

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

(August 25-26, 2010)

Timothy Doherty, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Faculty Excellence, Rivier College

and

Elizabethada Wright, Ph.D.

Chair, Senate Faculty Development Committee, Rivier College

“Quantitative Reasoning across the Disciplines”

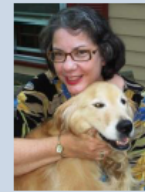
What is quantitative literacy? Why it is important for all Rivier College graduates? How we can work together to ensure that our graduates are quantitatively literate? This workshop's objectives will be to help instructors design learning experiences in their own discipline that will encourage quantitative reasoning in their students and to foster interdisciplinary conversations about quantitative literacy.



Terri Magnus
Professor,
Mathematics and Computer Science

“In and Out of the ‘Box’ Thinking: Transforming Face-to-Face Active Learning in the Online Format”

In this workshop, participants will ponder these essential questions: how can an online version of a course teach concepts and skills that seem most suited to face-to-face settings? Can the concept understood well through the hands-on class activity be reproduced by materials offered to the solitary student in front of the computer screen? Participants will experience the instruction in face-to-face and online environments, both aiming at the same learning goals, discuss the differences, and then collectively problem-solve ways of achieving these goals online.



Joann Nichols
Instructor, Education

“Dragons, Yetis and Multitaskers: The Myth of Simultaneous Attention or How to Design Learning Environments for the Easily Distracted”

Today's traditional-aged students, who are often referred to as digital "natives", often contend that they are able to "multitask" fluently. Unfortunately, research suggests that in fact true multitasking is a perceptual "myth" and switching between various cognitive tasks actually impairs one's ability to learn. This workshop will first examine findings related to the effects of dividing one's attention upon learning. Then the workshop will provide opportunities for faculty to examine their own classrooms and course design(s) in light of evidence-based "best practices" regarding environments that facilitate learning for all students, particularly those who are easily distracted (i.e. so-called "heavy" multitaskers).



Jerry Rekart
Associate Professor,
Education and Psychology

“Virtual Lectures: Creating and Using Podcasts in College Classes”

A podcast is a video or audio recording that can be used to provide online lectures and supplementary materials. This hands-on workshop will teach participants how to create basic podcasts using PowerPoint and their desktop computers, and how to share them electronically with students. Effective pedagogy surrounding the best use of online teaching through podcasts will also be discussed.



Naomi Schoenfeld
Assistant Professor, Education