

Progress Report Spring 2003

## New Faculty Mentoring and Information Fluency Birmingham-Southern College, Susan K. Hagen

Our fall report ended with a list of activities through October 2002. Four additional demonstration/workshop activities were planned for the spring on the following topics:

- using Blackboard effectively,
- interactive technology for peer teaching,
- peer teaching and collaborative learning, and
- showcasing effective teaching strategies.

Unfortunately, the final showcase has had to be postponed due to an overloaded college calendar. We will end the term with a luncheon for the new faculty and their mentors on Tuesday 13 May. At that time will we distribute an evaluation survey to participants in this year's program.

Several of our new faculty this year will be teaching new First-Year Foundation courses in our general education program next year; consequently, with the remaining funds we plan to hold a summer workshop for all faculty creating new First-Year Foundation courses (about seven) to give guidance in integrating information fluency skills, assignments, and understandings into the design of their new courses.

Below is the schedule of spring events that were funded by the ACS IF grant. These were open to all faculty, full-time and adjunct, and not just new faculty and their mentors. The events were also presented as a part of our participation in the Carnegie Teaching Academy Program.

Monday 10 February, 3 p.m., Humanities Center 213

Using Blackboard More Effectively: Susan Hagen and Kim Thomas will discuss individualizing Blackboard sites, recycling courses, and using the Quiz and Survey tools for test reviews, tutorials, and worksheets. If you have other successful uses of Blackboard to share, please come and take part.

Thursday 20 February, 3:30 p.m., Stephens Science Center 130

Interactive Technology for Peer Teaching: Duane Pontius will demonstrate how interactive software can be used to increase peer teaching and critical thinking skills. Duane provides this blurb:

"BeyondQuestion Software is free for educational, non-profit, non-commercial use. It is designed to facilitate faculty-student interaction using two pedagogical approaches:

Just-in-Time Teaching (JiTT) prompts student preparation and assesses comprehension before class meetings via a convenient on-line system for administering quizzes.

Peer Instruction facilitates classroom discussions and evaluates progress by collecting student feedback. Peer Instruction using Educue's electronic Personal Response System will also be discussed."

Tuesday 11 March, 4 p.m., Faculty Dining Room

Peer Teaching and Collaborative Learning: This session is planned as an open discussion on using peer teaching to increase student learning. We also invite a discussion on effective use of teaching fellows and procedures to assure that teaching fellows are being used responsibly.

Wednesday 2 April, 4 p.m., Stockham Parlor (postponed)

Carnegie Academy Teaching Showcase: We are inviting anyone who has developed an effective teaching technique, course module, digital materials, interdisciplinary units, research/scholarly assignments, or anything else of interest to share successes with colleagues.