

BCTC's Academic Voice

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Giving Voice through BCTC's Theatre and Film Programs

By Tim Davis

Way back in 2004, I became an adjunct faculty member at BCTC, teaching Public Speaking and Communications courses. I was working full time at another institution, but with a 60-mile round-trip commute, a lot of my (*already meager*) pay was being eaten up with traveling expenses. What's a poor artist to do? Well, get a second job, of course. Thus, my journey at BCTC had begun. Before too long, it became apparent that there was a great interest in Theatre at the college. When my speech students inevitably found out that I had a performance background, they began asking, "Are you ever going to teach any Theatre courses here?" What really took me by surprise was the fact that no one did! A diverse population of over 12,000 students and NO Theatre courses? Well . . .

we'd just have to do something about that!

So, a few years later, and a number of meetings with Teresa Tope and Arthur Rouse, we created the BCTC Theatre and Film program. What we envisioned was not just two separate areas, but a unique merger where students would be able to have the opportunity to learn the lexicon of both disciplines. In my experience, I have worked with Theatre artists and educators from all over the Southeast, primarily through my work with the American College Theatre Festival and the Southeastern Theatre conference. I began to notice a few years back that many of today's Theatre students wish to be "cross trained" in both areas, thus opening up new doors and opportunities. Slowly but surely, this approach has been creeping into traditional Theatre training, even in our own region (*Asbury College is a prime example of this*). Knowing this gave us the confidence to move forward in this direction.

Our efforts have been rewarded with great success thus far. Our Film program is filled to capacity every semester, and we have a wealth of students involved in Theatre, onstage and in the classroom. Our Theatre productions have played to pre-



Zach Hightower in *Dancing With Dani*

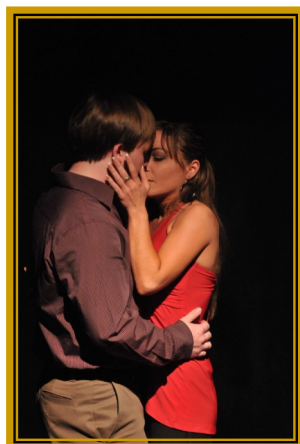
dominantly sold out houses, and the local press has been very complimentary of our efforts. But with our Fall 08 production of **DANCING WITH DANI**, we have finally begun to see a true integration of the two areas that we envisioned all along. *DANI* is an original piece I wrote back at "the turn of the century" (*don't you love saying that?*), and I was incredibly proud to have its inaugural production as part of our BCTC season.

Early on in the production meetings with my Scenic and Lighting Designer, Carrie Ferguson-Bellew (*a former student from my days in Mississippi*), and Sound Designer, Mike Tuttle, we

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Zach Hightower (as Jason)
Katie Stanley (as Dani)

Academic Notes

by Dave Hellmich

As I wrote in my November 2 and 7 emails to the faculty, I am deeply troubled by the rift between faculty that is associated with the past two all-faculty meetings and, more recently, with the tenure issue. Given the college's history and the physical separation of faculties on different campuses, it is natural for there to be differences in perspectives. Our fiscal woes, of course, heighten stress, and such stress does not lend itself to the building of cohesion.

Nonetheless, we have too many dedicated and caring faculty across the college to accept the current state of faculty relations. A number of faculty have suggested that it is time to have some structured discussions about how to address this break in faculty cohesion if we want to continue building a comprehensive and consolidated college.

Over the past four weeks, I have had difficult but insightful discussions with three groups on this topic. The first is a small group of the faculty: Melissa Anderson, Mary Davis, Claude Gross, Diana Martin,

Pat Nation, Alan Robertson, Kathy Swango, and Vicki Wilson. The second is Faculty Council leadership, and the third is the Assistant Deans and Deans who comprise the Academics Leadership Team. With this last group, we began our discussions by responding to the following questions: (1) from events occurring any time over the past five years, what has caused you and what has caused your faculty the greatest sense of professional loss and (2) from events occurring any time over the past five years, what specific BCTC event has really irked you and your faculty? Next, we spoke candidly about the April and October all-faculty meetings; at a subsequent meeting, we also spoke candidly about the tenure issue and about how damaging some of the "reply all" emails have been to faculty relations.

I have been struck in all of these discussions by how passionately folks want this college to be successful. I have also been struck by the huge gaps in understanding that too often are filled with assumptions and stereotypes. Faculty relations will not

improve until we decide we want them to improve.

- As colleagues, we can find better ways to communicate.
- As colleagues, we can disagree respectfully.
- As colleagues, we can value the contributions of all faculty on all campuses.

I would hope that all faculty regardless of campus location, teaching discipline, and contractual status can agree that faculty voice is important. I would hope that all faculty will add their informed and respectful voices to the vital discussions affecting the college . . . and will listen to the voices of others, especially those voices that enrich the discussion with different points of view.

In these "Notes," I am emphasizing faculty voice since addressing the rift between faculty is my thesis. Staff voice, of course, is also important. BCTC needs to be a place where all committed faculty and staff feel compelled to add their voices to work toward the greater good.

Giving Voice through BCTC's Theatre and Film Programs, continued

by Tim Davis

discussed the possibility of integrating video clips and video segments, in collaboration with Arthur and some of our former film students (*two of whom just happened to be in our cast*). We were also able to utilize a number of our current film students to assist us in a variety of ways. Some worked in the scene shop with Scott Sherman (*the Tech Director for the Actors' Guild of Lexington and the facilities manager at the Downtown Arts Center*) while others assisted us during the run of the production in jobs ranging from props head and costume assistant to video assistants working in the booth.

The end result was tremendously rewarding for us. The show was a great success with our standing-room only audiences, and the Herald Leader proclaimed the play to be

"Funny, profane, but most of all, real." But the greatest thrill for me was seeing our two areas begin to merge together to create something new and visually exciting. We plan to continue to push that envelope in new and exciting directions. In February of 09, we will be staging **THE GRAPES OF WRATH** in conjunction with the UK Theatre program, and plans are already underway to incorporate new and exciting video elements into the production.

What started out as little more than a "crazy idea" has grown into a vital, burgeoning program. Theatre and Film (*as well as ALL the new art offerings at BCTC*) give our students another creative voice. They also raise the profile of the college through all the wonderful PR we've

received and through the solid community partnerships and regional connections we are making. That's good news for our school, and couldn't we all use a little good news now?



Cast of *Working*

Division News & Reports

The Allied Health Division (Tricia Miller, Assistant Dean):

The Radiography Program will have its site visit in January 2009 for the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology accreditation. The 2008 graduating class in Radiography had a 97% first-time examinee pass rate on board exams.

Dental Lab and Dental Hygiene are working on the self study for their CODA visit in 2010.

Dental Lab had a 100% pass rate on the 2008 Recognized Graduate Exam, the first of three tests toward becoming a Certified Dental Technician. The 2008 class scored 10% higher than the national average and scored better than all other schools on 92% of the areas tested. Our program placed #2 in the nation, but please

note that the number one school only had **ONE** participant.

Dental Lab earned over \$4,600 hosting a Continuing Education day for area technicians on November 1. We had 92 participants, four speakers, and seven hours of continuing education credits that grossed \$9,925 (50% profit share with CCD). The money will be used to buy much needed equipment for the laboratory.

Dental Assisting finished recommendations for accreditation.

The eight Nuclear Medicine Technology graduates from May 2008 completed the certification examination with a 100% pass rate on the first attempt; one graduate achieved a "Pass with Distinction." In addition to earning the AAS in NMT, there were four additional AA or AS de-

grees earned by these graduates. Five of the eight graduates are working full-time in NMT in KY (2), MS (1) and FL (2); two are working part-time in KY; and one is continuing at EKU to complete a four-year degree with her sights on medical school. The 2007 class had two pass with highest distinction (that was the first time Charles Coulston had ever had that happen) and two passed with distinction.



Faculty Council Report

by Mike Binzer

Faculty Council continues to work on your behalf in handling the routine responsibilities of the faculty in the areas of curriculum and maintaining the Rules of the Faculty, and in serving as a voice of the faculty on administrative issues. In the wake of the very emotional and difficult calendar vote, Faculty Council, at the prompting of Dr. Hellmich and others, will be working on ways to help the faculty of all campuses and cultures better understand each other. I am in the fortunate position to have worked on both the Cooper and Leestown campuses and genuinely appreciate the faculty at all of our locations, while at the same time recognizing that the cultures are very different. There are several groups working together on ways that we can somehow improve our understanding of

each other.

I think that the calendar decision was the single hardest decision the faculty have faced since the merger, primarily because no matter which direction we went, we were going to lose something we valued. I still hold onto hope that we will be able to justify an exception the "Common Start and End Date Administrative Directive," but for now we will proceed with planning for the 16-week calendar.

The calendar decision could appear quite simple in comparison to some of the discussions we will have to have in the wake of yet another re-occurring budget cut—open, honest, and respectful dialog will be very important when these discussions come. One thing I am very sure of is that the faculty are being very well served by

the people you have elected to Faculty Council. It has been my pleasure to serve as the Chair of Faculty Council for almost four years, and while I am looking forward to handing over the responsibilities in May of 09, I know that I will miss the satisfaction received from working through difficult issues with really great people.

Respectfully,
Mike Binzer,
Chair, BCTC Faculty

QEP Up-Date: Aftermath of a 'Storm

by Becky Womack

Despite distinctly non-tropical weather, the afternoon of Friday, November 21, saw four BCTC campuses brainstorming. Faculty and staff from the Lawrenceburg, Danville, Leestown, and Cooper campuses met briefly at 2:30 by live-streaming, then banded into small groups to focus on ways to improve student reading.

Out of the dozen breakout groups that met for barely a half hour came well over 300 ideas for supporting students through BCTC's Quality Enhancement Plan, newly dubbed **Read for LIFE (Learning, Information, Fulfillment, Entertainment)**. The new name for the college's QEP project was chosen via a five-day contest involving faculty, staff, and students. A total of 99 entries were submitted by email, with the winning suggestion coming from Staci Holderman, faculty member in psychology on

the Danville Campus.

The November 21 breakout sessions were a collaborative effort, facilitated by Leadership Academy participants and backed by QEP Team members. Having QEP members recording the discussion enabled the team to report its collective findings quickly, compile a master list, and start sorting the information by the following Wednesday morning. The event was collaborative in another way as well, involving cooperative effort among IT personnel across campuses in the first use of live-streaming to connect college-wide.

What opinions did the breakout participants discuss?

With just half the ideas sorted, some patterns emerged immediately. Faculty and staff across many sessions emphasized the need for developmental advisors, updated training for all advisors, and more follow up in

the mandatory placement process. They also stressed the need for key college information to be readily accessible in a friendlier format by students.

In addition, a number of participants expressed interest in partnering or working across disciplines to support reading in the college-level curriculum. By early spring, the QEPeople hope to be working with faculty on practical content from a range of disciplines—gathering “contextual reading” to be included in reading courses for the 2009-10 academic year.

The immediate goal for the QEP Team, however, is to prepare a framework of essential data, goals, and strategies, as well as a record of broad participant involvement, to present to Dr. Joseph Silver, BCTC's SACS consultant, prior to his campus visit on January 16. This early review will help

Teaching & Learning Notebook Conference Presentations

Michael Benton and **Danny Mayer** founded “Using and Generating Student Archives,” a special interest group at the March [Annual Conference on College Composition and Communication](#) in San Francisco that examines texts as symbolic expressions of identity, difference, experience, community, and meaning. Michael is also a panel participant for the session, “The struggle of memory against forgetting, part II; Or, stemming the tide of cultural amnesia,” which explores the building and using of archives as a means of challenging hegemonic narratives of the past and creating new narratives for the future.

Will Bradley co-authored the paper, “An investigation of ‘honesty check’ items in higher education,” which was honored as a Best Paper at the 2008 College Teaching and Learning Conference and subsequently accepted for

publication. The manuscript published in the [Journal of College Teaching & Learning](#) 5(8), 39-48 (Bradley, Royal & Bradley, August 2008) challenges the practice of using reverse coded items to ensure valid measures in evaluation and survey research in general.

Sherri Carr, **Drew Hunt**, and **Pat Miller** attended the October Southern Business Education Association conference in Louisville. Drew and Pat presented a session on Virtual Resumes and Portfolios using BlackBoard.

Carolyn Lewis and **Laura Fraebel** gave the presentation, “Increasing educational opportunities in healthcare through partnerships,” at the November conference of the [Kentucky Association for Developmental Educators](#) (KADE) at Pine Mountain State Park.

Kristin Tiedeman, **Randy Rogers**, and **Laura Fraebel** presented on the Adult Based Education program and the Nurse Aide Apprenticeship program at the October conference of the [Kentucky Association of Homes and Services for the Aging](#) (KAHSA) in Louisville.

Committee Reports

The **Arts on Campus Committee** (AOCC) is proud to announce its newest addition to the college with the opening of the Bluegrass Gallery at the Leestown Campus on October 21 with the "Legacy" exhibit featuring the life work of Kentucky artist, Tom Vantreese. An opening reception was held, and the exhibit was on display through November 18th. Watch for our upcoming exhibit "Animal, Vegetable, Mineral" (in partnership with the Winchester Opera House) January 26- February 27. The exhibit will open at the Bluegrass Gallery and then move to the Winchester Opera House. The weekend of November 15th and 16th the AOCC participated in Talon Winery's Holiday Open House at the Talon Barn. The committee sold hand crafted items; this was a very successful fundraiser.

December 6th and 7th AOCC will feature the 2nd annual Arts D'Vine at the Talon Winery Tasting house. Fine art from the region will be featured along with appetizers, and live music; the exhibit will be open both days from 12:00-5:00 p.m.

The theatre department's fall production, *Dancing with Dani*, was a huge success. The show is waiting to hear about its advancement in the American Theatre Festival competition. Tim Davis has casted for *The Grapes of Wrath* and rehearsals begin Dec. 3rd. "Grapes" will be in partnership with UK theatre and will be performed at UK's Guignol Theatre in February.

The film program will feature the short works of its graduates on December 17th.

The BCTC Chorale will perform at the Leestown Campus on December 8th at 5:45 before the guest speaker series. On December 18th at 7:00 pm, they will present their winter concert at the Lexington downtown public library.

Report from the **General Education (GE) Committee:**

1. The **Gen Ed Website**, with a link off the Faculty page, will be up and running for spring semester. The Website will have sample rubrics, links to assessment best-practices at other institutions, and information on assessment.
2. Look for information on an upcoming hands-on **assessment workshop** for coordinators for gen ed areas on Friday, Jan. 30th from 2:00-4:00.
3. During the spring semester, GE committee members will be working with general education coordinators and faculty across the college to hammer out a plan for **course-based, college-wide assessment of reading** in academic years 2009-10 and 2010-11 to coordinate with the QEP accreditation initiative.

The GE Committee is here to serve those working on gen ed assessment: talk to your division committee member and let us know how we can help. Membership: John Story (BS); Greg Rickert (HLSS); Diana Martin (HUM); Marcia Freyman (LRC); DeAnna Pelfrey (MS); Rebecca McCane (NS); Terri Anderson (regional campus); Robert Hinkle (Master Advisor, *ex officio*).

After beginning as a temporary energy task force, the **Sustainability Committee** is now a permanent entity with staff and faculty representation from all campuses. The committee is working in several areas: greening buildings/energy, waste reduction/recycling, food/gardening, transportation alternatives, and healthy work spaces. Accomplishments include energy conservation initiatives, a BCTC community garden, availability of LexTran bus passes, and recycling opportunities.

The **Transfer Center/Title III Advisory Committee** provides feedback to the Transfer Center regarding Title III grant objectives. Highlights include the following: BCTCblue+, a partnership between BCTC and UK, facilitates transfer for students with an AA/AS degree. Contact: Ray Archer, UK Transfer Advisor.

BCTC Colonel program, a partnership between BCTC and ECU, focuses on a strong academic foundation at BCTC prior to transfer to ECU. Contact: Nicole McGrew, ECU Transfer Advisor.

All Year 3 Title III Grant objectives were completed (October 2007-September 2008).

- (3.1) Technology on all campuses through e-Transfer Centers, electronic marquees, and digital signage systems.
- (3.2) PRIDE (Peers Rallying Inspiration, Dreams & Education) minority peer mentoring program launched in 2007.
- (3.3) Database developed to track academic progress of African-American students. Outreach included Individual Transfer Success Plans.
- (3.4) Interactive DVD highlighting the functions and accomplishments of the Transfer Center distributed across Kentucky.
- (3.5) 1,587 student transfer advising appointments

Milestones

Tim York was the amateur division winner in the 5th annual [Dry Stone Conservancy's National Walling Competition](#), held in October at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill in Mercer County. Thirty-eight contestants from the United States and Scotland had eight hours to take down and rebuild a dry stone wall; they were judged on how well their work matched the historic pattern of stonework and their efficiency in using the material.



Clovis Perry was the first educator from Kentucky selected to participate in [National Geographic Society's JASON Project Lead Training Program](#), a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Geographic Society that connects young students with great explorers and great events to inspire and motivate them to learn science. National Geographic Society provided the science education training on November 12 – 14 on the campus of George Washington University located in Washington D.C. During this training program, Clovis worked with National Hurricane Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientists to design field and inquiry-based science curriculum. This curriculum could become

the vehicle to deliver an online GEO 130 Earth's Physical Environment science lab for our district. Additionally, Clovis has been appointed as a board member to the [Kentucky Council for the Social Studies](#), and he is working with Kentucky middle and high school social studies educators to develop an eCommunity of learners for the Kentucky Council for the Social Studies, the Kentucky Geographic Alliance, and AP Human Geography educators.

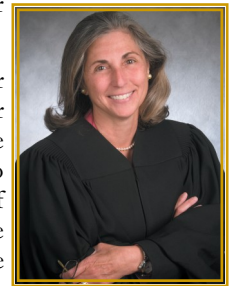
Dan Phelps earned the [2008 Distinguished Professional Scientist in a Non-academic Position Award](#) from the Kentucky Academy of Science. An adjunct professor since 1998, Dan is President of the Kentucky Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists. He is also Chairman of the Geology Section for the Kentucky Academy of Sciences and founding President of the Kentucky Paleontological Society, one of the most respected amateur paleontological organizations in the United States.

Karen D. Shelton received this year's Outstanding Developmental Education Student at a Two-Year Institution Award issued by the Kentucky Association of Developmental Education (KADE). This award is given annually to a student who has successfully completed developmental classes and who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance and motivation in overcoming obstacles. Karen was nominated by two BCTC math in-

structors; she received a plaque and \$100.

Janella Spencer was appointed to the UK College of Health Sciences Dean's Advisory Board, which serves as an external advisory body to the Dean of the College of Health Sciences.

Julie Muth Goodman was re-elected as District Judge for Fayette County in the November



Governor Steve Beshear appointed Julie Goodman to the position of District Judge for Fayette County. Julie has been teaching EQM 240 Equine Business Law for the Business Management and Marketing program.

Brittany Daugherty, a student in the dental hygiene program, has received the 2008 L.R. Bean Radiology Award, which is named in memory of Dr. L.R. Bean who taught dental radiology at LCC for more than 17 years.

Marshall Jenkins is a new father.

Submit us your ideas for future issues!
Send ideas, photos and/or submissions to:
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