

FD Podcast – 5/1/06

Hello and welcome to the Faculty Development Podcast #19.

I'm Jean Kent, the Faculty Development Coordinator and today I have lots of announcements and another story about "educasting" (that's educational podcasting) from the AACU Conference on Learning and Technology.

Here's the first announcement. Next Monday, May 8th, is the deadline for submitting a Faculty Development Grant application for a 2005 – 2006 academic year professional development activity. Your activity must take place in May and you'll need to complete your grant report and claim paperwork by June 15th so your reimbursement comes out of this year's budget. And, don't forget that the maximum award for an Individual Grant is \$450!

If you plan to attend a professional development activity in June, July, August, September, or early October, you should submit your application by the June 13th deadline and it will be considered a 2006 – 2007 academic year grant. The Faculty Development Advisory Committee will be establishing the maximum award amounts for next year in early June and I'll announce them through email and my podcasts as soon as they are set.

This spring Faculty Development is sponsoring a speaker's series. The first presentation on Wednesday, May 10th, will be given by David Levy a professor in the Information School at the University of Washington. He'll be talking about information and the quality of life. He is concerned that the 24/7 torrent of media and information that has become a way of life for many of us is upsetting our balance. He'll argue that the contemplative dimension of life offers us a way to begin rectifying the current state of affairs. He'll be speaking at Seattle Central Campus in the Library from 2:30 – 4:30 and I've heard rave reviews about his message. I hope many of you will take the time to attend.

On Wednesday, May 18th, Chaplain James Yee, former Muslim chaplain in the army who was accused of spying and then was completely exonerated, will be speaking at Seattle Central in room 4106 from 1:30 – 2:30. Annie Galarosa, a counselor from Seattle Central, has been instrumental in arranging this and Chaplain Yee will be discussing his time at Guantanamo Bay as well as his book, *For God And Country: Faith and Patriotism Under Fire*.

The final speaker, Mike Eisenberg who's also from the Information School at the University of Washington, will speak Wednesday, May 31 from 2:30 – 4:30 at the Seattle Central Campus library. He'll be talking about information overload, personal information management and the essential information and technology skills that our students need. I think Eisenberg's presentation will provide a good preview of the Information Literacy Immersion that the district librarians are organizing for September

12 – 14th. I'm told he is a very dynamic speaker and, again, I hope many of you will take the time to attend his lecture.

I'm also pleased to announce the District Summer Institute is a go this year! It will be held at South campus on Tuesday, August 22 till noon on Friday, August 25th. The focus will be on developing rich media instructional materials like digital videos, podcasts, and blogs. More and more research is pointing to improved learning using instructional materials that support multiple learning styles and engage the new generation of students.

New this year, we'll be rewarding participants with technology tools rather than stipends which can be whittled away to almost nothing after taxes and benefits are deducted. A variety of tools will be given out including thumb drives, MP3 players, headsets with microphones, etc. We'll be selecting 20 full and part time faculty from across the district as participants after a competitive selection process. Applications will be available by Friday, May 12 and the submission deadline will be Monday, June 5.

Finally, I want to share an edcasting story from the Learning and Technology Conference last month. The professor of the IT 101 class I mentioned in last week's podcast started podcasting his class during Fall semester. Each week he asked how many students listened to the daily podcasts. The first week almost all the students listened. The second week, there was an outbreak of food poisoning in the dining commons which caused several students to miss class and they relied on the podcast to keep up on what was covered in class. After the third week, fewer and fewer students were listening to them, however, and the professor held a reverse auction to find out the optimum length for his podcasts. When all was said and done, the students said 5 – 7 minutes was all they wanted to listen to.

The professor decided to turn this into a learning opportunity for his students who were asked to pair up, pick a day, and create a 5 – 10 minute podcast that would cover the most important part of that day's class. The result was a series of short podcasts, produced by students that captured the most important content and then they were made available to everyone via a podcast. His students were thrilled to learn more about podcasting – which they had to do on their own, and he was able to integrate liberal learning outcomes like problem solving, team work, and critical thinking into the class. I thought this was worth sharing.

Last but not least, I'll be attending the Pacific Northwest Teaching and Learning Conference in Vancouver Washington this Wednesday through Friday so I'll be out of the office till Monday, May 8th.

Well, that's it for this podcast. Thanks for listening and tune in next week for another Faculty Development podcast.