

Spring 2006 Calendar

-Thursday Feb. 2

Maria Cruz-Saco, Dean of the College, will talk about how she envisions the role of her office and its relation to the faculty, library and academic staff.

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-Monday Feb. 6

Using teaching assistants and course assistants: What do they do? --Our discussants will be Anne Greene (Director of Writing Programs), Paula Lawson (Associate Provost), and David Westmoreland (Chemistry). Other faculty members who have used, or are thinking of using, undergraduates as TA's or CA's are welcome to share their experiences.

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-Thursday Feb. 16

Clickers and On-line Quizzing with Jolee West --A First Semester Report on the Use of "Clickers" A wireless polling system was purchased over the summer through a Fund for Innovation Grant. The system, as used in a classroom, consists of a radio frequency receiver hooked up to the instructor's computer, transmitters used by the students to submit answers to multiple choice questions posed by the instructor, and software that aggregates the responses and displays results as a graph. In the system we purchased, the polling software works with Microsoft Powerpoint. A faculty panel will discuss their experiences using the system during the Fall semester.

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-Monday Feb. 20

Avoiding the BlackBoard (and PowerPoint) swamp: light and flexible tools for classroom and online discussion --Our presenter will be Elise Springer (Philosophy), who has provided the following description of what she plans to talk about: "Having found BlackBoard discouragingly cumbersome, and suspecting that there are better ways to foster online discussion, I have explored a couple of alternatives in recent semesters. I'll offer a tour of my current course sites, which are based on a cutting-edge open-source forum tool. This is not "course management" software, but it is refreshingly flexible for exchange of materials, information, and ideas. My TA even called our site 'fun'! I will also discuss my experiences seeking ways to sharpen classroom dialogue with non-linear presentation tools, again using software that is less specialized and feature-intensive than PowerPoint, but in some ways more responsive and interactive. I expect discussion will focus not only on the particular solutions I have been trying, but on how software can play a role in liberal arts courses that is not simply 'dissemination' of information, but enabling focused discussion."

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-Thursday March 2

Publishing in Academic Journals --Among the questions that we may consider are: how to assess manuscripts; how to find appropriate referees; assembling thematic issues; the role of journals in the academic process of promotion and tenure; the brave new world of electronic publishing. Our discussants will include Brian Fay (Philosophy -- "History and Theory"); Michael Roberts (Classical Studies -- "Traditio"); Khachig Tololyan (English - - "Diaspora"); Andrew Szegedy-Maszak (Classical Studies / CFCD -- "History of Photography").

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-Monday March 6

Key Caps --The first of two sessions to talk about what has been accomplished so far. Among the capabilities to be discussed at this session are "interpretation" and "intercultural literacy" and "effective citizenship," whose liaisons are, respectively Katherine Kuenzli (Art History) and Ethan Kleinberg (History and COL) and Krishna Winston (German). Other discussants will include Don Moon (Government, Dean of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Programs) and Mike Roy (ITS, Director of Academic Computing).

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-Thursday March 30

Key Caps We will have another A(T)R devoted to a discussion of key capabilities, this time to be: writing, quantitative reasoning, designing/creating/realizing, ethical reasoning, and information literacy. Discussants will include Andy Curran (RL&L), Don Moon (Government, Dean of Division 2, Chair of the Key Capabilities task force), Mike Roy (Director of Academic Computing), and Barbara Jones (University Librarian).

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-Monday April 3

Teaching And Research --We will consider the relation between teaching and scholarship. For example: how often does one have the opportunity to teach the material one writes about? Are there more indirect reciprocal influences between the two activities? Our discussants will include Mike Singer (Biology), Gil Skillman (Economics), Gay Smith (Theater) and Elizabeth Willis (English).

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-Thursday April 13

Dartmouth Libraries on Using Blackboard --Speaker: Susan Fliss, Dartmouth College Library. On many campuses Blackboard is creating a familiar and comfortable learning environment for students and faculty. What are the opportunities to provide students access to library information resources within this online environment? How can librarians support faculty teaching and student learning in this online environment as well as in the physical classroom? Are there possibilities of interoperability between library online resources and tools and Blackboard? Join us for a discussion of the potential for faculty-student-librarian-IT collaboration within Blackboard.

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-Monday April 17

Magda Teter on her "Early Modern Workshop" --"Early Modern Workshop: Resources in Jewish History" is an innovative project that bridges scholarly and pedagogic goals through technology. The Early Modern Workshop project provides a space for the interaction and exchange between faculty engaged in the study and teaching of Jewish history in the early modern period (ca. 15th-18th centuries). It has compiled a database of primary texts and video lectures for use in the classroom and for research, all made available for free to students, scholars, and teachers through the web (<http://www.earlymodern.org>).