

## **Enhancement of Faculty Teaching Skills and Advising (plus TAs)**

### Activities university-wide

Since the demise of the University Center for Excellence in Teaching (UCET) a few years ago, there is little provided by UF in the way of faculty development for the enhancement of teaching and learning. There are several web pages in the Faculty Development section of the Provost's website under the heading of "Teacher-Scholar Development" <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/facdev/develop/index.shtml>. I'm not sure of the origin of these materials.

There are also a few links to Teaching Centers at other institutions.

For the past three years, the Provost's office has sponsored one-day Advisors Workshop. This professional development opportunity focuses on strategies for effective academic advising and is open to faculty and staff involved in academic advising. The workshop is coordinated by the Undergraduate Advising Council (there are probably some data on attendance for previous ones, I've copied information I just received from this fall below).

### Activities in CALS

CALS has provided its faculty with an annual one-day Teaching Enhancement Symposium since 2001. This symposium includes sessions on teaching methods, professional development, and student mentoring. Faculty, advising staff, and graduate students actively participate in the symposium, which has a typical attendance of 200-250. Feedback on sessions is consistently high (I can pull together specific data, but probably not by Tuesday).

CALS also has a Teaching Resource Center housed in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication. The TRC assists with programming for the Teaching Enhancement Symposium as well as provides workshops on teaching/learning/advising topics. Recent workshops have included Peer Observation and Writing a Philosophy Statement (I can dig out more and specific participation information, again not by Tuesday). The TRC will also consult with individual faculty and has a library of resources available. <http://aec.ifas.ufl.edu/trc/>.

CALS and the TRC have begun a program to support new faculty (and other interested faculty) called Teacher's College. The purpose of Teacher's College is to assist faculty members in IFAS seeking to improve their teaching skills, and engage as a community of practice around learner-centered teaching. The topics to be addressed in the course include principles and practices utilized in the spectrum of responsibilities of teaching faculty, beginning from developing a teaching philosophy to designing effective assessments and reflecting on practice.

Dean Barrick has started a series of Teaching Tips posted on the CALS website: [http://www.cals.ufl.edu/cals\\_solutions/teaching\\_tips.shtml](http://www.cals.ufl.edu/cals_solutions/teaching_tips.shtml).