

The Roy and Marnie Pearce Center for Professional Communication

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Pearce Center Partners with American Association of Higher Education

The American Association for Higher Education Assessment Research Forum and the Pearce Center are co-sponsoring the *National Research Coalition on Electronic Portfolio Learning*. For each of the next three years, a group of up to 10 institutions will collaborate on research projects that explore and document the learning encouraged through electronic portfolios. Specifically, colleagues from across the country will have the opportunity to (1) identify key questions about the impact of eportfolios on learning, (2) determine appropriate methodologies for pursuing answers to these questions, and (3) implement and report the research.

Institutions are being invited to apply now; applications are due in December, and successful applicants will be announced in January. At that time, we will begin an annual cycle, with the initial planning meeting held at the AAHE Assessment Conference in June. The follow up meeting will then be on the Clemson campus in the new Studio.

We anticipate exploring many issues related to portfolios, including the role that multi-media play in learning, and ways that these new compositions are read and evaluated.

Walk About the Studio

The Pearce Center invites all faculty to sign up for a tour of the Class of 1941 Studio for Student Communication. Over the next several weeks, we will be conducting "Studio Walk-Abouts," or tours of the 4000 square foot Studio space. We'll spend 30 minutes escorting small groups through the space, pointing out the facilities that will be available --from "wall wizards" to presentation areas--and explaining how we can work with your students. We also hope, of course, that you'll return, too, for one of our many Pearce Center activities.

Walk-About Schedule

Thursday, November 6: 9:00am or 1:00pm

Wednesday, November 12: 10:00am or 3:00pm

Thursday, November 20: 11:00am or 2:00pm

Monday, November 24: 11:30am or 3:00pm

To sign up for a walk-about, please send an email as soon as possible to Melissa Powell at mtidwel@clemson.edu with the date and time you would like to participate.

CAC ALUMNI EVENT SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY

Because we anticipate moving into the new Studio in December and because we want to welcome the campus to the new Studio, we will hold our usual end-of-semester CAC Alumni Event in January. Please mark your calendars now: Monday, JANUARY 26, from 4 to 7.

Later that week, we will also host a Student Open House: on Wednesday, JANUARY 28, from 12 to 5 pm

Please plan to attend one or both events!

Poetry Across the Curriculum

Join thirty of your colleagues from twenty different disciplines in the "Poetry Across the Curriculum" project next semester, Spring 2004. Contact Art Young <apyoung@clemson.edu> by November 14 for more information. We collaborate within this project to enhance our students' critical thinking and *creative* abilities by prompting them to write poetry about the disciplinary subject matter that they are studying. Selected student poems are published in print and on the web.

The **PowerPoint Project** for the 2003-2004 academic year is going strong! We've had three meetings so far this semester and would like to thank the following members for their participation:

Rudy Abramovitch	Jeff Adelberg
Kristi Apostel	Heather Batt
Sherrill Biggers	Sherry Biggers
Gregg Corley	Xiuping Jiang
Denzil Maurice	Barbara Ramirez
Gene Rochester	

In addition, we thank Pearce Team member Michael Neal for working with this group as they explore new ways of thinking about PowerPoint.

Graduate Student Writing Group

As an offshoot of the thesis proposal workshop offered in September, the Pearce Center is pleased to announce a new Graduate Student Writing Group. So far, students from three colleges have signed up to meet for two hours every three weeks and ask questions, share ideas, and get feedback about their writing projects. Most of the students will focus on their theses and dissertations, but some will bring other projects to the group as well. Pearce Team member Summer Smith Taylor, with the help of Michael Neal and Art Young, will facilitate this group, providing structure and assistance as Writing Group members help each other and set writing goals for the semester and beyond.

Students interested in this group should attend the spring Thesis Proposal Workshop in order to join the group next semester. Contact Summer Smith Taylor at smsmith@clemson.edu for more information.

Digital Portfolio News

This semester, the Pearce Center is working on digital portfolios in several ways. Two of our efforts are outlined below.

First, we are working with the Alumni Association to create a set of prizes for the best digital portfolios. Please tell your students to stay tuned for information on how to submit their portfolios to the competition.

Second, the Pearce Center is sponsoring several Digital Portfolio Meetings for faculty interested in collaborating with others on ways to incorporate digital portfolios into their classes.

At the first meeting the groups discussed ways to introduce portfolios and reflection to students. Among the questions posed were: What are some options for introducing portfolios? What are *really good* reflective activities?

At the second meeting, the groups discussed possible exhibits for the portfolios and the use of student models of portfolios to help students understand what's possible.

At the third meeting, the groups will discuss scoring criteria and guides as well as the final reflection piece. This meeting will be offered twice:

Tuesday, November 25, 1-2:15pm
 Wednesday, December 3, 1-2:15pm

If you would like to attend the coming meeting or if you're interested in other digital portfolio activities, please contact Melissa Powell at mtidwel@clemson.edu or 656-1520.

Professor Linda Dzuris invites all faculty to attend a **Digital Portfolio Presentation**, given by the students of CHS H203: Folk Music and American History on December 2 at 5pm in 201 Kinard.

New Project Announcement

You are invited to participate in a new project tentatively entitled "Creative Response Across the Curriculum." Art Young would like to collaborate with a small group of faculty that will consider how to enhance creative opportunities for students to respond to academic subject matter, from accounting to zoology. We will brainstorm and experiment with other forms of creative response, such as drawing, collage, multi-media, music, e-poetry, and digital art. If you are interested in meeting once or twice to initiate such a project, contact Art <apyoung@clemson.edu> by November 14.