This report provides a snapshot of activities and accomplishments in the Paul C. Reinert, S.J. Center for Transformative Teaching & Learning at Saint Louis University for July-August, 2014.

Overview
As usual, the Reinert Center spent July and August reflecting on the past academic year’s activities, preparing for the new year, and welcoming new faculty and graduate students to the University. Center staff participated in New Faculty Orientation and New Graduate Assistant Orientation; conducted multiple invited workshops and individual consultations; and welcomed new staff to the Center.

By the Numbers
14 Invited Workshops
3 Orientation Sessions
1 Invited Presentation
22 Faculty Consultations
1 Invited Online Teaching & Learning Institute
1 Invited Conversation (half-day)
8 Blog Posts

New Faculty Orientation
Participating in the University-wide New Faculty Orientation offers an excellent way to introduce new faculty to the Center. This year, our presence was expanded as we added a third breakout session; we also broadened the focus of our long-standing technology session. All together, Center staff facilitated ten sessions, with multiple breakouts for each of the following workshops: Developing Effective Syllabi (28 total attendees), Fostering Innovations in Teaching (28 total attendees), and Content Expert, Classroom Novice: Teaching Strategies for New Faculty (28 total attendees). We also had a table at the two-part Resource Fair, where we had an opportunity to meet most of the new faculty.

New Graduate Assistant Orientation
As with New Faculty Orientation, the University-wide Graduate Assistant Orientation (GAO) gives us a chance to reach out to SLU graduate students who are new to teaching assistantships. The Reinert Center Graduate Assistants, along with our new Post-Doctoral Fellow, facilitated two workshops—Tips for First-Time Teachers: Channeling Teacher and Student Motivation and Teaching a Diverse Student Population: A Focus on International Students. Combined attendance for the two sessions was approximately 150 graduate assistants.

Customized Programs for Online Teaching
In addition to our week-long Online Teaching and Learning Institute, the Reinert Center offers customized sessions for departments developing online programs. In August, we facilitated a half-day conversation on online teaching practices and a two-day workshop for academic units that are currently developing online degree programs.

Faculty Open House
On August 28, we hosted our annual fall Faculty Open House. We had a record attendance of 29 guests, including Dr. Ellen Harshman, Interim VP for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Fred Pestello, SLU’s new President.

Staffing News
Last spring, we conducted a rigorous national search for a Post-Doctoral Fellow, which is a new role in the Center. During the search, we reviewed almost 50 applications, conducted multiple phone interviews, and invited three finalists for day-long campus interviews.

We are delighted to announce that this search resulted our appointing Dipti Subramaniam, Ph.D., a former Reinert Center GA and a graduate of SLU’s doctoral program in Public Health.

In the role of Post-Doc, Dipti will enhance our outreach to SLU graduate students. She’ll also consult with graduate instructors, conduct classroom observations and focus groups, and provide feedback and support to participants in our Certificate Program.

Also joining the Center in July as a new GA was Kelly McEnerney, doctoral student in Experimental Psychology here at SLU. Kelly has an M.S. in General Psychology from Auburn University and studies the interplay between cognitive and emotional processes in children’s moral development.