THE CETL CORRESPONDENT

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SWOSU

CETL Correspondent

A Newsletter by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)
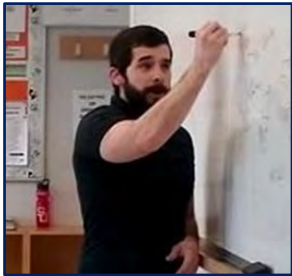
IN THIS ISSUE

Focus on SWOSU Faculty

CETL is spotlighting faculty members in a series of articles called "Focus on SWOSU Faculty." These faculty have been selected as doing inspiring active learning methods in their courses and have agreed to share some of their activities with the SWOSU community. One SWOSU faculty member will be spotlighted per month who is using transformative and other exciting active learning methods in their teaching which advance student learning at SWOSU. This month, CETL is spotlighting Dr. Mark Garcia, Department of Biological

Originally from California, Dr. Mark Garcia was born and raised in a small Central Valley town. Growing up among the farm animals and hiking through the rolling foothills of the valley gave Dr. Garcia a great appreciation for nature and animals. Coincidentally, during his early school years, he also found out that he had a knack for the sciences, especially Biology. Putting those together Mark enrolled in the biology program at California State University, Fresno, a regional-comprehensive institution not so different from SWOSU. Through a bit of serendipity, he got involved in undergraduate research. Dr. Garcia's experiences in research would ultimately lead him into pursuing a career in academia. After graduating from CSU Fresno, he traveled cross country to complete his masters and doctorate degrees at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa (Roll Tide!). From there, Dr. Garcia moved between several states including Maryland, Kentucky, and most recently Louisiana, taking on various positions including two post-doctoral positions and a visiting assistant professor position. All of which was done to help him increase his academic skillset and to find that perfect position to settle into.

"It is now my sincere hope that SWOSU is that position. I arrived at SWOSU in the Fall of 2021 and have been thrilled with the experience so far," explains Dr. Garcia.

Mark goes on to elaborate that his SWOSU colleagues have been welcoming and willing to help him settle in while his students have also kept him busy with their endless energy and enthusiasm for the sciences. Dr. Garcia teaches courses in Human Anatomy, Evolution, and Animal Behavior and will have an Integrative Research Program up and running later this semester. He looks forward to many more enjoyable years to come here at SWOSU.

Dr. Garcia reveals that his interest in teaching developed through his time as a graduate student. He was funded through a graduate teaching assistantship and tasked with covering labs for various courses including Intro Biology and Anatomy & Physiology.

"It was over those 6.5 years where I learned about the joys and pains of being an educator. Interacting with students who wanted to be there, who wanted to learn, who were intensely interested in the subject material were some of the best experiences I had," explains Dr. Garcia.

He goes on to point out that the pains of having to be the "assessor" or "grader" taught him the importance of the certification process. It was his responsibility to both educate but also to certify that a student learned the material. Dr. Garcia also adds that, that is still difficult for him to this day. He wants all his students to succeed and get that "A" but knows that he also has a responsibility to be an objective evaluator. Ultimately, observes Mark, he is glad he took the path of an educator and hopes to continue having those memorable interactions with students eager and ready to learn.

Dr. Garcia points out that research is his first love and the biggest reason he got involved in academia. The process of scientific inquiry from formulating questions to experimentation to data analysis and ending with a publication just excites Mark. As an educator, he now tries to pass that excitement onto his students. Dr. Garcia is currently developing his research program here at SWOSU in the Biology Department and a major component to that program will be undergraduate research assistants.

"I remember how important undergraduate research experience was to me and my career path. I want to provide those same opportunities to my student. I am recruiting students cross the sciences (e.g., biology majors, pre-pharmacy, allied health, pre-nursing) to join my research program, gain novel experience in scientific inquiry, and bolster their scientific toolkits for when they move on to graduate programs" explains Mark.

He concludes by pointing out that having that one-on-one interaction with students, showing them how science is performed, and having them engage in science (in addition to their classroom education) gives students a greater appreciation for what they do and increases their engagement in their education.

Workshops Available for March

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) has workshops available to faculty to receive essential and supplemental training for various online applications. If you have questions about our workshops, please contact our office at (580) 774 – 3149.

Please note: If there are no attendees present within the first ten minutes of a scheduled workshop time, that workshop will be cancelled for that day.

CETL Workshops with Mapopa

Using Speedgrader, Docviewer, and Turnitin
This three in one workshop walks faculty through using Speedgrader, making annotations using Docviewer and managing Turnitin submitted assignments.
Tuesday, March 1 @ 1:50 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 8 @ 1:50 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 22 @ 1:50 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 29 @ 1:50 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Join this workshop via ZOOM: https://zoom.us/j/960339908

Introduction to New Quizzes
This workshop introduces faculty to new quizzes in Canvas. Canvas is introducing new quizzes and SWOSU will gradually transition to new Quizzes. This workshop introduces faculty to the new quizzes interface and new quiz features.
Wednesday, March 2 @ 1:50 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 9 @ 1:50 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 23 @ 1:50 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 30 @ 1:50 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Join this workshop via ZOOM: https://zoom.us/j/960339908

CETL Workshops with Steve

Alternative Assessment Strategies
In this workshop, Steve will introduce you to several Alternatives to Traditional testing.
Thursday, March 3 @ 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 8 @ 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Join this workshop via ZOOM: https://zoom.us/j/9123629032

Introduction to Blackboard Ally in Canvas
This workshop will help familiarize you with the basics of the Blackboard Ally Accessibility Checker in Canvas.
Thursday, March 24 @ 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 29 @ 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Join this workshop via ZOOM: https://zoom.us/j/9123629032

Respondus LockDown Browser/Monitor
This workshop will help familiarize you with how to use Respondus LockDown Browser & Monitor.
Thursday, March 10 @ 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 22 @ 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Join this workshop via ZOOM: https://zoom.us/j/9123629032

Workshops are Available from the Online Learning Consortium!

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning has 20 scholarships available for faculty to attend Online Learning Consortium workshops. Go to https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/learn/workshops/ to see the various workshops that are available. These workshops are not just for online faculty, there are topics that pertain to all areas.

If awarded, upon completion of the workshop, a certificate must be sent to CETL for their records. The cost of the workshops is $170, so, if awarded and you cannot attend, please contact CETL as soon as possible (prior to the workshop) so that a scholarship may be awarded to another faculty member.

The following are examples of some of the workshops that are offered:

- Creating Infographics for Learning,
- Designing with Accessibility in Mind,
- Designing a Flipped Classroom,
- Strategies to Improve Retention,
- Strategies to Increase Faculty Motivation,

- New to Online: Essentials Part 1 - Getting Started,
- Exploring Open Educational Resources, Part 1,
- Creating Rubrics,
- Exploring Learning Analytics,
- Strategic Planning for Web Accessibility

Using ePortfolios in the Classroom

Canvas has included some helpful information on using ePortfolio in your class, in the Canvas Guides. To access the guides, click on the Help icon, located at the bottom of the navigation area in your Canvas account (the question mark icon.) This will open the Canvas guides section, and you can search for specific questions, or access the complete guide information.

Guides are in place for those who like to see information in a written format. Please keep in mind that we are also available to answer questions in CETL, and the 24/7 Canvas Support that can be found in the navigation section as well.

Instructor Training: LockDown Browser & Respondus Monitor

This comprehensive training webinar is intended for instructors who plan to use LockDown Browser and/or Respondus Monitor with online exams. The session provides a detailed demonstration of both applications, including enhancements that make Respondus Monitor even more effective and easy to use. You can register at the Respondus website: https://web.respondus.com/webinars/ or click the links below.

- Tuesday, March 15 at 1 pm ET / 10 am PT
- Thursday, March 17 at 3 pm ET / 12 pm PT
- Wednesday, March 23 at 2 pm ET / 11 am PT

- Tuesday, March 29 at 1 pm ET / 10 am PT
- Thursday, March 31 at 3 pm ET / 12 pm PT

Respondus 4 and the Test Bank Network: Quickly Create Online Exams

Find out how Respondus 4 allows you to create and manage exams that can be printed to paper or published directly to your LMS, and how the Test Bank Network enables instructors to create online tests from official publisher test banks.

- Wednesday, March 16 at 2 pm ET / 11 am PT

Insights from CETL's Teaching and Learning Coordinators

Mapopa's Musings
by Mapopa W. Sanga, PhD.

VoiceThread: A cool place to engage your Learners

Have you ever considered using VoiceThread, to engage your traditional or online learners? With VoiceThread, you can create a dynamic, living conversation space that can be altered anytime. It is just like sending out an email that you can edit at any time. Basically, VoiceThread bridges the gap between real-time discussion and standard video lectures or online presentations. It can be used to communicate ideas using more than one form of media, to connect with an audience in an authentic and simple manner, and to have a discussion that simulates a live presence. So, with VoiceThread, you can glean different types of files, be it text, video, audio, PowerPoint, PDF, pictures, you name it. Files or slides can be uploaded on the VoiceThread space from various sources; your computer, media sources (for example the New York public library, Facebook, Flickr, existing VoiceThread projects), URLs, your webcam and others. This creates a collaborative space that allows every member of your class to make video, text or audio comments to any of the files in your space.

And as already pointed out, you are in full control, you can edit your space at any time by adding more files or removing some. What a way to engage learners!

For more on using Voicethread, add it as an app in Modules.

Email me at mapopa.sanga@swosu.edyu to schedule a one-on-one.

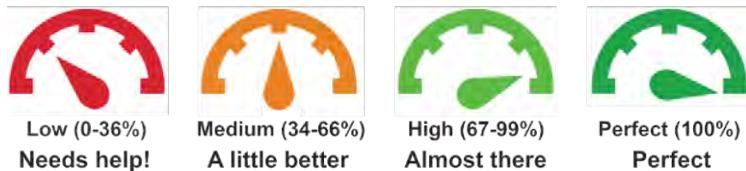# Insights from CETL's Teaching and Learning Coordinators

Ray's Reflections
by Steve Ray, III

Blackboard Ally & Canvas

Currently CETL is in the pilot phase of implementing Blackboard Ally. It is scheduled for a full launch in the Fall of this year. What is Ally? Ally is a tool that can help faculty check and improve the accessibility of their course documents. The tool integrates into your course shell in Canvas to assess the accessibility of your course documents and provides feedback and instructions to help make your documents more accessible for all. Simply stated, 'accessible content is better content".

Accessibility Indicators

| Low (0-36%) | Medium (34-66%) | High (67-99%) | Perfect (100%) |
| Needs help! | A little better | Almost there | Perfect |

When you log in to Canvas, you will find the Ally accessibility indicators next to your files.

Simply click the indicator to read detailed feedback about what the accessibility issues are with the file, why they matter, and how to fix them. If you choose, you can follow along step-by-step to improve your original file. These accessibility scores are only visible to you and are not visible to students, so no need to worry! CETL will be offering workshops and trainings throughout the Spring and Summer and will be available anytime to answer questions or provide assistance.

Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning (CETL)

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