Annual Report AY 2013-14

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The Vision Statement of the Center for Innovative Pedagogy

The Center for Innovative Pedagogy facilitates faculty conversations about teaching. Through the resources of the center, Kenyon faculty augment their knowledge of effective pedagogies. The CIP staff assist faculty in implementing teaching and learning strategies in the classroom. The staff also assist faculty with investigating and evaluating pedagogical practices.
From the Director

I’m pleased to report on the contributions the CIP has made in 2013-14 to discussions about pedagogy, and the implementation of new ideas in teaching, at Kenyon College.

As part of Kenyon’s discussions about the role of experiential education in our curriculum, the CIP hosted a year-long series of happy hour discussions on mentoring undergraduate research experiences, and sponsored presentations and a week-long workshop on service learning.

We also engaged outside speakers to bring new perspectives on the scholarship of teaching and learning to campus. We hosted two presentations by Dr. Todd Zakrajsek, co-author of *The New Science of Learning*, on student motivation and engaged learning. With Student Accessibility and Support Services, we hosted a presentation and lunch with Meghan Gibson (K’09), on principles of universal design for learning. We also provided funding for faculty members to attend conferences on the scholarship of teaching and learning.

The staff of the CIP continue to support the faculty’s needs for instructional technology training and consulting. We made a conscious effort this year to tie training workshops more closely to panels where faculty members could discuss actual applications in the classroom.

This was the final year of the “Essentials” grant from the Andrew W. Mellon foundation. Over the three-year period of the grant, the CIP Advisory Board made 14 awards to pilot project groups to investigate different approaches to teaching core liberal arts skills. It has been a privilege to participate in this major review of the nature of a liberal arts education.

— Joseph Murphy
CIP Events

The CIP hosted thirty-eight events in 2013-14, with total attendance of 266 faculty and staff members. 120 people came to at least one event; 52 attended more than one. We’re gratified to note that faculty and staff who attended more than one event, on average, came to four events; this shows that we are serving as a nexus of discussion for a core group of interested faculty.

Twenty-one of these events were invited speakers, faculty panels, lunch discussions or happy hours. Themes included undergraduate research at Kenyon and the implications of psychological science for teaching and learning practices.

Seventeen events were technology workshops. Most focused on Moodle use; we also hosted sessions on Prezi (presentation software) and ArcGIS Online (mapping software).

Learning in Harmony with the Brain

Dr. Todd Zakrajsek, Executive Director of the Academy of Educators in the School of Medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill, gave two talks on pedagogical techniques which increase student motivation and engaged learning. Forty-one faculty, staff, and students attended the two sessions.

Todd also left us with 10 copies of his new book with Terry Doyle, *The New Science of Learning: How to Learn in Harmony With Your Brain*. This book is an accessible introduction to the brain, memory, and learning, and offers practical applications students can use to organize their lives and work for optimal learning. The CIP hosted a series of book club discussions around the book and ways we might integrate its suggestions into campus life. Interest in the book club was so high that CIP bought additional copies of the book; sixteen faculty and staff members participated in four book club meetings.
Universal Design for Learning: Strategies in the Classroom

Co-sponsored with Student Accessibility and Support Services, Meghan Gibson (K’09) spoke on the process of universal design for learning (UDL), which addresses diversity in learning style differences and ability levels at the point of course creation, instead of waiting to address problems once a student is struggling or presents with a disability. The goal of UDL is to maximize the learning of students with a wide range of characteristics by applying UDL principles to all aspects of instruction (including delivery methods, physical spaces, information resources, technology, personal interactions, and assessments). Ms. Gibson’s talk was attended by 13 faculty and staff members and 14 students; a group of faculty continued the conversation with Gibson over lunch.

Teaching and Learning with ICPSR Data

The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), of which Kenyon is a member, maintains a data archive of more than 500,000 files of research in the social sciences. At a lunch session, David Thomas and Frederique Laubepin from ICPSR provided an overview of ICPSR services and tools, and Assistant Professor of Psychology Katie Corker and Professor of Sociology Marla Kohlman discussed how they use ICPSR resources in teaching research methods. Ten faculty and staff members attended.

Peer Assessment

Providing constructive criticism on the work of others and incorporating criticism into one’s own work are vital skills which students will need throughout their careers. Peer assessment activities in the classroom are an excellent way to develop these skills, and to give students another way to work with the course content. Jessica Carr, Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Harry Itagaki, Professor of Biology, Nancy Powers, Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Peter Rutkoff, Professor of American Studies presented their philosophy and classroom methods for peer assessment exercises at a lunch event in the CIP. Thirteen faculty members attended.

We followed this lunch discussion with a technology workshop on online tools which support peer assessment exercises. Instructional Technologist Jason Bennett demonstrated modules in Moodle and Turnitin which can ease some of the logistic hurdles of having students exchange and critique each others’ work. Seven faculty members attended.
Happy Hour Series on Undergraduate Research

Following attendance at two successful Council on Undergraduate Research workshops, the CIP hosted a series of happy hour discussions on topics related to mentoring students through intense research experiences. Coordinated by Dan Hartnett, Assistant Professor of Spanish, topics included talking to students about close mentoring and independent research, how the curriculum’s structure impacts undergraduate research opportunities, mentoring students in the fine arts, social sciences, and humanities, and writing strong proposals for collaborative research. A total of thirty-five people attended the four sessions. The CIP thanks Professor Hartnett for coordinating these sessions, and the discussion instigators he invited: Associate Professor of Political Science Abbie Erler, Associate Professor of Drama Andrew Reinert, Associate Professor of Italian Patricia Richards, Professor of Anthropology Ed Schortman, and Professor of Legal Studies Ric Sheffield, as well as all the attendees for their contributions to our discussions.
Service Learning Seminar

The CIP again had the opportunity to help support a summer workshop on community-based research and service learning in 2014. The seminar allowed faculty members to increase their knowledge of service learning pedagogies, consider how service learning might fit in their courses, hear the experiences of other Kenyon faculty and national leaders in the field, and make connections with local organizations interested in working with Kenyon. The seminar was led by Randy Stoecker, Professor of Community and Environmental Sociology at the University of Minnesota, with presentations by Jen Odenweller, Executive Director of United Way of Knox County, and Kristin E. Norris, Assessment Director of the Center for Service and Learning at IUPUI. Sixteen faculty members participated in the summer 2014 workshop, from eleven different disciplines.

As a wrap-up to the Summer 2013 faculty seminar on community-based research and service learning, three faculty members presented their course pilot projects at common hour. Clara Román-Odio, Professor of Spanish and Director of Latino/a Studies, Sarah Murnen, Professor of Psychology, and Nancy Powers, Visiting Professor of Political Sciences presented their course and activity designs, and discussed future plans, at an energetic session. Seventeen faculty and staff members and three students attended.
The Essentials Project

During the 2012-13 academic year, a committee of faculty considered our curricular goals — what are the attributes of a liberally educated person in the twenty-first century? — as well as a discussion of curricular structures appropriate to Kenyon that may achieve those goals. As part of their work, they described three heuristic curricula which look at different possible approaches to the question, organized a faculty retreat in August 2013, and issued their final report, which was discussed at faculty meetings. The reports from the Ad Hoc Curricular Review Committee and other readings for the 2013 Curricular Essentials retreat are available at https://cip.kenyon.edu/essentials#reports

The CIP solicited proposals for project grants in 2012-13 and 2013-14, which provided support to interdisciplinary groups of faculty investigating new ways to integrate essential liberal arts skills into their courses. The proposals were reviewed by the Center for Innovative Pedagogy Advisory Board. Over the two years, the Board awarded 14 grants to a total of 110 faculty members. The complete list is available at https://cip.kenyon.edu/essentials#pilots; this page also includes the final reports from projects which have completed their work.
As part of the reporting out from Essentials projects, the CIP was pleased to host a lunch discussion on the topic of “First-Year Seminars Using Personal Journeys to Teach Geography.” Harry Itagaki, Professor of Biology, and Stephen Volz, R. Todd Ruppert Associate Professor of International Studies and Associate Professor of History, described their group’s work in exploring opportunities for team-taught courses including a significant geographical component, and the resources needed to make such classes work. 12 faculty members attended.

Kenyon hosted a public lecture by Dr. Jason G. Irizarry, Associate Professor of Multicultural Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the Neag School of Education, through the Essentials project grant to a faculty group investigating Culturally Responsive Pedagogy. Dr. Irizarry presented an overview of the Latinization of U.S. Schools and documented the extent of the problems in our high school systems. The lecture was attended by 6 faculty members and 42 students. Dr. Irizarry also conducted a workshop for 11 faculty members on issues of identity and changes which Kenyon could undertake to create an environment more supportive of success for all our students.
Teaching with Technology

The CIP hosted a total of eight workshops for faculty on Moodle, ArcGIS Online, tools for peer assessment of writing (including Moodle options and Turnitin), and Prezi. Turnout averaged five people per session. The Prezi sessions were particularly well attended; we are seeing increasing faculty interest in “spicing up” their presentations. The peer assessment technology workshop followed a successful faculty lunch panel on the pedagogy of peer assessment, so we had already established interest in the technique, and had some discussions about the logistics.

The CIP hosted three lunch discussions on technology use, two on Moodle and one on Turnitin, attended by a total of twenty-five faculty members. These were free-form opportunities for faculty members to discuss how they use the technologies, and ask other faculty members and the CIP staff about their best practices. Our discussions were vibrant, perhaps because of good timing. The first Moodle lunch was at the start of the semester, and the second addressed ways to use video lectures on Moodle during a brutal winter with many weather-related concerns. The Turnitin lunch came shortly after faculty meeting discussions of the academic honesty policy.

We also held nine drop-in sessions for faculty seeking Moodle support; five in the week before the fall semester and four in the week before the spring semester. The “office hours” format is more effective than workshops at providing faculty members the one-on-one help they want when getting a new course up and running. A total of twenty faculty members attended the fall sessions, and seven attended in the spring. It’s not surprising to note that faculty members may be more open to using new tools, or need a refresher on how those tools work, in the fall.

- Monthly lunch on Experiential Learning (OCS, Internships, Undergraduate Research, Service Learning, Courses on the “Local”)
- YouTube channel, G+, FB, Twitter

Engagement with the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

- In November, the CIP funded four faculty members’ attendance at the Lilly
CIP Board Members for 2014-2015

The CIP Advisory Board is composed of the John B. McCoy-Banc One Distinguished Teaching Chair, the Associate Provost overseeing faculty development efforts, and eight members of the Kenyon faculty chosen to reflect the various academic divisions and programs on campus. The general role of the Advisory Board is to provide advice, support,

Christopher Bickford
Assistant Professor of Biology

Katherine Corker
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Pierre Dairon
Assistant Professor of French

Judy Holdener
Professor of Mathematics

Pamela Camerra-Rowe
John B. McCoy Bank One Distinguished Teaching Professor of Political Science
and guidance to the CIP director and staff. The Advisory Board assists in strategic planning through helping set long-term and short-term goals and objectives for the Center. Committee members also provide input for workshops, programs, and resources that will help support and promote innovative pedagogy and dialogue at Kenyon.

Ted Mason
Professor of English

Ric Sheffield
Professor of Sociology & Legal Studies

Rebecca Wolf
Assistant Professor of Drama

Patrick Bottiger
Assistant Professor of History

Jan Thomas
Associate Provost
Professor of Sociology

We thank Ted Buehrer, Professor of Music, and Jaret Treber, Associate Professor of Economics for their service on the CIP Board in 2013-2014.
Joseph Murphy is the Director of the Center for Innovative Pedagogy. He came to Kenyon in 2001 as a Librarian and Technology Consultant, and served as the Director of Information Resources in Library and Information Services from 2006 to 2011. Mr. Murphy holds a master’s degree in Library Science and a bachelor’s degree in English, both from the Catholic University of America. Working with faculty colleagues, Mr. Murphy designs and implements the programming and presentations that connect the CIP to the campus at large and serve as the gateway for introducing faculty to CIP resources.

Jason Bennett is an Instructional Technologist in the Center for Innovative Pedagogy helping faculty to incorporate technology into their courses and supporting student use of curricular technology. He previously served as a Librarian and Technology Consultant at Kenyon College and as a web developer and print designer for the Orbis Media Group. His primary responsibilities include support and training for Kenyon’s course management system, Moodle and web-based projects. Mr. Bennett holds a master’s degree in Library and Information Science from Indiana University, Bloomington, and a bachelor’s degree in History and English from the University of Montevallo.

Karen Gordon is an Instructional Technologist in the Center for Innovative Pedagogy, helping faculty with statistical software packages (SPSS, Minitab, SAS, STATA, etc.), Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access, and assisting faculty and students in finding published datasets for their research. She has worked in different capacities in government facilities, business organizations, and educational institutions as a customer support specialist, a systems analyst, project manager, and a library and technology consultant. Ms. Gordon holds a master’s degree in Library Science and a bachelor’s degree in Computer Information Systems, and received the 2005–06 Louise Giles scholarship from the American Library Association.

Eric Holdener is an Assistant Professor of Physics and Scientific Computing and an Instructional Technologist in the Center for Innovative Pedagogy. He teaches courses in geology, planetary astronomy, geographic information science (GIS), and paleobiology. As an instructional technologist, Mr. Holdener assists faculty and students with projects involving digital media technologies and with GIS projects utilizing industry-leading GIS software and online mapping applications. Mr. Holdener earned his Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and his bachelor’s degree in Anthropology from Washington University, St. Louis.
The CIP is available as a comfortable meeting space for groups on campus. Please visit http://cip.kenyon.edu/reserving-cip or contact us at cip@kenyon.edu if you’re interested in reserving it, as these groups have:

- The Women’s and Gender Studies program held 2 discussion sessions with their external evaluators in the CIP space in March.
- The Women’s and Gender Studies program held a faculty workshop with Michael O’Rourke on Queer Theory in the CIP space in March.
- The Center for the Study of American Democracy held a breakout discussion with Robert Putnam in the CIP space during their April conference.
- Student Accessibility and Support Services held 2 meetings of their LEARN committee (Linking Educational and Advising Resources and Needs) in the CIP space.

The CIP as a Welcoming Space

Our space is now a much more comfortable environment for meeting and working. We have a conference table with seating for 8, new reading chairs and coffee tables, and high-top tables and chairs.
Upcoming Events

“Pedagogy to Technology – Top Trends Driving Change in Education”
Presented by Greg Rosenbaum, K’10
November 13th, 11:10 AM, Olin Auditorium

Producer of the SXSWedu Conference, Greg Rosenbaum K’10 returns to Kenyon to address some of the most pressing issues in American higher education today, as well as his role in the creation and growth of one of America’s leading education innovation conferences.

Faculty Lunch
The McCoy Chair and the CIP sponsor discussion tables on pedagogy at the monthly faculty lunches. Watch your e-mail for the topic!

October 16
November 13
December 11
February 12
April 9

Writing Happy Hour
Join us for a monthly happy hour on teaching writing! Watch your e-mail for further details!

September 22
October 27
November 17
December 15
January 12
February 23
March 30
April 27

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The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Programming offered by the CIP is sponsored in part by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.