“FACET advocates pedagogical innovation….”
excerpt from FACET Mission

From the desk of Robin

When I was first admitted to FACET, Eileen Bender was director. Under her guidance, FACET had grown to an exciting and vibrant organization that I was proud to join. During that first Retreat, I discovered a community of talented faculty who were dedicated to excellence in teaching; every FACET member I met generously offered me their expertise and encouragement. Although I am continuing to learn, the FACET community has assisted me in developing my excellence in the classroom, leadership skills, and efforts in the scholarship of teaching and learning (SOTL); becoming a Mack Fellow was a significant impetus to my SOTL activities. FACET directors have changed over the years but the camaraderie offered by the FACET community and the focus on excellence in teaching has not. During the next few months, I will be spending a great deal of time learning from each of you. As part of that learning process, I hope to make a visit to each campus, hopefully in conjunction with a FACET-sponsored campus event. I would love to hear your ideas about ways to improve FACET, either during these campus visits or by simply sending me an email. With this newsletter, we will be highlighting innovative ideas, challenges confronting educators, and the opportunities for continuing development for all faculty interested in advocating for excellence in teaching.

Teaching Innovations

A recent Chronicle of Higher Education article by Jeffrey R. Young (2011, January 2) highlighted six Smartphone applications (apps) currently being tried by professors. David Reed, professor of computer science at Capital University in Ohio, for example, has created the app Attendance, being sold on iTunes. This app allows faculty to take attendance and can help faculty learn student names by creating flashcards of their students with pictures. Several professors have created apps for smartphone interfaces that invite the public to add structured data to an online database. Many professors are also creating their lectures using “mind mapping” software that “encourages arranging thoughts and ideas in nonlinear diagrams.” See the full article at: http://chronicle.com/article/6-Top-Smartphone-Apps-to/125764/#top

Quick Hits: Call for Submissions

What are you doing with technology to ease your burdens, allow you and your students to be more productive, and improve student learning? What has worked and what has failed in your classroom in regards to technology? More importantly, what was your version 2.0 on those failures? Consider submitting your teaching successes (and failures) using technology to the upcoming Quick Hits: Teaching with Technology. The first round of submissions is currently under review but we will be accepting a second round of submissions until March 1, 2011. You can contact the FACET office for complete information on the call for submissions.

Campus Updates

February 11, 2011: Craig Nelson (’89), along with many others, will be speaking at IU Bloomington’s Indiana Memorial Union, in the Tree Suite Lounge. This FACET sponsored event runs from 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM and lunch will be provided.

February 25, 2011: The Edward C. Moore Symposium, a FACET co-sponsored event, will be held from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM on the IUPUI campus in CE 450.

March 31 from 5 - 7 PM and April 1, 2011 from 8:30 - 10 AM: The Statewide FACET office is one of the co-sponsors of Keith Sawyer on the IUPUI campus. He will present two separate talks titled, “Creativity: The Science Behind Ideas and Collaboration” and “Educating for Innovation”, respectively. This event is open to ALL FACET membership.

April 15, 2011: IU South Bend will host the 12th Annual Midwest Regional Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

April 26, 2011: IU Southeast will host their 5th Annual FACET Faculty Feast, celebrating the professional milestones of local FACETeers.

May 20 - 22, 2011: 23rd Annual FACET Retreat located at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre in downtown Indianapolis. The Steering Committee will meet on May 19th prior to the retreat.

Please see the calendar on the FACET website or the campus liaison for more details on these events.