



**CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE NEWSLETTER  
FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY  
SEPTEMBER 2007**

**CTEAG** membership: John O'Rorke (POSC), Jodi Welsch (EDUC), Tom Hawk (MGMT), Tracy Edwards (GEOG) and Jim Limbaugh (Provost Office).

Got any ideas for up coming issues? Want to contribute a piece? Got any questions for us? Please feel free to contact any member of the CTEAG.

**Something to Think About:** "Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions. And the actions which speak louder than the words. It is making the time when there is none. Coming through time after time after time, year after year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism." - Anonymous -

**The Teaching Excellence Pledge**  
By John O'Rorke (POSC)



Forty three people signed the Teaching Excellence Pledge (see below) last semester. This was a great start, especially since we only began soliciting signatures at the end of the semester. But, we are back at it. The Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Group (CTEAG) is soliciting more signatures for the Teaching Excellence Pledge this semester. The pledge is a simple, straightforward commitment to remind each of us in the teaching field that effective learning depends upon effective teaching, and effective teaching is in itself a learning experience. We all have good teaching practices; but there's always room for improvement. Standards and requirements in the field have changed. What once worked may not work now with the "millennial student." The Pledge is a personal commitment to place student learning at the forefront of our efforts to keep these things in mind and work to improve those areas that could be improved.

Some of those who signed last term also attended the CTEAG's 1<sup>st</sup> Day Workshop during the T.A.S.T.E. presentations and have tried new ways to start up the semester. Others have introduced elements that help gauge and respond to the different learning styles of the students in their courses. Some have introduced different types of "assessment" tools into their classes. Some have "jumped in with both feet" and others have "just gotten their toes wet." Either way, they are making the pledge a living, personal commitment.

Care to join us? Send an e-mail to John O'Rorke, POSC, [jororke@frostburg.edu](mailto:jororke@frostburg.edu) and your name will be added to the pledge list.



During the spring semester CTEAG will host a reception/presentation during which teachers will have a chance to mingle with others who are working to promote teaching and learning on campus and listen to/share their experiences with implementing the pledge.

*"Teaching Excellence is a journey, not a destination."*

**I pledge to strive to be a better participant in the learning process. As a teacher, I pledge to try at least one new technique, approach or activity in each of my courses. When I review the results of my activities and strategies in the classroom, I pledge to focus on learning. I will not ask "How did I do?" Rather, I will ask "Are they learning from what I am doing? What can I do differently to encourage them to learn 'better'?"**

**FSU Summer Collaborative Efforts**  
By Tracy Edwards (GEOG)

FSU offers a variety of summer educational opportunities to state and area students and teachers. Here are just a few examples from this summer:

Twenty-one Maryland science teachers attended TOPPS (Training Opportunities in Physics and Physical Science), organized by Dr. Francis Tam. This program provided resources to allow middle and high school teachers to upgrade their content knowledge and to incorporate technology in the classroom, with a focus on improving teaching in the area of Kinematics and Newton's Laws. Funding came from the Maryland Higher Education Commission through its Improving Teacher Quality Program.

Nine Allegany County Earth / Space Science teachers attended the Professional Development for Earth / Space Science Teachers workshop. This workshop resulted from a partnership between the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the College of Education, with representatives from the Allegany County school systems. The general objective of the workshop was to develop hands-on lessons that fit with the Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC) which drives Earth/Space Science instruction in the state of Maryland, to be taken back and used in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. FSU faculty participants will also follow up with the teachers in the classroom this Fall to assess the effectiveness of the lesson seeds as they are put to use in classroom instruction.

The GEAR-up program, organized by David Webb and Frank Peto, and the Regional Math and Science Center, under the direction of Rita Hegemen, sponsored some wonderful programs for local students.

Did you participate in a collaborative learning/teaching experience this summer? Would you be willing to share your experiences with us and the FSU campus? We'd love to hear from you. Please send info about your experiences to Tracy Edwards, [tedwards@frostburg.edu](mailto:tedwards@frostburg.edu).

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**FOR OCTOBER- "MEASURING LEARNING STYLES" BY TOM HAWK**

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.FROSTBURG.EDU/ADMIN/CTE](http://WWW.FROSTBURG.EDU/ADMIN/CTE) - IT IS STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE ALL CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS, CRITICISMS, SUGGESTIONS AND ADVICE ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE WEBSITE, THE NEWSLETTER OR OF THE SERVICES WE ARE (OR CAN) OFFER TO THE CAMPUS.**



**KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN THIS SEMESTER FOR MORE TRAINING SESSIONS AND OUR WORK ON DEVELOPING A MENTORING PROGRAM FOR NEW TEACHERS ...**