

## 2012-2013 Future Faculty Program Participants

Each academic year, fifteen award-winning graduate teaching assistants from across campus are selected to participate in the Future Faculty Program. This nationally recognized program is sponsored by the Dean of the Graduate School and coordinated by the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). Participants in the program are experienced teaching assistants who have been recognized at the institutional level for their outstanding teaching and are preparing for careers in higher education.

The Future Faculty Program participants began their fall semester by helping to plan and facilitate the University-wide TA Orientation. This event provides tools and resources to new and returning graduate teaching assistants in order to prepare them to begin teaching at UGA. Over 500 graduate students attended the August orientation.

The program participants have continued to meet over the fall semester to discuss effective teaching techniques in order to foster student learning. While sharing resources and ideas with each other, they also take these ideas back to their departments to share through workshops and seminars. Additionally, the participants prepared teaching portfolios for submission to the graduate school through the Teaching Portfolio Program (see page 3 of this newsletter for more information about this program).

The participants have also interacted with experts from across campus who spoke about current and emerging topics in higher education, including



Back Row (left to right): **Mark Jones**, Microbiology; **Elizabeth Lucht**, Genetics; **Jeremy Lackman**, Kinesiology; **Keri Valentine**, Learning, Design, and Technology; **Jeremy Rentsch**, Plant Biology; **Virginia Shutte**, Ecology; **Matthew Furgerson**, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Front Row (left to right): **Matt Clary**, International Relations; **Stacy Musgrave**, Mathematics; **Erica Fortune**, Psychology; **Lee Pierce**, Communication Studies; **Allison Howard**, Psychology; **Lauren Chambers**, English/Women's Studies; **Alana Shaw**, Integrative Conservation & Geography; **Robin Henager-Greene**, Housing and Consumer Economics.

Sherry Clouser from the Center for Teaching and Learning, who helped the participants create a Website for their teaching portfolios through Google Sites.

In the Spring, the participants will continue to develop a deeper understanding of teaching and learning in higher education but will also concentrate on other areas of professional development, such as the academic job search, the transition from graduate student to professor, and course design. The program will culminate with a spring retreat to explore what it means to be a successful faculty member. Recipients of the 2013 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award and nominees/winners of the Excellence in Teaching Award are invited to apply for next year's program. More information about the program can be found at: <http://www.ctl.uga.edu/teachingassistant/programs>.

## **Interdisciplinary Certificate in University Teaching**

The Graduate School, in collaboration with the Center for Teaching and Learning, offers an Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in University Teaching. The goal of the Certificate is to provide doctoral and terminal professional degree students with a multifaceted program that supports the enhancement of the students' teaching skills, prepares them for future academic positions, and provides an academic credential that can enhance students' opportunities for academic employment.

Requirements of the Certificate are teaching four sections, completing nine hours of course work related to university-level teaching, successfully creating a teaching portfolio, developing a teaching project that demonstrates creativity or innovation in teaching of a discipline, and demonstrating scholarship of teaching through preparation of a publication-ready manuscript or presentation of a teaching-related talk or poster at an appropriate professional meeting.

Receipt of the Certificate is documented on a student's official transcript and is also recognized in the Graduate School Commencement Ceremony booklet. Several recent graduates have indicated that the Certificate has been an excellent avenue for documenting additional skills and interests in teaching and has had a positive impact on job searches. For information about applying to the program, visit [http://www.uga.edu/gradschool/academics/certificate\\_teaching.html](http://www.uga.edu/gradschool/academics/certificate_teaching.html)

The Center for Teaching and Learning offers the following classes in support of the teaching certificate program.

### **GRSC 7770: Seminar on College Teaching**

A course that fulfills TA Policy course requirements and is a prerequisite for the following classes, this course is designed to prepare teaching assistants for their roles in the University of Georgia classroom and for potential careers involving instruction at other institutions. It provides graduate teaching assistants with knowledge of pedagogical approaches, opportunities for peer-reviewed practice teaching, and resources available to UGA instructional staff. Unlike departmental-specific GRSC 7770, sections of this course taught at CTL are interdisciplinary. For more information, contact Dr. Paul Quick ([pauquick@uga.edu](mailto:pauquick@uga.edu)).

### **GRSC 7800: College Teaching and Student Learning**

This interdisciplinary course offered each spring focuses on how undergraduates learn. Participants will learn a variety of factors that influence teaching and learning in an attempt to discover and define what it means to be an effective college teacher, and will also discuss theory, techniques, and strategies for helping undergraduates become active learners. For more information, contact Dr. Denise Domizi ([dpinette@uga.edu](mailto:dpinette@uga.edu)).

### **GRSC 7900: Designing Courses for Significant Learning**

This course, offered each fall, will give graduate students a foundation in course design grounded in strong pedagogical theory. Students will design or redesign a course in its entirety, beginning with their goals for their students and working through assessment to teaching and learning activities. For more information, contact Dr. Denise Domizi ([dpinette@uga.edu](mailto:dpinette@uga.edu)).

### **EDHI 9040: Teaching with Technology in the College Classroom**

EDHI 9040 is an examination of instructional technology in the college classroom, on campus and online. The purpose of the course is to encourage participants to critically reflect on the use of instructional technologies in their fields and provide them with opportunities to develop skills in employing technology in the classroom. This course is offered in the spring. For more information, contact Dr. Sherry Clouser ([sac@uga.edu](mailto:sac@uga.edu)).

## Graduate School Teaching Portfolio Program

Since the spring semester of 2005, the Graduate School has sponsored the Teaching Portfolio Program. The purpose of the program is to encourage graduate students to document their teaching experiences at UGA in order to reflect upon and improve their teaching and to prepare them to present their teaching accomplishments on the job market. Many graduate students have found that preparing a teaching portfolio well before they begin their academic job searches has greatly helped them during the application process. Some even credit a teaching portfolio for helping them get their jobs!

Every semester, the Graduate School considers teaching portfolios for certification. Participants in the portfolio program not only get Graduate School recognition for their portfolios but also receive feedback from faculty members on their individual portfolios. Additionally, the teaching portfolio is the cornerstone for the Graduate School's Interdisciplinary Certificate in University Teaching. For more information about the portfolio program and to see sample portfolios, visit the CTL's website:

<http://www.ctl.uga.edu/teachingassistant/portfolioprogram>

### Teaching Portfolio Workshops

A series of four workshops will be offered to help graduate students create teaching portfolios for the Graduate School's Teaching Portfolio Program. Workshops will be held at the conference room of the Center for Teaching and Learning, which is located on the north side of the instructional plaza between the Psychology and Journalism buildings. For more information or to register, contact Sarah Whitaker, Assistant to TA Programs, at [skw@uga.edu](mailto:skw@uga.edu).

#### **Session 1: Thursday, 1/10/2013, 4:00-5:30 pm**

This session is an introduction to the components and requirements of the Portfolio Program. You will be provided with guidance to get started at the workshop on drafting (or revising) your Statement of Teaching Philosophy. *You are encouraged to bring one "artifact" from your teaching (an assignment, a photograph, a syllabus, etc.) to Workshop 1.*

#### **Session 2: Thursday, 1/17/2013, 4:00-5:30 pm**

In this session we will address the first four of the eight required components of the portfolio: Teaching Philosophy, Description of Courses Taught, Sample Teaching Materials, and Sample Student Work. You will view sample documents and peer review each others' documents.

#### **Session 3: Thursday, 1/24/2013, 4:00-5:30 pm**

In this session we will address the last four of the eight required components of the Graduate School's portfolio: Innovative Teaching Project, Professional Activities, Special Training, and Teaching Evaluations. You will view sample documents and peer review each others' documents.

#### **Session 4: Thursday, 1/31/2013, 4:00-5:30 pm**

In this session you will get feedback on a complete draft of your portfolio and discuss how formatting and layout decisions can contribute to the professionalism and cohesiveness of the final product. *You are encouraged to bring a complete draft of your portfolio to Workshop 4.*

### Important Deadlines

**Nominations for Outstanding and Excellence in Teaching Awards - Due January 18, 2013**

<http://www.ctl.uga.edu/teachingassistant/awards>

**Graduate School Teaching Portfolio - Due February 1, 2013**

<http://www.ctl.uga.edu/teachingassistant/portfolioprogram>

**GRSC 7770 Teaching Seminar Assistantship Nominations - Due March 8, 2013**

[http://www.ctl.uga.edu/teachingassistant/grsc\\_assistantship](http://www.ctl.uga.edu/teachingassistant/grsc_assistantship)

## The CTL welcomes Dr. Charles E. Watson

In fall 2012, the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) welcomed a new director, Dr. C. Edward “Eddie” Watson. Dr. Watson comes to the CTL with a background in Curriculum and Instruction and a focus in Instructional Design and Technology after fifteen years of faculty development experience at Virginia Tech. Dr. Watson’s research interests include mobile learning, dual task processing, digital native mythologies, the pedagogy of things, exemplary teaching practice, and faculty development. He is the executive editor of the International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and co-founded the International Journal of ePortfolio.

Within days of starting at UGA in September, Dr. Watson launched a university-wide instructional needs assessment. With 800 faculty and GTA survey respondents, the needs assessment resulted in a rich picture of the challenges faced by those who teach at UGA. Increasing class sizes, integrating instructional technology into teaching, and engaging students in the learning process were key among the challenges discerned through the process. In response to these specific needs and requests for specific types of programming, the CTL has restructured some of its services and is in the process of launching new programs. University-wide initiatives, including a speaker series and a new mid-semester formative evaluation service, have been launched. Both are available and open to all graduate students and faculty. Additionally, partnerships that provide programming for college-level needs are underway, including a new Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Institute for the College of Engineering. Two position searches are currently underway in the CTL that will enable the Center to provide additional programming in the fall that focuses on large class pedagogy and teaching with emerging technologies.

“The needs assessment is enabling the Center to make programming decisions that are truly relevant to the university community,” said Dr. Watson. Faculty and graduate students can expect new development opportunities in the months and years to come.

In addition to his scholarly pursuits and his leadership of the Center, Dr. Watson is an avid musician, hiker, and runner. He also plans to teach a section of GRSC 7770 in the fall.

## The Center for Teaching and Learning

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) is a support unit of the Office of the Vice President for Instruction. It is dedicated to the advancement of instruction and faculty development at The University of Georgia. CTL sponsors a range of services and enrichment activities designed to assist faculty and teaching assistants with instructional matters. Dr. Eddie Watson is the Director of CTL. Dr. Paul Quick and Dr. Denise Domizi coordinate Faculty and TA Development.

GTA Newsletter is a publication of the Center for Teaching and Learning.

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**Teaching Support**  
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**542-0534**

