Faculty,
A few final thoughts and ideas as the Spring 2015 semester ends.
–Kelly Hogan, Director of Instructional Innovation, Senior STEM Lecturer

1. **We have wonderful teachers at Carolina that we need to celebrate regularly.** A short student survey was conducted this academic year to learn more about teaching excellence for undergraduate courses. Below are a few excerpts that represent some of the rich feedback students gave. This is an opportunity to celebrate just a few of the many faculty worthy of praise.

Which of your teachers includes everyone in the learning?
**Benjamin Meier (Public Policy 340).** “We have a forum post due for every class which allows those who don’t speak up in class to express their opinions. Professor Meier knows everyone’s name (60+ students) and makes sure to call on people randomly through out class discussion. We also write 2-3 notecards to answer discussion in class, and either get called on to share or pass them to our peers.”

Which of your teachers has used technology especially well?
**Gary Bishop (Computer Science)** “used Piazza, an online class platform, that allowed for incredibly easy Q&A at all times, as it was constantly monitored by Professor Bishop and his TAs.”

Which of your teachers had you use higher level thinking skills that maybe changed the way you think about a topic?
**Kathryn Burns (History).** Referring to the course Latin America Under Colonial Rule Dr. Burns “broke down lots of stereotypes about history and native Americans, had me truly considering what history is and the various biases that are often presented.”

Which teacher demonstrated that they cared about you?
“English 105i with Susan Thananopavarn--Professor Thananopavarn made a point to interact individually with each student and to accommodate a wide range of obstacles and talents in her classroom. Even after leaving her class, she still makes a point to check in on me (I have heard similar things from other students in the class) and always seems interested and caring.”

Which teacher gave you multiple opportunities to assess your understanding throughout the semester?
“Biostatistics 500H with Jane Monaco--Professor Monaco uses the flipped classroom (and it is hands-down the best flipped classroom I've ever been in) to provide in-class guided practice. She also assigns homework sets which are corrected and reviewed in class, in addition to midterms with a take-home component. Fortunately, she strikes a great balance with the quantity of homework--the assignments never feel like busy work and the review is not boring, a common problem with this kind of system. It helps me to feel that I've really mastered the material, and I'm never stressed for the midterms”

2. **How well are your interactive classes and presentations aligned with what we know from cognitive science?** Many faculty across campus have used Poll Everywhere as an in-class response tool for open-ended questions, multiple choice, “hotspot”, and word cloud questions. Poll Everywhere recently gave a webinar about giving interactive presentations based on neuroscience. You might find this useful for teaching and for those summer conference presentations: [https://vimeo.com/123845525](https://vimeo.com/123845525)

Did you know Poll Everywhere is free for you and your students? The Center for Faculty Excellence supports this site license. More information and a link to their application is here: [http://cfe.unc.edu/100plus/classroom-response-systems/](http://cfe.unc.edu/100plus/classroom-response-systems/)
3. There are still a few spots left for the April 29th discussion:

Helping Students to Thrive in College: A Focus on Student-Faculty Interactions
April 29, 2015 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Toy Lounge (fourth floor of Dey Hall)

This activity emphasizes student success beyond the structure of our courses. Importantly, we’ll focus on you and how important you are to your students. Research shows that we faculty can help students thrive in college with good pedagogy, peer mentors, external resources, etc., but that positive faculty-student interactions are also necessary for student success.

Join us for lunch (Med Deli) and discussion on the critical role of faculty in helping all students to thrive in college. This interactive meeting will touch on key messages from the keynote address presented by Laurie Schreiner at the 2015 Students Success Conference, Thriving in College. The discussion will focus on student-faculty interactions as a major pathway to student thriving and review considerations on the value and quality of such interactions for effectively teaching our increasingly diverse student body. We will share Schreiner’s recommendations for best practices in the classroom and engage in peer discussions about own strategies for helping students to engage deeply in learning at Carolina.

We invite you (but not require you) to read the following article before the event:


Presented by the Office of Undergraduate Education, Undergraduate Retention, and the Center for Faculty Excellence.

RSVP https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2lEn1u6inQRL48Z

4. Do you have trouble reading your end of semester evaluations without being overly sensitive to a few critics? Try partnering with a colleague—you each read the other’s evaluations and give a general, gentler summary to each other. A discussion over coffee or lunch makes this even better.

5. End of semester feel-good tip: Email a few special students and praise them. Reach out to a few students who grew the most over the semester, participated in meaningful ways, or finished exceptionally strong.

6. A movie trailer for your course?
Faculty across the country are building movie trailers to advertise their courses and help students better understand what they will learn in the course. http://chronicle.com/article/article-content/229087/

Our own summer school has built a few for Maymester courses. See Julie Fishell’s DRAM300 course advertisement as an example:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IKC0iB0l9Y

7. In my last letter I asked you how you used technology to get through the snow days.
Many of you tried videos or Eluminate via Sakai. Here is one quote:
“I used Eluminate Live to hold class online in real time. I created worksheets of my active learning exercises for students to work on at home. Students had access to my video lectures online and their associated quizzes. Having a flipped classroom structure allowed me to be resilient to 4 canceled class periods because I have been able to still teach all the original topics. If I was still using a traditional lecture I surely would have had to sacrifice some important content in my course.”
https://www.polleverywhere.com/free_text_polls/cKu93JISsvKmj4g/
8. Interested in teaching in UNC’s first interactive large lecture hall? The Center for Faculty Excellence is looking for instructors who are interested for Spring 2016 for class sizes between 75-102 students. Please see the call at CFE’s website: http://cfe.unc.edu/


9. Plan to use the summer to develop a course or learn a new teaching/technology skill?
Check in with the Center for Faculty Excellence for tips and advice!
http://cfe.unc.edu/

If you have ideas related to teaching and learning you would like to share, please contact Kelly_hogan@unc.edu

Have a great summer!

Kelly Hogan