Quality Matters at CCU
Producing Quality Distance Learning

Quality Matters (QM) is a nationally recognized, faculty-centered, peer review process designed to certify the quality of online courses and online components. Celebrating 10 years in online education, the QM rubric standards are supported by best practices and research literature and undergo continuous review.

Coastal is a QM subscriber institution, and CeTEAL’s instructional designer, Jean Bennett, has recently qualified as a QM peer reviewer. Bennett has experience in delivering online courses and has successfully completed the QM peer review training. Her QM instructor stated, “Any faculty submitting a review... would really appreciate the feedback she is able to give.”

Bennett has created a Quality Matters Circle program that will begin mid-semester and will give faculty the opportunity to work in a supportive environment as they align their mature online and hybrid courses to QM standards. The QM Circle will meet once a week for six weeks to provide information and workshop time for faculty. In addition, Bennett has developed sessions for integrating the QM standards into new online and hybrid courses. She welcomes working with faculty in revising and developing courses that produce quality in student learning.

To sign up for Quality Matters sessions, visit the CeTEAL training website: www.coastal.edu/ceteal

To learn more about the Quality Matters program, contact jbennet1@coastal.edu.

Moodle Circles
As the use of Moodle expands this semester through Phase II of the Moodle Pilot, CeTEAL will offer additional support to faculty through Moodle Circles.

Beginning in late January, CeTEAL will offer two Moodle Circles to support and encourage faculty as they build courses in the Moodle course management system. Each Moodle Circle will meet once a week for eight weeks and will cover a variety of topics including course organization, course tools and grading. The Moodle Circle sessions will begin with a brief period of instruction followed by hands-on workshop time. Faculty joining a circle will have the opportunity to build their Moodle class during the Moodle Circle sessions. To join a Moodle Circle, sign up at www.coastal.edu/ceteal.
Faculty Spotlight: Arne Flaten

by Arne Flaten

I approach teaching in different ways depending on the level of the course and what my goals are for that material. For entry-level survey courses, my desire is to provide a basic structure, a framework upon which students can build. Those courses cover a large amount of material: the first part of the survey of Western Art (ARTH 105) spans Paleolithic cave paintings, ca. 20,000 BCE, to the Gothic period, ca. 1300 CE; the second part of the survey (ARTH 106) covers the Renaissance through the Modern periods. Those courses are primarily lecture-based, but also include question-based interaction to drive conversation. Upper level lecture courses (eg. Italian Renaissance Art & Architecture) commonly provide more detail on the specific periods, locations, monuments, personalities, historical events, stylistic changes, historiography and cultural shifts.

Some upper level courses are conceived and implemented rather differently. A course on criticism, theory and aesthetics, called Art and Ideas (ARTH 350), is one of several courses required by all visual arts majors and minors. That course relies less on traditional lectures but instead concentrates on a semester-long Socratic dialogue. Questions are posed to students, and conversation ensues that ultimately determines (with some nudging on my part) the direction of that meeting. Readings and writing assignments are catalysts for the day’s discussion. The course is less about arriving at finite answers to complicated questions (What is art? What is taste? Can one determine “good” art from “bad” art? Does art have any intrinsic meaning?) but about understanding the questions themselves. Paraphrasing Steve Martin, I tell students the course intends to make them think enough to screw them up for the rest of their lives.

Another approach to teaching involves the course that Paul Olsen and I developed called Ashes2Art: Digital Reconstructions of Ancient Monuments (ARTH 450/ARTD 450). Started in 2005, it heuristically blurs the lines between traditional lecture courses and a laboratory setting; it embodied experiential learning before EL was CCU’s QEP mantra. Students are responsible for every facet of the project, including web design, educational videos, archaeometric 3D computer models of lost monuments, animation, thematic essays, panoramic photography and lesson plans in accordance with U.S. national standards. Students divide into groups, determine deadlines, present weekly on their progress and work together to determine goals, identify problems and devise creative solutions. The work that CCU students have done within the confines of the course is nothing short of amazing. Our guiding principles are simple: 1) Questions are more important than definite answers; 2) Precision does not imply accuracy; 3) Uncertainty is a vital component of knowledge.

Arne Flaten is the recipient of the 2013 Horry Telephone Cooperative Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Lecturer Award.

Meet the CeTEAL Advisory Committee

CeTEAL’s advisory committee plays a vital role in its mission. The committee meets quarterly to review CeTEAL’s activities, plans and policies. Our committee members include:

Jeremy Dickerson is an associate professor in the Spadoni College of Education. He teaches courses in instructional technology, technology management, technology integration and curriculum. Dickerson received his doctoral degree from North Carolina State University and has more than 10 years of experience teaching and providing technology leadership at multiple universities as well as consulting in business and industry.

Denise Davis joined University College as a first year academic advisor in September 2010 after working as operations manager in CCU’s Department of Public Safety since 2006. She previously taught in the administrative office technology program at Horry Georgetown Technical College. Davis earned an associate’s degree in business in 1992, a bachelor’s degree in management in 2003 and a master’s degree in education curriculum and instruction in 2007. As an academic advisor and instructor, Davis empowers students to make the best of their college education. She advocates never giving up on a dream. Delayed dreams are not denied dreams! Davis believes her life purpose is to encourage, teach and help those in need.

Louis Keiner came to CCU in 1998 after a post-doctoral position with NOAA. He teaches physics and physical oceanography, and has published and presented about CCU’s use of innovative methods in science education. He served for six years as the first director of the CETL and has also served as department chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics. Keiner remains active with CeTEAL, especially in the areas of active engagement of students and faculty evaluation.

Marvin Keene is currently the department chair for the Department of Accounting, Finance, and Economics. He joined Coastal in 2004 after receiving his Ph.D. in finance from Florida State University. His primary area of interest and research is in investment analysis. Keene holds the Chartered Financial Analysts (CFA) designation, an international designation for excellence in the investment profession globally. He is an active member of the community and is married with three children.

Margaret Fain holds the rank of librarian and has been involved in reference and instruction at Kimbel Library for the past 27 years. She has taught credit courses in English and Honors, as well as working with faculty in all colleges to provide course-integrated library instruction for all levels of CCU students, from Scholars Academy to graduate students. Fain is currently serving as director of core curriculum for the University.

Elizabeth Howie has been assistant professor of art history at CCU since 2008. She specializes in modern and contemporary art with an emphasis on the history and theory of photography. She received her Ph.D. from the art history department at UNC-Chapel Hill in 2007. Howie’s work has been published in the edited volume Walter Benjamin and the Aesthetics of Change: An Interdisciplinary Approach (Palgrave, 2010), and her essay on photography theorist Abigail Solomon-Godeau appears in Fifty Key Writers on Photography (Routledge, 2012).
Inhibit Cheating and Plagiarism in Blackboard

Blackboard allows instructors to randomize test questions in order to present each student with a different version of a test. For example, an instructor might set a test to randomly select 25 questions from a set of 100 questions, so each student would see a different list of questions. Instructors can use the “Question Set” or “Random Block” options when designing a test in Blackboard or Respondus in order to randomize questions.

When randomizing test questions, it is best to use a relatively limited number of questions in the question set. If you have a question set including thousands of questions, the test questions will be displayed very slowly during the test as the system sorts through the entire set to randomly select questions.

The SafeAssign tool in Blackboard checks student papers for plagiarism. SafeAssign compares writing submitted by students to other sources including databases of books and journals, websites and other student papers. Instructors can set up SafeAssignments in Blackboard to allow students to submit documents for review. SafeAssign generates a report on each student’s submission highlighting any text matching an outside source.

The LockDown Browser function allows instructors to lock down the test screen while students take a test. LockDown Browser freezes the test screen so students are unable to print the screen, copy or paste the questions, or access any other programs or screens on the computer while the test is in progress. Instructors can restrict a test to require students to use LockDown Browser to take the test. Students will need to download the LockDown Browser program from a web link provided by the instructor.

For more information on these Blackboard tools, contact blackboard@coastal.edu.

Blackboard Updates

Blackboard was recently upgraded to include a few new options and bug fixes. As a result of the upgrade, you may notice a few new features in your Blackboard courses such as new course report options, automatic regrading of tests and expanded customization options.

Due to the Blackboard upgrade, you may need to update your Respondus Quiz Builder software with a recently released patch. The patch file is located in the Respondus site in your Blackboard course list. Simply click on the “PATCH” link, download the file to your computer, and select “Run” to install the patch. For more details on how to download and install the patch, email blackboard@coastal.edu.

Moodle Updates

Phase II of the ITS Moodle Pilot is underway. Approximately 35 faculty are using Moodle this semester.

Moodle was recently updated, improving the look and functionality of the system. As part of the upgrade, several processes such as adding content and viewing the grade book are more streamlined, and the icons are more appealing and easy to recognize.

The Messaging tool in Moodle can be used to send instant messages and email to students in your Moodle classes. When a student is logged into your course, your message will appear as a pop-up window in the course. If the student clicks “Ignore” on the message pop-up, the message will pop-up each time the student accesses the course until the message is opened. A copy of all messages you send to a student will be sent to the student’s CCU email account.

Want to learn more about these Moodle functions? Contact moodle@coastal.edu.

Library Introduces Mobile Platform

Mobile platform expands students and faculty access to Kimbel Library resources.

Kimbel Library and Bryan Information Commons’ Library Technology and Technologies (LTAS) department is always looking for innovative ways to provide access to library resources and services. Faculty, staff and students can now take advantage of the new mobile platform to access resources.

“Technology, in general, just keeps getting smaller and faster, and we felt that library user community has hit critical mass in its usage of mobile platforms such as Android and Apple smart phones, iPads, iPods, Galaxy tablets, etc.” said John Felts, head of LTAS. “We wanted to meet students at their point of need, which I’ve found in my experience to be the most effective way of reaching students.”

When accessing the platform, library patrons will find catalogue, hours and location, events, my account, ask a librarian and mobile databases. “A key component of this mobile platform is the tight integration with the Library’s Online Public Access Catalog and the access we provide to mobile-optimized databases,” explained Felts. “This mobile platform has functionality and capability specific to accessing library resources. We’re offering both a web application, a site optimized for mobile-based browsers, and a native app, which is downloadable and will be an app that resides on the user’s mobile desktop.”

LTAS hopes to add new enhancements such as better integration of IM/SMS chat services to allow users to text, use location-based services and integrate with social media. The library’s platform will include more access to mobile-optimized online resources as they become available.

CeTEAL Staff Member Earns Certificate in ID

CeTEAL staff help the department focus on faculty development with instructional design.

Tracy Gaskin, CeTEAL’s senior course management system administrator, has earned a graduate certificate in instructional design from University of Wisconsin. The program included graduate work in instructional design, e-learning development and project management. Gaskin will use the skills gained through the program to develop training materials for CeTEAL and to assist faculty with development of online course components for use in Blackboard and
CeTEAL Training Schedule

The full CeTEAL training schedule can be found online at www.coastal.edu/ceteal. Visit the website and login to register for the sessions below and many more.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Scholarship</th>
<th>Research Services Series</th>
<th>Teaching Effectiveness</th>
<th>New Faculty Classes</th>
<th>Course Technology</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Circle 5: Week 1</td>
<td>Research Services: Finding Funding</td>
<td>Make Your Lectures More Effective</td>
<td>Effective Academic Advising</td>
<td>Moodle Basics: Introduction to Moodle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mendeley: Managing Your</td>
<td>Research Services: Proposal Writing</td>
<td>Facilitating Effective</td>
<td>Summer Pay and Dual</td>
<td>Moodle Basics: Introduction to Moodle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Process</td>
<td>Jan. 30, 11 a.m.</td>
<td>Discussion in the Classroom</td>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>Jan. 18, 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 29, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Research Services: Budget Basics</td>
<td>Flipped Classroom: Rethinking</td>
<td>Interpreting Student</td>
<td>Moodle Circle 1: Week 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feb. 4, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Class Time</td>
<td>Evaluations</td>
<td>Overview</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Research Services: Research</td>
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<td>Building a Professional</td>
<td>Jan. 30, 10 a.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Compliance</td>
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<td>Portfolio</td>
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<td>Feb. 6, 1 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>March 27, 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Cafe</td>
<td>Research Services: Grant Basics</td>
<td>Contact us to learn about</td>
<td>Your Path to Promotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 15, Noon.</td>
<td>Feb. 19, 1:40 p.m.</td>
<td>Writing Circles, ABD Circles,</td>
<td>and Tenure</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Grant Writing</td>
<td>April 9, 4:30 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
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Register for these sessions and more at www.coastal.edu/ceteal

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CeTEAL Advisory Committee

The CeTEAL Advisory Board meets quarterly to review CeTEAL activities, plans and policies. The members are active participants in assisting the center with teaching, scholarship and leadership sessions, seminars and other events such as New Faculty Orientation and New Faculty Seminar Series.

Louis Keiner — College of Sciences  
Margaret Fain — Library  
Jeremy Dickerson — College of Education  
Elizabeth Howie — College of Humanities and Fine Arts  
Marvin Keene — College of Business  
Denise Davis — Academic Advisor  
Gabrielle Wirth — CCU Student

CeTEAL Online Resources

www.coastal.edu/ceteal  
www.coastal.edu/blackboard  
libguides.coastal.edu/moodlefaculty