

WINTER 2012

TEACHING BY THE NUMBERS

Whether we're analyzing survey data, measuring the size of galaxies, or computing a GPA, numbers play an important part in our teaching and learning. Join us as we explore what really counts in a Carleton education.



Perlman Center
for
Learning and Teaching

fostering collegial conversations since 1992

ALL EVENTS ARE HELD IN THE WEITZ CENTER FOR CREATIVITY, ROOM 236 (LARGE MEETING ROOM) FROM NOON TO 1 P.M. (LUNCH FOR 50 SERVED BEGINNING AT 11:45).

TUESDAY
JANUARY 10

Playing in the Sandbox: Reports From the First Term in Weitz 235

This fall, four professors and their intrepid students tried out the Weitz Center's new 'sandbox' classroom for the first time. Come discover what they learned—what worked, what didn't, and some ideas for the future.

Cosponsored by CISMI (Carleton Interdisciplinary Science and Math Initiative)

Jeff Ondich, professor of computer science; David Liben-Nowell, associate professor of computer science; Aaron Swoboda, assistant professor of environmental studies and economics; and Greg Marfleet, associate professor of political science

TUESDAY
JANUARY 17

Strengthening Students' Habits of Cooperation with Peers

Implicit in Carleton's mission statement and named as a required element of all A&I seminars, "strengthening students' habits of cooperation with peers" is a core pedagogical goal of the college. Three A&I professors and their students reflect on what this goal is, why it matters, and how to bring it about.

Peter Balaam, associate professor of English (convener); Cameron Davidson, professor of geology; Kathleen Galotti, professor of cognitive science; and Christopher Polt, visiting assistant professor of classical languages

TUESDAY
JANUARY 24

Dialogos II: Aliens Among Them—Experiences of (Not) Belonging in Europe Today

Is migration in Europe fundamentally different today than in the past? How do members of particular migrant communities experience marginalization in Europe, and how does this marginalization affect both the host country and the communities themselves? This presentation will explore commonalities among very different migrant groups (Chinese, Indian, former Soviet) in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Cosponsored with the Humanities Center from the 2010–11 "Global Knowledge/Knowledge of the Global" Faculty Research Seminar

Devashree Gupta, assistant professor of political science; Gudrun Willett, project director, College Writing Program and SERC; and Pamela Feldman-Savelsberg, professor of anthropology and director of African/African American studies (respondent)

TUESDAY
JANUARY 31

Advising the Whole Student

How do we talk to advisees so that they will listen, and listen to them so that they will talk? How much should we guide them and how much should we let them make their own decisions? Learn from experienced colleagues how they have gone beyond course selection and off-campus study options to more comprehensive advising.

Kathryn Steed, assistant professor of classical languages (convener); Gretchen Hofmeister, associate professor of chemistry; Fernan Jaramillo, professor of biology; and Beth McKinsey, professor of English and American Studies

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 7

Teaching 4.0: What's in a Grade?

We give them, they get them—but what do they mean? This session will explore the difficulties of grading for faculty and the meaning of those grades for students. Join us for some honest and revealing conversation about those little letters that function—for better or worse—as "the coin of the realm."

Constance Walker, professor of English; Eric Egge, associate professor of mathematics; Sam Keller '12, physics major; and Yuvika Diwan '13, political science/international relations major

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 14

Integration of Community and Civic Engagement at Carleton

Come hear a brief progress report on our new Center for Community and Civic Engagement. How do we integrate curricular, cocurricular, and scholarly facets of civic engagement? How do Carleton's programs compare with those at other colleges in our cohort? We'll conclude with some reflections on possible future developments for civic engagement at Carleton.

Laura Riehle-Merrill, director, Acting in the Community Together; Kelly Scheuerman, associate director, Acting in the Community Together; Adrienne Falcón, director of academic civic engagement; Michael McNally, faculty coordinator and faculty associate for public scholarship; and student panelists

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 21

Analyze This!

This year the Education and Curriculum Committee (ECC) is studying our students' ability to analyze evidence as part of our regular assessment plan. At this session, the subcommittee will present its draft report and solicit feedback. Come hear their observations and offer your suggestions for this work-in-progress.

Jeff Ondich, professor of mathematics and computer science, ECC cochair; Mija Van Der Wege, associate professor of psychology; and Andrea Nixon, director of curricular and research support

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 28

Running our Favorite Numbers in the Classroom

Chris Jordan's art in "Running the Numbers" (now on display at the Weitz Center) deconstructs large numbers for the casual viewer. Come hear about how faculty in different disciplines help students understand a variety of important numbers, from the very small to the very large.

Co-sponsored by QuIRK (Quantitative Inquiry, Reasoning and Knowledge) Initiative

Mija Van Der Wege, associate professor of psychology, director of the QuIRK initiative; and Neil Lutsky, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Psychology

TUESDAY
MARCH 6

Organizing for Creativity

Do we need to be organized to be creative? Routine tasks—organizing notes, images, and other files—can free up the intellectual (and emotional) space for meaningful work. How can we instill in students habits that allow them to answer the question: If you gather it or create it, can you reliably and quickly find it again?

Heidi Eyestone, curator of the visual resources collection, Department of Art and Art History; Paula Lackie, academic technologist; and Kristin Partlo, reference and instruction librarian for social sciences and data

WINTER 2012 BOOK GROUPS

From Abelard to Apple: The Fate of American Colleges and Universities, by Richard DeMillo

Richard DeMillo, distinguished professor of computing, professor of management, and director of the Center for 21st Century Universities at Georgia Institute of Technology, argues that American higher education faces both unprecedented challenges and tremendous opportunities, if we are willing to seize them.

"This thoroughly engaging book provides a view of higher education that is future-oriented and technology-savvy. . . . It brings more than a little tough love to our sometimes self-satisfied American research universities while acknowledging and encouraging boldness in facing today's challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities." —Charles M. Vest, president, National Academy of Engineering, and president emeritus, MIT

Limit: 20 people

Facilitator: Steve Poskanzer, president

JANUARY 24 AND FEBRUARY 27
4:30–6:00 P.M.
WEITZ CENTER FOR CREATIVITY 146 (LTC)

Christian Materiality: An Essay on Religion in Late Medieval Europe, by Caroline Walker Bynum

What is the relationship between the flesh and the spirit? Between transcendent states of being and material things and places? Between the things of faith and a faith of things? Historian Caroline Walker Bynum explores the many, often surprising ways that Christians "materialized" their faith in the later Middle Ages and the anxieties that this encounter between faith and matter provoked both in practitioners and opponents. She also offers an opportunity to interrogate our broader attitudes towards materialized religion.

For the final session, participants will be asked to share ways in which this book could be used in teaching (either directly or indirectly).

Cosponsored by The Mellon Viz Initiative and the medieval and renaissance studies program
Limit: 20 people

Facilitators: Victoria Morse, associate professor of history; George Shuffelton, associate professor of English; Bill North, associate professor of history; and Patricia Beckman, assistant professor of religion, St. Olaf College

JANUARY 11, 18, 25, AND FEBRUARY 1
4:30–6:00 P.M.
WEITZ CENTER FOR CREATIVITY 146 (LTC)

Sign up for a reading group at apps.carleton.edu/campus/ltc/calendar/reading.