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Before becoming a new faculty member in Liberty’s VCAR program, Christopher Phillips won the “21 Under 31” art competition with the Southwest Art Magazine. The competition is designed solely to give young artists exposure in the art community. Phillips explains that the art world is rather political and if an artist is going to succeed he or she needs to have credentials like this award. Even though Phillips’ passion is his art, he wants to do something more. He valued his Christian education and knew that Liberty would be the place to go; “Liberty has always been my first choice. Here is where you can make a difference.”

As a young professional artist and a young professor, Phillips has been learning the art of balancing teaching with producing art. For Phillips it is not a question of one or the other because he sees that his art establishes credibility with his students. Phillips approaches teaching with the understanding that “The students are a reflection of you as a professor.” Not only a reflection of his scholarship but his artistic talent as well.

Like any specialized field there are particular challenges that a teacher faces, and one of the challenges that Phillips perceives in art is communication. The students need more than just raw talent; they need to be able to articulate the process and understand the foundational elements of a composition. “Sometimes you find that you have completed a process and actually haven’t learned anything,” Phillips clarifies. He wants his students to not only clearly and eloquently express themselves artistically but to be able to explain and share it. The students make their art meaningful and purposeful when they understand the technical terms of the principles they are using in their compositions. Good teaching reinforces the foundational techniques of art. One of the most important aspects of teaching art is learning to communicate. Phillips knows that once his students know the fundamental principles and how to articulate them, they will be able to work with ease and professionalism in any medium or style of art they choose.

Come see one of Phillips’ paintings hanging in the CTE.

By: Rachel Burkholder
Nine teachers representing eight departments spent an intensive week of teaching with technology training before fall opening of school. Faculty submitted applications to attend along with a proposal and syllabus of the course in which they were interested in integrating a new technology.

The CTE, along with partners from IT, Media Services, the ILRC, and CAFÉ custom designed the workshop to fit the needs of the group incorporating training in 14 different technologies. The week also included a discussion of issues, decision making and mentored hands-on experience from Liberty faculty currently utilizing selected technologies. Presentations of works in progress ended the week with an ensuing first semester classroom implementation phase. Many faculty members elected to implement more than one technology as a result of their experience in the TWT Boot Camp. With an overall self-reported average increase in awareness level of 3.6 and skill level of 3.7 (10 point scale) in 14 technologies, participants felt that it was a week well-spent!

CTE Director Visits Centers at UNCCH and Duke

At the invitation of this year’s very popular Orientation keynote speaker, Todd Zakrajsek, CTE Director Sharon Wheeler visited the Center for Faculty Excellence at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in early September. After meeting the staff and touring the facilities, Director Wheeler came away with some ideas and the assurance that the new Liberty CTE programs and resources for faculty development compare favorably with offerings at major universities. Wheeler has also visited similar centers at George Washington University, James Madison University, Old Dominion University, and the University of Maryland.

From the LINK she met with staff from the Duke Center for Instructional Technology, who were facilitating faculty training in moving from one major learning platform to another. It is interesting to note that no two faculty development and resource centers are alike. They are designed to meet the needs of the university or college they serve and evolve over time. Liberty has made a major stride forward this academic year, under the leadership of Dr. Godwin, in the creation of a full-time Center for Teaching Excellence with a dedicated staff to assist faculty with instructional pedagogy and technology.
Educational Conferences in 2011-2012

Lilly International Conference on College Teaching
Location: Oxford, OH
Date: Fri-Sun, Nov 18-20, 2011
www.units.muohio.edu/lilycon/

Conference on College and University Teaching
Location: Kennesaw State U, GA
Date: Fri –Sat Feb 3-4, 2012
Proposal: information to come
www.kennesaw.edu/cetl/conferences/gaconf/2012.html

Conference on Higher Pedagogy
Location: The Inn at Virginia Tech and the Skelton Conference Center, Blacksburg VA
Date: Wed –Fri, Feb 8-10, 2012
www.cider.vt.edu/conference

Lilly Conference on College Teaching & Pedagogy
Location: Koury Convention Center, UNCG, NC
Date: Fri-Sun Feb 10-12, 2012
Proposal Deadline: Nov 1, 2011
www.uncg.edu/tlc/lillyconference/

Conference of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
Location: Georgia Southern University, GA
Date: Wed-Fri March 7-9, 2012

Services

The CTE is pleased to offer LU faculty
- Workshops
- Roundtables
- Teaching Observations
- Teaching Consultations
  - Teaching Tips
  - Adding Relevance
  - Active Learning
  - Teaching Large Classrooms
  - Student Motivation
- Teaching Technology
- Boot Camps
- Blackboard® Training
- Communities of Practice
- Book Discussion Groups
- Writing Groups

To set up an appointment for any of CTE’s services, please go to the
http://tinyurl.com/3g4xq4s

Thank you, Center for Teaching Excellence, for the time you took in helping me develop my presentation for the World Conference of the American Association of Christian Counselors. Your organizational tips and teaching strategy suggestions made a huge impact. Indeed, I had many participants come up to me afterwards and state that the AACC needed more presentations like this! I know such statements relate to God’s grace and your help. I highly recommend faculty to work with CTE not only for classroom teaching improvement, but also in the development of important conference presentations.

-Fernando Garzon, Psy.D., Associate Professor of Counseling