

# CTE Notebook

## 10th Anniversary Edition

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### **Reinert CTE Mission Statement**

The mission of the Paul C. Reinert, S.J. Center for Teaching Excellence is to support Saint Louis University faculty and graduate students so that they can better serve the intellectual, spiritual, and social needs of all learners.

### **The Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence**

Saint Louis University  
Verhaegen Hall Room 314  
3634 Lindell Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
(314) 977-3944  
[cte@slu.edu](mailto:cte@slu.edu)

*At our recent Fall 2006 Certificate Ceremony & 10 Year Anniversary Kickoff CTE Progenitor and Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences, Don Brennan, offered retrospective remarks on the beginnings of the Center and its future endeavors.*

I think we like to hear simple, positive stories this time of year and this year qualifies.

On February 14 and 15, 1992, a group of 40 faculty, administrators and teaching assistants met at Fordyce House for a two-day workshop conducted by Dr. Leo Lambert, Associate Dean of the Graduate School at Syracuse University. The topic was how to better prepare graduate teaching assistants for the classroom. The recommendations from this conference included the development of a more comprehensive, university-wide teaching assistant orientation model; ongoing education programs for teaching assistants to be held throughout the year; improved mentoring by faculty; and the development of a centralized teaching assistant resource room in the Graduate School. I am holding up the March 5, 1992 issue of "Insight" Magazine (the predecessor to Grand Connections) and the front page article, "Expanded TA Training on the Way" introduces the establishment of the Teaching Resource Room. The article concludes with a quote from me saying, "Our goals are to improve the quality of undergraduate instruction, provide a better educational experience for our graduate students and, ultimately, provide a better prepared future professorate." When the Graduate School moved into O'Donnell Hall, almost 15 years ago next May, the Teaching Resource Room was formed. It consisted of the creation of a library of teaching improvement materials as well as the

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*Dean Ellen Harshman, former CTE Director and current Dean of the Cook School of Business, added these reflective remarks at our Certificate Ceremony and Anniversary Kickoff Celebration:*

Anniversaries are wonderful! This one is especially meaningful to me. Here we have an occasion to celebrate with others who have made contributions to the evolution and vitality of the Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence. And to its development into the amazing resource it is today. In addition to the celebration, the anniversary is an important time to take stock—to value and appreciate the journey and to thank all who have been travelers along the way.

Any innovation requires a vision—a visionary—someone has a great idea that can make an important contribution. But there are lots of great ideas that never go anywhere because the visionary could not take the next step and become a champion—That's where Don Brennan has made such a difference—he took that next step to make the Teach

*Continued page 3*

The Center staff recently hosted a campus visit by Dr. Charlie Lo Presto, a faculty member from Loyola College in Maryland. Charlie has been charged with creating a Center for Teaching Excellence at Loyola College and was visiting some centers at Jesuit Universities. Charlie's visit provided a great opportunity for me to spend almost four hours talking about the Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence, its history and programs and reflecting on centers such as ours. As he was leaving, Charlie asked me for the most important piece of advice I could give him as he works towards starting a center at Loyola. Reflecting on our Center and its histor



ing Center a reality—to plant the seeds, provide



we were taking the flower that Don Brennan had so carefully nourished and making it grow even bigger and stronger.

We designed a leadership model where we asked senior faculty members to take on real operational roles in the functions of the Center—Jim Korn, Doris Rubio, Steve Wernet, agreed to become part of the steering committee of the Center along with Mary, Julie, and myself. Teresa Johnson, Laura Stuetzer and JJ Mueller signed on as faculty technology mentors.

Our board was active in service as resources for programs as well as for strategic planning. The Center continued its initial mission to provide the Teaching Certificate for our graduate students, and the portfolio workshop for pre-tenured faculty, but broadened its reach to include new faculty orientation, mentoring, professional development seminars, special interest groups, book clubs, and so forth—taking feedback from faculty members about their needs and desires and from the Center's expertise to develop the kinds of programs that would be most useful.

The Center has since extended itself internationally with an association with educators in Brazil—coming here for propociat053 Strategie e /d die kind-  
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## From Our Archives:

*Take a glance at one of the first published articles, by Mary Flick, mentioning the Center from a 1982 edition of SLU's "Insight" Magazine—now "Grand Connections."*

### "Expanded TA Training on the Way"

Help is on the way for the University's teaching assistants who often find themselves in front of the undergraduate classroom

*Brennan, Continued from page 3*

# The Technology Corner

Sandy Gambill,  
Program Director for Learning Technology

Faculty development in the area of



## **2007 Teaching Renewal Conference**

“Excellence in Higher Education: Innovation, Accountability and Internationalization”

February 22-23, 2007; University of Missouri-Columbia  
Reynolds Alumni Center

The Teaching Renewal Conference focuses on sharing ideas and research on assessing and overcoming the many challenges faculty face as they try to make learning happen in their courses. It offers faculty an opportunity to:

- 1) present original research on college student learning,
- 2) conduct hands on workshops in innovative teaching practices that encourage student engagement and
- 3) lead discussion groups examining issues involved with teaching.

### ***Keynote — Robert C. Dickeson, PhD***

“*GREATER EXPECTATIONS: Increasing National Attention on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*”

To register visit: <http://teachandlearn.missouri.edu/events/trc/index.html>

*Director's Column, Continued from page 2*

While it would be nice to be able to rest on our laurels and spend the year looking back, this anniversary year provides a natural opportunity to envision how the Center might evolve in the future. To accomplish this, the Center will sponsor a series of “visioning” sessions in which faculty, administrators and graduate students from across campus will be invited to help Center staff and advisory board look to the Center’s future.

An anniversary is also an occasion to celebrate. We plan to continue the anniversary celebration throughout the year by sponsoring an Anniversary Speakers’ Series. We plan to bring to campus a select group of individuals who are known internationally for their expertise on issues related to teaching. We will combine this series with presentations by SLU faculty, many of whom are also well-known for their expertise in teaching. We also look forward to the release of a book written by members of the Center’s Advisory Board on “What Teaching Excellence Means at SLU.”

We invite you to watch our website (<http://cte.slu.edu>) for announcements of anniversary year events. We hope you will join us at many of these events and help us celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Paul C. Reinert S.J. Center for Teaching Excellence.

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