opportunities, let me know at carmen.werder@wwu.edu, x/7329, or MS 9093.

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and director of the American Cultural Studies program at Fairhaven College, and is the president of the National Association for Ethnic Studies. His scholarship focuses on the impacts of changing demographics on our country’s social, cultural and economic climate.

—Dr. Edward Vajda is a professor, director of East Asian Studies, Russian Language section coordinator for the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at WWU, and editor of Word, the journal of the International Linguistics Association. His scholarship focuses on native Siberian peoples and languages, including the Ket people, who inhabit the Yenisei Basin in East Siberia.

—Dr. Kathleen Z. Young is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology. Her cultural anthropological research focuses on the global issues of genocide, war, death and dying, and rape, religion and Islamic Law.

Please visit the CII’s Innovative Teaching Showcase website in early June to see how these WWU instructors “educate global citizens” or explore previous year’s showcases any time for instructional strategies, including authentic learning, teaching ethics, faculty-student collaboration, and community-based learning.

This spring, watch for the CII’s open invitation to faculty and staff to view the new publication at the Innovative Teaching Showcase Open House on June 1, from Noon—2 PM.

See the Innovative Teaching Showcase online: http://pandora.cii.wwu.edu/cii/showcase/