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Spring Kickoff - Part II

Since things are busy this time of year, we are letting you know again that instead of having a traditional college meeting at the beginning of spring semester, we want to provide the opportunity for you to use your peers as resources for professional development. For Faculty, the exchange groups will be:

- 1) Successful strategies for teaching large enrollment classes
- 2) Successful uses of technology for teaching
- 3) Favorite syllabus distribution and discussion
- 4) Favorite assignments given in classes
- 5) Strategies for Inclusive Classrooms

The idea is, for each exchange group, faculty participants will talk about and bring examples of what they are doing in the classroom. It is an opportunity to learn new and innovative approaches for teaching your students from your peers. For administrative (office) staff, we would like you to use this time to begin this semester's monthly meetings by providing peer expertise to help everyone perform their jobs. You'll get an agenda on return from semester break.

Please sign up for any of the above groups by going to the following link: <http://humboldt.edu/cahss/pedagogywkshp.html> These will take place after Spring Welcome 1:30-3:00 on January 11th. Rooms to be announced. Refreshments will be served.

Have a great break everyone! We'll see you next year!

Ken's Corner

I know I said that this week would be part 2 of our inventory of initiatives, but I have decided to continue that thread next January when we return from break. What makes HSU special is how much everyone cares about our students and I think AHSS exemplifies that commitment every day. Thank you all for your hard work. Please have a restful and happy holiday and we will do it all again next year.

Check out this link if you need a little chuckle to get through the end of the semester.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQHx-SjgQvQ>

KRFH Wins RadioFlag “Spirited College” Award

Humboldt State University's student-run radio station, KRFH.net, was just awarded RadioFlag.com's "Spirited College Radio Station" award, which came with a sizable cash prize. RadioFlag, an emerging social media platform that seeks to engage a new generation of internet radio listeners with a Twitter-like format, was a partner in the first-ever College Radio Day. The College Radio Day event sought to bring together over 300 college radio stations across the country, in part by utilizing the RadioFlag website and app.

KRFH participated in College Radio Day, and has maintained a strong presence on RadioFlag since the weeks leading up to the October 11th event. Often the number one trending station on the site, KRFH has been RadioFlag's featured station twice to date, and has had multiple shows promoted and sponsored by the site. DJs and their shows often become trending topics, boasting a regular listening audience that stretches from coast-to-coast.

RadioFlag recently invited KRFH to sit on its College Radio Advisory Board, which aims to network stations that drive the RadioFlag platform and guide the resurrection of college radio in a time of budget cuts and economic hardship.

Anthony Roman, founder of RadioFlag, says that "KRFH DJs consistently demonstrate the true essence of college radio with creative programming, listener engagement, unique promotions, and the courage to push the boundaries through innovation to reach new listeners, when challenged by shrinking budgets."

"I am proud that KRFH is heard on RadioFlag, and already considered one of RadioFlag's most popular stations," Roman adds.



Call for Applications: Faculty Early Retirement Program beginning 2012-13

The Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) provides an opportunity for retiring eligible tenured faculty to continue to work at the university at a reduced load for a limited number of years. This program is governed by the faculty Collective Bargaining Agreement.

CSU and CFA are currently in negotiations to determine the details of a successor faculty contract. Agreement has not yet been reached on all details of the FERP program for the successor contract, but there is agreement between the parties that the program will continue and that the current 5-year eligibility will remain. The CSU-CFA Joint Statement on FERP can be accessed at: http://www.calstate.edu/LaborRel/Contracts_HTML/CFA-Joint-Statement-on-FERP.doc.

FERP

The deadline to submit a request to participate in FERP beginning in academic year 2012-13 is FEBRUARY 17, 2012. To apply, complete and submit the application form, Form 900: Request for Participation in Faculty Early Retirement Program, located on the APS website at: http://www.humboldt.edu/aps/docs/forms/Form900_FERP_Particip_Req.xls.

Your completed application form must be signed by your Department Chair and submitted to your College Dean by February 17, 2012.

For further information on FERP, please contact Colleen Mullery, Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs, at extension 5086 or Colleen.Mullery@humboldt.edu. For CalPERS retirement or other benefits-related questions, please contact Cindy Darnall Stevens, Benefits Administrator, at extension 5171 or Cindy.Darnall.Stevens@humboldt.edu.

Professor Tasha Souza Shares Communication and Teaching Strategies in Turkey

From HSU NOW

Communication Professor Tasha Souza was recently invited to Turkey to lead a seminar series on effective teaching methods and communication skills.

The four workshop series focused on active learning, student-centered instruction and communication strategies for students and faculty at the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara.

Located in the Turkish capital, METU is an English-speaking university that emphasizes engineering and technology. It is one of the country's most selective schools, admitting the top 1 percent of scorers on Turkey's mandatory university entrance exam. Souza was invited to speak at the school in November as part of a new faculty career development program in which teachers expressed interest in learning more about communication in the classroom and increasing student engagement.

"It's partly a cultural thing for students in Turkey to be more reserved and it's partly that the students are expected to speak in a language that's not their first language," says Souza, an instructional communication expert who was previously Faculty Development Coordinator for the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching. "The other factor is that these students are millennial learners which means they are not engaged by traditional teaching practices."

Research indicates that traditional teaching methods like lecturing and memorization are not effective for today's super-connected, tech-savvy learners, Souza says. The result has been a gradual shift away from a teacher-centered to a learning-centered paradigm that emphasizes student engagement over rote learning.

"A lot of what I was doing was familiarizing the faculty with current research on what helps students learn," Souza says. "We know, for instance, that after 12 minutes of lecturing, students start to lose interest so if you are going to lecture, you have to change the teaching format by showing a video clip or having students pair up to review a concept."

Other suggestions to keep students engaged include using online tools like blogs, GoogleDocs and clickers; encouraging role-playing, debates, group work and presentations and giving students a chance to apply what they learn outside of the classroom through field research and service learning opportunities.

"What is interesting is as much as people are different because of cultural values and norms, we are similar in the way we like to learn," Souza says. "While it might be easier to passively memorize information, deep down we all want to be active learners."

Souza's trip was largely funded through an educational grant from the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), which supports national research and development. She will likely return to Turkey, where she plans to collaborate with METU faculty on instructional research and possibly facilitate workshops at other universities.

"I think the most empowering thing for me was to see the faculty there embrace the learning paradigm so well," she says. Students also seemed to embrace active learning strategies. In her final workshop, which was the only one with METU students, Souza was surprised at the level of student participation. "During the workshop, the students were raising their hands and eager to participate," she says. "It was wonderful to see."



Faculty Profile: Dr. Stephanie Burkhalter

By: Emily Powell

For political science professor, Dr. Stephanie Burkhalter, the combination of education and real world experience is a vital part of a student's success outside of the classroom. From her own experiences in the professional field while attending school, Burkhalter knows first-hand that taking on internships and following your passions can help students gain valuable skills.

She has applied the principle of mixing the classroom and the outside world into her teaching at Humboldt State. For the first time, she has taken in three students to work with her on her original research. At conferences in Portland and Chicago, two of the students will present the research to groups of professionals in their field.

"They are speaking on how members of Congress use speech to brand their parties. In one case, they are looking at how a party uses the same message over multiple Congresses. In another case, they are looking at how some US Senators use research, which has been contracted out from interest groups, to brand the Republican Party on the issue of financial reform."

In her own experiences at the University of Maryland College Park, Burkhalter interned for Michigan Representative John Dingle where she did more than just make copies and deliver coffee. She was able to write speeches, constitute responses and conduct research as part of an oversight committee that worked on an investigation with the FDA. During her graduate work at George Washington University, Burkhalter focused on women's policy and worked on issues such as infant mortality, fair pay and welfare issues that affect women. It was here that she gained valuable experience as a policy advocate with the National Women's Health Network and Vermont Congressman Bernie Sanders. She worked on the campaign that forced dairy producers to put a warning label on products that contain the RBGH hormone.

She continued her education by getting her Master's at the University of Oregon, "Go Ducks!" and her doctorate at the University of Washington where she was a key principle in establishing a union to help protect graduate students in association with the United Auto Workers.

After coming to teach at HSU, Burkhalter has tried to follow in the footsteps of the teachers that have inspired her. "I feel like I've really connected with some people here, some students, and those they've been able to do really important things in the real world. I see a lot of kids, like me, who are middle class but maybe don't have a lot of direction and all they need is a little push, inspiration and structure to guide them to becoming amazing people who achieve a lot."

She hopes to inspire her students and pass on her love for learning and the love for practical practices. "I like that they complement each other and that they can be combined so students can get these amazing jobs as if they went to Berkley or UCLA, and that they are ready and doing well in these competitive positions."

