Regardless of your fondness for Valentine’s Day, the holiday allows us to focus on those things we love. For FACET members, teaching is one of our passions. For this month’s newsletter, I asked several FACET members to share what they love about teaching. This column is too short to include all of their comments but here are a few.

- Gwynn Mettetal (IUSB, class of 1994) expressed her love of teaching with her favorite quote from Katherine Graham, “To love what you do and know that it matters, what could be more fun?”
- Ange Cooksey (IUE, class of 2011) contributed the following, “Teaching and learning are my constant companions, my profession, my life’s work. Students are the heart of what I do and in the soul of all I know. When I interviewed for this Lecturer’s position so many years and months ago, I told the Search and Screen committee that when most people think of love or passion, they think of a person, place or thing; when I think of love…when I think of passion…I think of teaching and learning. Seven years and seventy-seven classes later, I feel the same.”
- Jon Becker (IUN, class of 2002) shared, “I love to learn…and I have learned more about life from teaching my students than I ever did when I was the “student.”

I would challenge each of you to think about your own passion for teaching that led you to join FACET. Reignite that passion by attending FACET events or working with us on a FACET project.

In the fall of 2012, I was awarded the Bender FACET Faculty Fellowship. As many of you know, the Bender FACET Fellow Program prepares FACET members to gain a greater understanding of the system-wide impact of FACET by working on a specified project at the statewide level in cooperation with the FACET statewide office. The ongoing project that I am working on involves bringing together new faculty from the IU campuses either physically or electronically or both in order to facilitate networking across campuses and to illuminate the resources and advantages of being a faculty member in the IU system.

Due to feasibility and costs, we have decided to utilize electronic media for the first phase of the project that involves networking and resources. For the purposes of networking, a LinkedIn site has been developed and all new IU faculty members this fall 2013 semester were invited to join the site through information sent to the Center for Teaching and Learning Directors on each campus. For purposes of illuminating resources, we are currently collecting and writing information about IU system-wide resources to be placed online through a linked page on the FACET website. Information for IU system-wide resources including Grants, Online Education, International Travel, Service Learning, Peer Evaluation, etc. will be available for all faculty members but marketed to new faculty members. We hope this information will be useful to new faculty members and further highlight the advantages of being faculty in the IU system.

Would you like to have your FACET sponsored or teaching related event highlighted on the FACET calendar? Please send requests to the FACET office at facet@iu.edu. The calendar can be viewed here: https://facet.indiana.edu/events-programs/index.shtml