The Center for Teaching Excellence collaborates with faculty to foster personal wellbeing and create a learning community that facilitates innovative, high-quality teaching and learning.

Events Overview

The CTE coordinates a variety of events featuring topics relating to faculty members in any stage of their career. We welcome every faculty member to participate in events of interest. Faculty may volunteer to present on topics of interest to their colleagues, and suggestions are always welcome.

- **Lunch & Learn Series**
  Each semester the CTE plans a series of lunch sessions to focus on learning and provide ways to improve teaching. This series is a group of programs by faculty and staff for faculty on various topics of pedagogical interest. Attending one or more is a great opportunity to associate with faculty members across the disciplines here at UCA.

- **Learning Communities & Book Groups**
  Each semester the CTE invites interdisciplinary faculty to participate in learning communities and/or book discussion groups. Faculty members meet regularly to discuss a chosen topic or book and how it can inform their teaching.

- **Teaching Observation Partners (TOP)**
  In an effort to encourage professional growth and to foster dialogue about teaching, the CTE developed TOP. This program begins with an orientation session for participants followed by pairing of faculty members to conduct classroom observations and provide non-evaluative peer feedback.

- **Teaching Portfolio Workshop**
  The Teaching Portfolio Workshop offers an opportunity to learn how to construct a portfolio to document one's teaching. Writing and discussion exercises provide a starting point for the portfolio development process. This three-hour session will help faculty prepare the teaching portion of their advancement, promotion and/or tenure application.

- **Instructional Consultations**
  Faculty who wish to analyze their teaching behaviors and implement changes may request assistance. Consultations are personal, voluntary, and can be confidential. Feedback obtained from classroom visits, videotaping, and/or student interviews is the property of the individual faculty member and is independent of performance review. Contact one of the CTE’s Faculty Consultants to schedule a consultation.

- **Video Recording**
  Individual faculty members may make arrangements to be video recorded. Recordings help sharpen teaching skills and offer a chance to view one’s teaching from a student’s perspective. Recordings become the property of the individual faculty member and are independent of performance review. Contact the CTE to schedule a recording.

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Instructional Technology Consultations
The CTE provides an instructional technologist and instructional designers to collaborate with faculty to brainstorm and answer questions related to technology use, course design, and other instructional technology needs.

Instructional Technology Workshops
The CTE offers various seminars for faculty members seeking to improve their skills with using instructional technologies. This can include various Blackboard tools, Respondus, Tegrity, SMART products, PowerPoint, and more. In addition, the CTE also offers training and support for online teaching to include both the design and delivery process.

New Faculty Orientation & Adjunct Academy
The CTE coordinates a two-day, pre-semester New Faculty Orientation for new, full-time faculty to help them become familiar with the campus and meet colleagues. There is an additional evening orientation, Adjunct Academy, developed around the unique needs of adjunct faculty. Through these events, new faculty will gain knowledge of instructional and student support services available on campus as well as develop a connection to the UCA community.

Teaching Matters @ UCA Blog
Join with faculty from across the UCA campus in a weekly discussion about Teaching Matters @ UCA. Faculty members are invited from each college to prepare posts about a variety of teaching topics throughout the fall and spring semesters. Join the discussion today at http://TeachingMattersatUCA.wordpress.com!

Faculty Media Library
The CTE houses a library of books and DVDs on a variety of instructional and student-related topics especially for UCA faculty. There are videos, over 500 books, sample exemplary teaching portfolios, and more for faculty use. The CTE is always open to suggestions for new materials to incorporate as well.

Recognition for Achievement Program
Faculty are invited to participate in a specialized track of CTE programs targeted to promote growth in a particular area of teaching. The goals of the Recognition for Achievement program are to encourage ongoing instructional growth in teaching effectiveness, guide faculty members through a systematic faculty development process, and provide a campus-wide distinction of rigorous professional development related to teaching. Learn more at http://uca.edu/cte/recognition/.

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