

Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching & Learning

This report provides a snapshot of activities and accomplishments in the Paul C. Reinert, S.J. Center for Transformative Teaching & Learning at Saint Louis University for **July-August, 2016**.

Overview

The Center's twentieth year as a comprehensive teaching center began in July, with a new Graduate Assistant joining the team, with our annual summer staff retreat, and with preparations for the new academic year. Center staff led invited workshops at both New Faculty Orientation and New Graduate Assistant Orientation, and provided an overview of Center programs and services for New Adjunct Faculty, as well as for departments and colleges. We also held our annual Faculty Open House for new and returning faculty, with 25 attendees, including SLU's Provost, Dr. Brickhouse.

By the Numbers

- 8 Invited Workshops**
- 2 Orientations to the Reinert Center**
- 3 Invited Presentations**
- 13 Faculty Consultations**
- 9 Blog Posts**

Mississippi Project

On August 11, we co-sponsored a daylong workshop focused on strategies for infusing sustainability into the curriculum and across the region. Workshop facilitators included faculty and staff from SLU as well as from the Office of Sustainability at SIUE. Discussions engaged a range of topics with both practical and theoretical implications for curriculum development and individual course design. An overarching goal of the workshop was to find ways to empower students with the tools and knowledge they need to be leaders in a future characterized by rapid social inequality and environmental changes.

New Faculty and Graduate Assistant Orientations

The Center was again invited to facilitate interactive workshops for both New Faculty Orientation and New Graduate Assistant Orientation. New SLU faculty engaged with *Developing Effective Syllabi* and *Introduction to Ignatian Pedagogy*, while new graduate assistants were introduced to *Tools for First-Time Teachers* and *Teaching a Diverse Student Population*.

Introducing Our 2016-2017 Theme: Inclusive Teaching

This year, the Reinert Center will offer programming and resources focused on the theme of Inclusive Teaching, which we consider to be the intentional use of course design and teaching methods to create equitable learning environments where all learners can be successful, regardless of differences in identity, background, and ability. Inclusive teaching involves an explicit commitment to recognizing and minimizing the potential for exclusion, in everything from syllabus design to assessment methods, from instructional strategies to classroom layout. It is a commitment continuously enacted, in small and large ways.

Staffing News



In July, the Center welcomed new Graduate Assistant **Yang (Emily) Li**, a student in SLU's Curriculum and Instruction Doctoral Program (Cross-cultural Educational Studies).

Emily's experiences have included both research and teaching. She earned her BA in English Literature from Qingdao University, China in 2014 and her MA in Educational Leadership and Administration from SLU in 2016. As she begins her doctoral study, she is working on comparative studies between American and Chinese educational systems.

