Welcome back after what I hope was a restful winter break. As we start the new semester, I have a few timely items and events I’d like to share:

1. **Prepare for emergency situations.**
   From Abigail Panter, Kelly Hogan, and Viji Sathy in the Office of Undergraduate Education:

   “As the semester begins, we want to invite you to attend a one-hour session about safety in emergency campus situations with Sgt. James David (Department of Public Safety) Desirée Rieckenberg, Senior Associate Dean of Students, Maureen Windle Associate Director/Clinical Director at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and the Office of Undergraduate Education. We’ll begin with a 20-minute video about an active shooter scenario, followed by a question-and-answer period. We will briefly discuss a range of issues, including handling troubled students and managing difficult classroom-specific situations.
   
   We encourage you to invite colleagues from your department and to share the information with those who cannot attend. We plan to hold sessions like this regularly (beginning of every semester).

   The remaining one-hour sessions currently for Spring 2016 will be:

   Thursday, January 14: 8:15-9:15 a.m., Pleasants Room, Wilson Library
   Friday, January 15: 1-2 p.m., Peabody 204

   Please RSVP using the link below if you would like to attend a session. We will notify you via email of the location for the TBA sessions.
   RSVP: [https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_4ZN0RNd0zjLfhLD](https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_4ZN0RNd0zjLfhLD)

   Finally, if you prefer, we are happy to help you arrange a special session on this topic for a department meeting or other faculty gathering.”

   Contact [Kelly_Hogan@unc.edu](mailto:Kelly_Hogan@unc.edu) for questions about this.

2. **Freshen up your syllabus in 2016!** Add infographics, QR codes, images, etc. Send your creative syllabus to [Kelly_Hogan@unc.edu](mailto:Kelly_Hogan@unc.edu) be to entered to win a gift card to Med Deli! Winners will be on digital display in the future.
   What components should be on your syllabus? For example, do you have statements about the honor code on yours? See College Guidelines here: [http://curricula.unc.edu/faculty/syllabus/](http://curricula.unc.edu/faculty/syllabus/)
   Please post your syllabus on your department website, as students have asked to browse these to make informed decisions about their future classes.

   Faculty often include additional statements of diversity/inclusiveness, digital etiquette expectations, and language that demonstrates care and an intent for all students to thrive.
3. Don’t do it alone. Thinking about redesigning some aspect of your large course (or course with many sections)? See the CFE’s 100+ large course redesign grant program (http://cfe.unc.edu/teaching-and-learning/resources-for-faculty/#cfe_100_grant). Contact Bob Henshaw (bhenshaw@email.unc.edu) for advice on writing your proposal—which is due on February 15, 2016.

4. Ideas for first/second class sessions: (submitted from various faculty):
   - Ask students to write a few things about themselves on an index card, including the pronoun and nickname they prefer. Collect the cards.
   - Have students turn to their left and right and introduce themselves to each other and collect contact information for each other.
   - Share a few personal things and fun facts about yourself to help students see you as a person and not an intimidating professor.
   - Ask students to help you construct a set of classroom discussion rules that everyone follows and helps to continually edit.

Share your best ideas with a new colleague who might only be in their first or second semester teaching!

5. What if teaching news was shared ESPN Sports Center style? Need a break from prepping your semester? Enjoy these three minutes: http://www.cc.com/video-clips/aimepr/key-and-peele-teachingcenter

6. What are you up to in your teaching? The College would like to know what is currently energizing you in your teaching. For example, we heard from one colleague how recently teaching in redesigned active classroom (Greenlaw 100) refreshed her teaching in many unexpected ways. What little or big things would you like to share with the Director of Instructional Innovation? You can always email concerns and ideas for workshops too. Email: Kelly_Hogan@unc.edu

7. Have a plan if bad weather comes our way? No need to lose a day of instruction if you already know how to use a few tools. You might check out Blackboard Collaborate (http://sils.unc.edu/it-services/instructional-technology/elluminate) and Voicethread (http://voicethread.unc.edu/), two easy options supported by ITS.

8. Calling all faculty-- save the date and register now:

The 2016 Student Success Conference, Monday, February 22, 2016 – The Carolina Club – 8:30am – 3:00pm
This day-long conference will explore the following questions: What is growth mindset? How can growth mindset be applied to undergraduate student success? How can faculty and staff at UNC-CH apply growth mindset to their current work with undergraduates?

**Growth mindset** (Dweck, 2006), the belief that abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work, is a theoretical framework applied to student success initiatives across the education pipeline. While individuals with a fixed mindset believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are unchangeable fixed traits, people with a growth mindset believe that intelligence is malleable and individuals have significant capacity to change. Research suggests that developing a growth mindset may result in positive educational outcomes.

This conference will be a gathering of faculty and staff at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to enhance our understanding of how mindset (of students, faculty, and professionals) can impact student success. The 2016 Conference is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Retention, with generous support by the Office of Undergraduate Education, the Division of Student Affairs, and the Summer School.


**Good luck with the beginning of your semester!**

Please Instructional Innovation at UNC on Facebook and Twitter. We share a lot of opportunities and ideas routinely.

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