

Future Faculty Focus

THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE VCU PREPARING FUTURE FACULTY (PFF) PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 2011

In this month's Future Faculty Focus...

- Page 1-2– Information from the PFF Program Office
- Page 2-3 – Graduate Student Association
- Page 3-4 – VCU Workshops and Events for Current and Future Members of the Academy
- Page 5-6 – VCU-sponsored social and cultural activities of interest to graduate students
- Page 7-9 – “Tomorrow’s Professor” Postings



From the PFF Program Office

Welcome to the 2011 Spring Semester!!!

The PFF classes being offered this semester are:

GRAD 602 – Teaching, Learning and Technology

GRAD 605, Section 901: Professional Specialty Seminar - Medical, Health, Physical and Life Sciences Section

GRAD 605, Section 905: Professional Specialty Seminar - Social Sciences, Business and Management, Arts and the Humanities

GRAD 606: Spring 2011 (Internship/Externship in Professional Teaching)

The PFF Office wishes everyone a successful semester! Please contact the office with questions about the program whether you are seeking the PFF Program Certificate of Achievement or are just interested in taking specific courses.

THE PFF PROGRAM CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive the PFF Program Certificate of Achievement, students must successfully complete the nine credit hours of PFF Program coursework (detailed below) and submit the electronic portfolio for evaluation. This includes the following:

Successful completion of the core PFF Program courses.

GRAD 601 The Academic Profession : 2-credit hour lecture course (offered in the fall semester, students who entered the program during or prior to Fall 2009 semester will substitute the one-credit hour GRAD 601 and one-credit hour GRAD 604 course for this requirement)

GRAD 602 Teaching, Learning and Technology in Higher Education: 2-credit hour lecture course (offered in the spring semester)

GRAD 603 Responsible Conduct of Research*
1-credit hour lecture course (8-week short course, offered in the fall semester)

GRAD 605 Professional Specialty Seminar
1-credit hour seminar course (8-week short course, offered in the spring semester)

Successful completion of a 3-credit hour mentored capstone experience.

GRAD 606 Internship/Externship in Professional Teaching: Offered in fall, spring and summer semesters). Prerequisites are GRAD 601, GRAD 602, GRAD 603, and GRAD 605.

Submission and evaluation of the electronic portfolio (see details on the PFF Program website: <http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/programs/pff/courses.html>)

* GRAD 603 course requirement - Substitutions are available for postdoctoral scholars and medical students who have completed a comparable credit-bearing course. Contact the PFF Program Office for specific details at pffprogram@vcu.edu.

Upon completion of these requirements, a text comment will be recorded on the student's academic transcript to indicate completion of the PFF Certificate of Achievement. Students and then faculty mentors will be recognized for this accomplishment at a Graduate School event, usually held in the spring semester at the annual Graduate Research Symposium.

Please contact our office with any questions about the PFF Program!

Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) Program, VCU Graduate School

[Web](#) [Blog](#) [Facebook](#)

E-mail: pffprogram@vcu.edu

Phone: 804.827.4544; 804.827.4545

Mail: 1001 Grove Avenue, P.O. Box 843051, Richmond, Virginia 23284

Visit: The Moseley House, Room 203, Monroe Park Campus

Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Upcoming Events Sponsored by the GSA

The next GSA "Meet & Greet" is a Stuffy's Luncheon. This is a great opportunity to meet some of your fellow graduate students!

Monroe Park Campus: Tuesday March 24, 2009 (4pm - 7pm)

MCV Campus: Monday March 23, 2009 (3pm - 6pm)

Graduate Student Organizations (GSO) recognized at VCU

If you are interested in joining a graduate student organization at VCU, please check out the following:

Art History Graduate Student Association (AHGSA)
Business and Development Club
Counselor Education Student Networking Association
Education Leadership Doctoral Student Association
Engineering Graduate Student Association
Graduate Artists Association
Graduate Mechanical Engineering
Graduate Organization of Biology Students
Graduate Writers Association
Guild of Graduate Students
Master of Social Work Student Association
Media Art and Text (MATX)
Organization of Photographic Arts
Society for the Advancement of Psychology
Urban and Regional Planning Student Association

VCU Workshops and Events for Current and Future Members of the Academy

February workshops from the [Center for Teaching Excellence \(CTE\)](#) are listed below. These workshops are open to graduate students! For more information on the workshop topics and to register, click on the topic below. If the hyperlinks are not enabled on your computer, then please visit the [CTE Workshops page](#) to learn more and to register.

February 9, 2011	1:00 pm	Exploring Web Based Communication, Cabell Library
February 10, 2011	1:00 pm	Wimba and Web Conferencing for Instruction, Cabell Library
February 11, 2011	12:00 pm	CTE Brown Bag Lunch: Google Scholar: Friend or Foe?, Harris Hall
February 14, 2011	1:00 pm	The Affective Domain: The Role of Emotions, Attitudes, and Motivation in Teaching and Learning, Harris Hall
February 18, 2011	12:00 pm	CTE Brown Bag Lunch: Bridging Academics and Real Life: Service Learning @ VCU, Harris Hall
February 21, 2011	2:00 pm	Assignments and Grade Center in New Blackboard 9, Cabell Library
February 24, 2011	9:00 am	Engaging Students in their Learning, Harris Hall
February 25, 2011	12:00 pm	CTE Brown Bag Lunch: the Courage to Teach: Is there a Moral Imperative in the Profession?, Harris Hall
February 28, 2011	2:00 pm	Online Tests with New Blackboard 9, Cabell Library

[VCU Libraries](#) offer a variety of workshops of interest to graduate students – the spring semester workshops are listed below for this month. For more information on the workshop topics, please visit <http://www.library.vcu.edu/events/>. Some workshops/events require you to **register**, so be sure to sign-in to the website and check the specific topic of interest. You can always visit the [VCU Library Events and Classes page](#) or go to the [VCU Training website](#) to search for other events that may be of interest. *The information listed here is directly from the sponsoring office.

February 9, 2011	12:00 pm	Film Screening: Partners of the Heart , Hunton Student Center
February 10, 2011	12:00 pm	Introduction to Searching CINAHL , Tompkins-McCaw Library
February 10, 2011	7:00 pm	VCU Libraries Black History Month Lecture , Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
February 15, 2011	12:00 pm	Brown Bag Lunch: Discovering VCU's Research Resources , Tompkins-McCaw Library
February 16, 2011	12:00 pm	PubMed , Tompkins-McCaw Library
February 17, 2011	12:00 pm	Finding Medical Images , Tompkins-McCaw Library Monday
February 21, 2011	12:00 pm	Library Orientation , Tompkins-McCaw Library
February 22, 2011	12:00 pm	Advanced PubMed , Tompkins-McCaw Library
February 25, 2011	2:00 pm	Minority Health Conference Internet Broadcast , Tompkins-McCaw Library

The [VCU Office of Research](#) offers training opportunities, events and pertinent deadline announcements throughout the year. The events listing for February are listed below. Please visit the [Office of Research Events and Deadlines page](#) at <http://www.research.vcu.edu/events/index.htm> for more information on participation.

February 23, 2011	11:30 am	Focus on Social-Behavioral Research: Working with the IRB Oliver Hall - Education
February 25, 2011	12:00 pm	4th Friday Research Coordinator Lunch & Learn: TBA Sanger Hall
February 28, 2011	11:30 am	Focus on Biomedical Research: Working with the IRB Sanger Hall

Remember that you can explore VCU by using the A to Z directory located at <http://atoz.vcu.edu/>.

Placing Announcements in Future Faculty Focus

Does your department or office offer workshops, seminars, or other activities of interest to graduate students and individuals interested in academic careers? E-mail our office at pffprogram@vcu.edu at least one month before the event to see if an announcement can be placed in Future Faculty Focus!

VCU-sponsored Social, Personal Development, Arts and Popular Culture Events of Interest to Graduate Students

Here are some events that you might be interested in checking out in **February**. Take a break and enjoy what is being offered around campus.

Performances:

VCU Department of Dance & Choreography

VCU Dance NOW will feature a reconstruction of *Shelter*, an American Masterpiece choreographed by Urban Bush Women's founder and Artistic Director Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Zollar choreographed *Shelter*, a dance for six women, in 1988. In a 1990 review in *The New York Times*, Jennifer Dunning wrote: "Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's 'Shelter,' the program's closing number, drew the audience to its feet in a tumultuous roar of applause. The group dance, an excerpt from 'Heat,' takes a look at the homeless. It is so filled with compassion and anger that it becomes a powerful incantation against the evils of obliviousness and neglect."

In addition, new works by guest artist Stefanie Batten Bland, and VCU Dance faculty Martha Curtis, James Frazier, Scott Putman, Melanie Richards, Judith Steel, and Christian von Howard will be included on the program.

When: Thursday, Friday & Saturday, February 17, 18 & 19, 2011 at 8:00 pm

Where: Grace Street Theater, 934 West Grace Street, Richmond, Virginia.

Cost: Tickets are \$20/\$15 students, and may be reserved at www.showclix.com or by calling 804-828-2020.

Lectures:

Career Seminar for Graduate Students and Postdocs

The VCU Postdoctoral Association is proud to host a seminar by John Ryan, Professor of Biology: "The Problem is Your IQ: Why Smart People Can't Sell Ideas," on communication and organization skills that you wish you knew before you started your job in scientific research or academia. The seminar and question and answer session will be held on Monday, Feb. 14, at 12:30 p.m. in the Thalheimer conference room in the Massey Cancer Center.

For additional information please contact:

Amy J. Hawkins
hawkinsaj@vcu.edu

Postdoctoral researcher in the laboratory of
Dr. Kristoffer Valerie, Radiation Oncology
Virginia Commonwealth University
(804) 828-9085

Workshops:

Writing Center Workshops

The following workshops are offered Mondays/Thursdays and Tuesdays/Wednesdays until February 11, 2011. All workshops last approximately 50 minutes and are held in Hibbs Hall, Room B16 (in the basement). No registration is required.

Mondays at 11am and Thursdays at 11am.	<u>Frankenstein for Writing Projects: Reviving lifeless papers with topics you care about.</u>
Tuesdays at 2pm and Wednesdays at 11am.	<u>Take Aim on Your Research Project: Developing questions that bring your research into the crosshairs.</u>

Frankenstein for Writing Projects: Reviving lifeless papers with topics you care about

Workshop led by Brigette Pugh and Christopher Schoen

Ever been given a writing assignment so open-ended you have no direction? Your professor tells you to “write about something we’ve discussed in class. 4-6 pages. Due Monday.” Argh. For many of us, assignments like these make us feel like we’re looking into a void; how are you supposed to find a topic in that? Our impulse is often to write about what we think is important or “academic” instead of something we feel passionate about. But what we generally end up with are lifeless papers that we don’t care about, and the prospect of writing and revising these papers feels about as impossible as raising the dead. This workshop will focus on how to avoid these dead papers and why they happen in the first place. We’ll discuss ways to reanimate your writing by finding topics that actually matter – topics that interest both you and your readers.

Take Aim on Your Research Project: Developing questions that bring your research into the crosshairs

Workshop led by Stephanie Walker and Jasmina Lizalovic.

Most of us start research projects in pretty much the same way: with a vague idea of a topic that interests us and a fuzzy mental picture of the big issues surrounding it. To move forward, however, we need more direction. We have to zoom in on that topic so that we have a target and destination to guide our research. A strong research question can give us something to aim towards as we begin doing research, but turning a topic into a question isn’t always easy. This workshop will focus on the transition from broad topics to targeted research questions. We’ll discuss what makes a good research question, ways to develop one, and what to do once you have one, targeting your research process and bringing your ideas into the crosshairs.

[VCU Recreational Sports](#) offers a number of exciting outdoor recreational opportunities. Visit the recreational sports website for some fun and challenging opportunities!

<http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/>

“Tomorrow’s Professor” Postings

Each month we showcase postings on four diverse topics related to faculty issues, teaching and learning, and scholarship from the multi-organization sponsored “Tomorrow’s Professor” postings program. Each posting is listed with Dr. Rick Reis’s selected quotation introduction as well as his own introduction, and the title. This introduction will provide you with background necessary to decide if you want to read the whole posting. To read the full posting, simply follow the link provided. To learn more about “Tomorrow’s Professor” in general, please visit <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/postings.php>. There are almost 1,000 postings. To learn more about Dr. Reis, visit his website: <http://ctl.stanford.edu/Tomprof/reis.html>. We hope that you enjoy this month’s postings and that you find the information to be useful to you during your academic journey!

Tomorrow's Professor msg.#903 Motivation for Leadership

"I thrive on challenge. I thrive on doing different things all of the time. I like variety. I like trying to work through and find solutions to things and figuring out your way through issues. I like to help make things happen."

Folks

The posting below looks at the top motivations for leading based on interviews conducted with women university presidents. It is from Chapter 9, Leadership Motivation, Styles, and Philosophies, in the book, *On Becoming a Woman Leader: Learning from the Experiences of University Presidents*, by Susan R. Madsen. Published by Jossey-Bass, A Wiley Imprint. Fourth Edition. Copyright © 2008 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved. 989 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-1741 .

Rick Reis
reis@stanford.edu

Tomorrow's Professor Msg.#920 Give Students a Compass: Can General Education Rise to the Challenge?

"Even as we face these chronic problems, there really are strong reasons for hope. The ultimate question for general education today is: what's the purpose? For a very long time, the main purpose has seemed to be the provision of content coverage through required survey courses in various "distribution" categories. Distribution was the latest thing in 1911, and it should embarrass us all that it remains so dominant a design a full century later. But even as the distribution strategy continues to predominate, many campuses have developed general education purposes and programs that are much more vibrantly attuned to the contemporary world. The Compass project will draw directly from these veins of educational creativity."

Folks:

The posting below looks at an interesting new project on the design and practice of general education. It is by Carol Geary Schneider, president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, [AC&U] in an article that appeared in *Liberal Education*, Vol. 94, No. 3 Summer, 2008 [<http://www.aacu.org/liberaleducation>] ©2009, AAC&U. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

Regards,

Rick reis

reis@stanford.edu

Tomorrow's Professor msg.#955 An Orals Survival Kit

"It is like standing in front of a firing squad. Your executioners are four professors who are experts in their fields. You writhe before them as they take turns posing questions almost beyond your grasp. The threat hangs constantly over your head: Fail to satisfy them, and your graduate career will end. "

Folks:

The posting below looks give some terrific advice on preparing for your Ph.D orals exam. It is by Eric Hallstein, Michael Kiparsky, and Anne Short, doctoral candidates in the energy and resources group, an interdisciplinary graduate program at the University of California at Berkeley. The posting originally appeared in the May 15, 2009 Chronicle Careers section [<http://chronicle.com/jobs/news/2009/05/2009051501c.htm>] of the Chronicle of Higher Education [<http://chronicle.com/>]. Copyright © 2009 by The Chronicle of Higher Education. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

Regards,

Rick Reis

reis@stanford.edu

Tomorrow's Professor msg.#1025: Why Performance Management Should Matter in Academia

"Performance management processes and practices are often viewed as ineffective or not applicable in higher learning institutions, because they typically center on the employee performance appraisal. But the performance appraisal is only one small part of good performance management. In addition to performance appraisals, good performance management should also include goal management, competency development, peer reviews, development planning, and talent profiles. In academic circles, it's often these other components that offer the greatest value."

Folks:

The posting below is a look at some industry management practices that can have application in academia as well. It is by Sean Conrad, a senior product analyst at Halogen Software <http://www.halogensoftware.com/> and is reprinted with permission.

Regards,

Rick Reis

reis@stanford.edu

