1. Learning in Groups: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly
LTC Thursday Lunch Talk, May 10, noon-1:30pm
Co-sponsored by LTC, Mellon, CISMI, HHMI (others?)

When you use learning groups, do your students complain about such things as:

- Having to do more than their fair share of the work?
- Not being able to keep their group working on the assigned task?
- One or two members dominating the group and others feeling left out?

In this session, Larry Michaelsen will talk about how to deal with these and other issues to improve learning in groups and teams.

2. A Workshop on Team-Based Learning
Co-Sponsored by LTC, Mellon, CISMI, HHMI (others?)

This interactive workshop will help participants learn how to prepare students for effective learning in teams so they can use and apply knowledge, in addition to learning content. Also included will be time for assignment design for team learning and discussion of key design issues. The workshop consists of two parts:

- **Getting Beyond Covering Content**, a Friday night working session (7 - 8:30 pm) following a reception and dinner (5:30 – 7 pm).
- **Designing Effective Group Assignments**, a Saturday morning session from about 9 am-noon, followed by lunch. (Continental breakfast at 8:30 am)

Friday Evening: Getting Beyond Covering Content

This opening of this workshop will: 1) demonstrate a readiness-assurance process that enables instructors to use the vast majority of class time for developing students’ higher-level thinking and problem solving skills *without reducing coverage of course concepts* and, 2) familiarize participants with a small-group based instructional format, Team-Based Learning (TBL), which has consistently resulted in high performance, attendance and student satisfaction in a wide range of settings. Following the demonstration, discussions will explore additional issues and concerns about using groups including:

- How to ensure coverage of basic content in less than a third of the time required for lectures by creating incentives for pre-class preparation and opportunities for peer teaching.
- How to build groups into learning *teams* with norms that promote high levels of individual preparation and class attendance.
Coping with the mechanics (e.g. physical layout, materials and exams, classroom procedures, grading, etc.).

Saturday Morning: Designing Effective Group Assignments

During the Saturday morning session, attendees will participate in a series of activities that: 1) demonstrate why group assignments often result in social loafing (uneven participation) in learning groups and, 2) highlight three key variables that must be managed to create broad-based member participation and learning. The morning will include time for participants to work on improving their own group assignments. In addition, the session will explore related issues and concerns about using groups including:

♦ How to design effective group assignments for teaching higher level thinking and problem solving skills.
♦ Why well-designed assignments are the key to ensuring fairness in grading of group work.
♦ How to deal with contextual problems such as large classes, classrooms designed for lectures–not group work, resistance from traditionally focused students, faculty peers, and administrators.