Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching & Learning

This report provides a snapshot of activities and accomplishments in the Paul C. Reinert, S.J. Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning at Saint Louis University for September-October 2015.

Programming & Services Overview
This fall, the Reinert Center launched its new programming theme for the year, conducted the fall Innovative Teaching Fellowship application and selection process, awarded the 10th annual James H. Korn Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award, held the second annual SoTL Symposium, along with the usual activities of mid-semester focus groups, Effective Teaching Seminars, and other events.

Reinert Center — By the Numbers
13 Mid-Semester Focus Groups (13 instructors, 704 students)
3 ITF Pre-Application Information Sessions
9 Effective Teaching Seminars
8 Orientations/Presentations
5 Workshops and Facilitated Conversations
10 Posts to “The Notebook” (6 by faculty)

2015-2016 Theme:
Thinking Critically, Thinking Creatively
During the 2015-2016 academic year, the Reinert Center will offer a series of programs highlighting the ways in which we think about and incorporate thinking critically and thinking creatively into our teaching. These core academic mindsets are valued in every discipline; yet, often, we identify them, discuss them, and teach them in very different ways. In order to uncover the similarities and differences among disciplinary approaches to critical and creative thinking, we will focus on a broad range of topics, including: Ignatian imagination, technologies to enhance critical and creative thinking, critical reading skills, and more.

In addition to our programs, we also have initiated a blog series following the theme. This fall, a variety of faculty and graduate students are writing blog posts for our blog, The Notebook, answering the question, "What does critical thinking look like in your field/discipline? How do you teach students to do it?"

Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Symposium and the James H. Korn SoTL Award
This year marked the second annual Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Symposium showcasing the research on teaching being conducted by SLU faculty and graduate students. We had 16 poster presentations, with a total of 32 researchers, and approximately 40 attendees to the presentations.

Following the poster presentations was the 10th Annual James H. Korn Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award. Dr. Jim Korn was there to honor this year’s awardee, Dr. Stuart Slavin from the School of Medicine. While Dr. Slavin was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict, the award was accepted on his behalf by his colleague, Dr. John Chibnall, who has been very involved in the work for which Dr. Slavin received the Korn Award.

From the Learning Studio
This September, we once again hosted a call for proposals for our Innovative Teaching Fellowships, an opportunity for selected faculty members to redesign a course with one of our instructional developers and teach it in the Learning Studio. This fall we had seven applications, and five were selected to redesign their courses in Spring 2016 and teach in Fall 2016. Congratulations to:

Chris Carroll, Civil Engineering
Cathleen Fleck, Fine & Performing Arts
Amber Hinsley, Communication
Dyan McGuire, Crimonology & Criminal Justice
Alyssa Wilson, Social Work

Poster presentations at the 2nd SoTL Symposium.