
The Faculty Center

The Faculty Center promotes discussion of and reflection on our faculty's ideas and concerns about teaching, learning, scholarship, and the profession. The Center seeks to foster a community that celebrates both the diversity of individual fields of study and the unity of academic inquiry. We're interested in using the Center's Parenzo 215 space constructively and creatively within the context of this overview: suggestions for what you'd like in the Faculty Center are always welcome.

The Faculty Center (Parenzo 215) is open every weekday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Please feel free any time to check our resources on pedagogy and the profession. We have a growing library of books on teaching and learning, a subscription to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, handouts from previous brown bag lunch discussions, and a sample of WSC faculty promotion and tenure materials. You're also welcome to use the Faculty Center as a retreat from your office: you'll find sofas and comfortable chairs, a microwave, a coffee maker, and bottled water.

If you would like to propose booking the Faculty Center for scholarly presentations, roundtable discussions, workshops for your department, or another gathering, please contact Emily Todd (x5337 or etodd@wsc.ma.edu) to check availability.

Evening with Campus Authors

Wed, Feb 6: 6:30p, Scanlon A

The evening will feature a display of scholarly and creative work by faculty and staff across campus, along with presentations by the above authors. Steve Smith will speak about his book *Core Actors in America: A Vital View of Human Nature and Political Change* (2007); Kim Tobin, about her book *Gangs: An Individual and Group Perspective* (2008); Lou Caton, about his book *Reading American Novels and Multicultural Aesthetics: Romancing the Postmodern Novel* (2007); and Marilyn Sandidge, about her edited collection, *Old Age in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: Interdisciplinary Approaches to a Neglected Topic* (2007).

Wine and cheese reception before the program; coffee and light desserts after. Special thanks to Academic Affairs for their support.

We are always looking for...

Publications, art work, and other expressions of faculty professional activities for display and review in Parenzo 215, the Faculty Center. If you would like to share materials, or make suggestions about how to make them more widely accessible to the faculty, send materials to Emily Todd, x5337 <etodd@wsc.ma.edu> and share your ideas with any of us.

Weekly Coffee Hours

This semester the Faculty Center has returned to holding weekly coffee hours every Wednesday morning, except February 13 (the day of Dr. Carol Schneider's visit to campus). So, if it's Wednesday, you can count on finding coffee and breakfast treats in the Faculty Center. In addition, we'll hold three Thursday morning coffee hours to accommodate those of you who can't make the coffee hours on Wednesday. See below for a schedule of coffee hour hosts, and please let us know if you'd like to sign up early to host during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Focus Series

More structured than our brown bag lunch discussions, Focus Series events include workshops, research presentations, and other more formal talks. That said, there's still plenty of opportunity for discussion and exchange at these events. This semester we're hosting several events featuring faculty research (at the suggestion of many colleagues on campus) as well as sessions that allow us to continue discussions about diversity, technology, among other issues we have explored recently at the Faculty Center.

Web Page

A WEB page for Faculty Center events is available at the WSC.edu site. Archives of reports on FC events published in the Newsletter, along with useful links to other sites are already there. Further suggestions: Oliver Zeff ozeff@wsc.ma.edu.

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning SoTL

The Center encourages conversations about issues of teaching and learning. With others, we have been discussing ways to support the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) and to define what this could mean at Westfield. Ideas include coordinating working groups to discuss faculty innovations in teaching and developing more formal ways of supporting research on teaching. Interested? Contact Emily Todd, x5337 <etodd@wsc.ma.edu>