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Arts & Sciences Support of Education
Through Technology
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

August 2016

From the Advisor

Even as we lament the close of summer, it's an exciting time for new beginnings. I look forward to a new beginning as I take on the role of ASSETT's Faculty Advisor.

Since 1998, I have served as a professor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and in various other capacities within the University. Since that time, I developed an increasing interest in the professional development of faculty as teachers. There is clear evidence that when faculty adopt research-supported best practices, not only are there positive effects on student learning, but also on their scholarly work. Having served in a mentor role for many faculty progressing towards Promotion and Tenure in my department, I am looking forward to expanding my activities in this realm beyond my department through ASSETT.



A key part of promoting faculty success is encouraging and enhancing interactions amongst peers towards developing aligned learning goals to create a more cohesive learning experience for students. Thus, an important goal for ASSETT is continuing to foster a collaborative community of faculty committed to using best practices in education.

I encourage you to engage with the excellent staff of ASSETT to further develop your personal pedagogy, learn new teaching strategies, continue to strengthen your dossiers, and advance the University's educational mission. We have lots of new opportunities offered by ASSETT this year! See below for more details. Finally, don't forget to check

your mailboxes for ASSETT's updated flyer of services as well as a fall calendar of events.

Best wishes for a successful start to the new semester,

Andy

Tips and Tricks

It's been a long summer and remembering how to use tools in D2L might seem foreign! But not to worry. If you need a quick refresher on uploading content, emailing students, setting up your gradebook, or using the dropbox, attend a General D2L Training session listed below. If you'd like assistance on more advanced topics, attend the Advanced D2L Drop in Assistance session and meet individually with a Learning Technology Consultant.

- Friday, August 26: General D2L Training; TLC 215; 1-2 pm
- Friday, August 26: Advanced D2L Drop in Assistance; TLC; 2-3 pm
- Monday, August 29: General D2L Training; TLC 215; 11 am -12 pm
- Monday, August 29: Advanced D2L Drop in Assistance; TLC; 12-1 pm

[Sign up for session](#)

Tech of the Month

We know you're busy with the start of a new semester so we won't introduce a new technology for August. But stay tuned for a tech of the month in September!

What's Happening @ ASSETT?

ASSETT has been hard at work planning new programs and opportunities for you. Here's what we have in store for you this fall!

Teaching Technology Assistance Program

The Teaching Technology Assistance Program (TTAP) pairs a faculty member interested in implementing a new technology into the classroom with a [Student Fellow](#) (SF) who provides technical support to both the instructor and students. TTAP support allows faculty members to comfortably and effectively introduce technologies into the classroom by ensuring the technology works as intended. SFs provide technical support to students in or out of class, through email, small group meetings, or individual consultations. For

more information, visit our [website](#) or contact [Jacie Moriyama](#) if you're interested in pairing with a Student Fellow!

Faculty Fellows

The ASSETT Faculty Fellows program seeks to stimulate departmental and cross-departmental conversations around technology integration, evidence-based pedagogy, active learning, and student-centered teaching approaches. The Fellows Program simultaneously serves as an outlet to foster communication between departments, ASSETT and other campus based teaching and learning support. Fellows will be a part of a 10 - 12 member cohort who engage in deep and focused discussions about pedagogy and technology, provide departmental leadership and resources around best teaching practices. A call for proposals to participate will be announced in October, so keep an eye out! If you have questions, please contact [Amanda McAndrew](#).

Visualizing Instructional Practices Service

This fall we are piloting a Visualizing Instructional Practices Service (VIPS) with several faculty. The VIPS engages and supports faculty in self-evaluating their teaching. During a VIPS experience, ASSETT provides you with a pre-observation consultation, objective observation data from several of your class sessions, and easily interpreted data visualizations. During a follow up consultation, we will help you interpret your observation data and set actionable teaching goals. Future observations can help you gauge whether you are meeting your goals. Contact [Sarah Wise](#) if you are interested in volunteering for the pilot.

Special Interest Group

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) will bring together all ranks of faculty to explore trending topics in teaching, learning and technology. The goal is to facilitate a community of learners interested in a common theme in reading, discussing and brainstorming ideas for addressing challenges and improving the undergraduate student learning experience. SIGs will meet approximately 3 - 4 times. **Our first SIG will be “Encouraging and Developing Critical Thinking Skills” and a call for participation will open on our website on September 1st.**

Innovation Pit Stop

Mark your calendar and attend our Innovation Pit Stop on Friday, September 9, 2016 from 1:30 - 2:30 in TLC 215. Dr. Alaina Beaver, Office of Information Technology, and Dr. Jennifer Stempien, Department of Geological Sciences will facilitate the discussion about **Accessible Authoring: True Tales and Tips on Workflow**

Now that the [Accessibility Policy](#) is nearing its one-year anniversary on campus, more and more of us will continue to engage in accessible authoring of our materials: Word

docs, PowerPoints, Desire2Learn content, etc. But what does your workflow look like once you head down the accessibility path? Come hear from a faculty member and a staff member who have been creating accessible content for different campus audiences and hear their processes and learn some quick tips.

We invite people from around the college to present how they are integrating innovative teaching strategies or technologies into their courses to increase student engagement and promote active learning. We hope you'll join our informal conversations, refuel your inspiration, and invigorate your courses.

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