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ONTrack is an e-bulletin sent to Tenure Track Faculty, Faculty Mentors, Department Chairs, and Deans containing information about resources for faculty development and opportunities for scholarship and effective teaching. Please respond to this email with topics you would like to see here. ONTrack is archived at: <http://www.facultymentoring.neu.edu>.

Topics:

- 1) CAREER Proposal Writing Workshop - May 9, 2006
- 2) Essential Teaching Seminar - June 1-3, 2006
- 3) Jonas on the Impact of Late Grades
- 4) Importance of Mentoring in Grant Writing
- 5) Call for Proposals - High-Rate Nanomanufacturing
- 6) Faculty Kudos
- 7) Upcoming Events & Deadlines

1) CAREER Proposal Writing Workshop - May 9, 2006. The National Science Foundation annual Career Proposal deadline is in July 2006. Those who receive an NSF Career grant also receive an award that they will benefit from for their entire careers. To be successful one must present an integrated research and education plan, which is a distinct difference from most research proposals. More than 25 Northeastern University faculty have received Career Awards over the past 11 years. We will be presenting a workshop with proposal writing tips and first hand experiences from recent career awardees on May 9, 2006 in 333 Curry Student Center. See: <http://www.nsf.gov/career> for more information about proposal requirements and eligibility. A workshop agenda is available at <http://www.facultymentoring.neu.edu>. RSVP to Gail Whitehouse a x2170 or email: ga.whitehouse@neu.edu by May 5, 2006.

2) Essential Teaching Seminar - June 1-3, 2006. Appropriate for faculty in the physical sciences and engineering. The intensive ASME Essential Teaching Seminars for engineering and technology faculty have helped approximately 400 faculty hone their teaching skills in a collegial, peer-critique environment, and learn from the latest best practices in teaching and learning. Participants will prepare and teach actual classes in small group settings, with each class videotaped and assessed by the group's faculty mentors and the other participants. This collaborative "learn by doing" format ensures that participants will make substantive gains by the end of the seminar. Each seminar is limited to 30 participants, so register today to secure your spot! Registration is open through April 30. For more information see the Essential Teaching Seminars website: http://www.asme.org/Education/College/Essential_Teaching_Seminars.cfm. Information about Registration for the June 1 - 3, 2006 workshop at MIT is available at: <https://secure.asme.org/ets/MITregistration.cfm>.

As a Northeastern University assistant professor in Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, Jackie Isaacs participated in this worthwhile program prior to tenure, and highly recommends it. In just three days, the workshop taught her to prepare to teach more efficiently and effectively, which ultimately freed up time for other scholarly activities. During the workshop, participants are critiqued by teaching mentors after teaching to a small group of participants. Isaacs, now an associate professor, has continued her connection with the Essential Teaching Seminars through participation herself as a teaching mentor, and a host to the 2004 ETS here on the NU campus. Please contact Jackie Isaacs if you would like additional information about this important opportunity. jaisaacs@coe.neu.edu or 617-373-3989.

3) Jonas on the Impact of Late Grades. See http://www.jonaschalk.neu.edu/search_archives/display.php?id=94 for getting the word out on submitting grades on time.

4) Importance of Mentoring in Grant Writing. Make an effort to find a mentor to help navigate through the grant writing process. "It helps to have a mentor, whether you actually use that term or not, to help you decide which grants to seek and how to navigate the bureaucratic shoals that lurk in every administrative office. A successful senior colleague can tell you what the expectations are at your new institution and how to meet them." See the full article at Tomorrow's Professor: <http://ctl.stanford.edu/Tomprof/postings/710.html>.

5) Call for Proposals - High-Rate Nanomanufacturing. The NSF Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center for High-rate

Nanomanufacturing (CHN) (in conjunction with the MA state-sponsored and MTC administered, UML Nanomanufacturing Center for Excellence) is seeking proposals related to its core research mission. Proposals are available for faculty who are conducting research in areas related to Nanomanufacturing. Proposals must target areas specifically supporting and/or complementing the core CHN effort in high-rate, template directed - assembly. Visit <http://www.uml.edu/chn>, <http://www.nano.neu.edu> and <http://www.unh.edu/nano> for further description of projects and research areas involved with the Center. The seed funding is to be used to help faculty initiate efforts in creating new processes, models, instrumentation, etc, that will contribute to the overall mission of advancing Nanomanufacturing. Questions should be directed to Carol Barry at UMass Lowell, cbarryt@aol.com.

6) Faculty Kudos. Let us know what you are up to by completing the form at: http://www.facultymentoring.neu.edu/faculty_highlights/brag_form.

* **Professor Timothy Bickmore** (Computer and Information Science) has been awarded a 2007 NSF CAREER Development Award. His proposal entitled, "CAREER: A Virtual Laboratory for Studying Long-Term Human-Computer Relationships" is a five-year project to study how social interface agents can conduct very long-term interactions with users and to develop a networked software architecture and experimental methodology to support very long-term human-computer interaction studies. See Professor Bickmore's website at: <http://www.ccs.neu.edu/home/bickmore>.

* **Professor Ronald Bruce Smith** (Music) has been invited to be in residence at STEIM (an internationally renowned computer music center) in Amsterdam, NL June 25 - July 1, 2006. During the residency he will work with Dutch/American clarinetist Laura Carmichael on a piece for clarinet and live electronics; will perform a concert with Carmichael on June 28; will give a lecture/workshop on his compositions; and will record his Something Suspicious for bass clarinet and live electronics for a forthcoming CD. STEIM is the only independent live electronic music center in the world that is exclusively dedicated to the performing arts. (<http://www.steim.org/steim/info.html>). The world premiere of Ronald Bruce Smith's String Quartet no. 2 will take place on May 24, 25, 26 and 28, 2006 in performances by the Del Sol String Quartet in the San Francisco Bay Area (<http://www.delsolquartet.com/about.html>).

* **Professor Catherine Dolan** (Sociology and Anthropology) has been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant on to study the socioeconomic effects of fair trade in Kenya. Her research supported by the cultural anthropology program within NSF is collaborative with a geographer at the University of Nairobi and seeks to examine socioeconomic effects of fair trade schemes on household and gender relations and to determine how commodity chains shape opportunities for farmers, producers, and exporters. See the full research abstract available through: <http://www.facultymentoring.neu.edu>.

* **Professor Kate Ziemer** (Chemical Engineering) has received the Martin W. Essigmann Outstanding Teaching Award from the College of Engineering. She joins tenured faculty Brad Lehman (Electrical and Computer Engineering) and John Rossettos (Mechanical and Industrial Engineering) who will also receive this competitive teaching award in 2006. Learn more about Professor Ziemer's activities at her website: <http://www.coe.neu.edu/Depts/CHE/faculty/details/ZiemerDetail2.html>.

* **Faculty Mentor Professor James Fox** (Criminal Justice) is a regular columnist for the Boston Herald, writing bi-weekly on the op-ed page about crime and justice issues.

* **Faculty Mentor Professor Carey Rappaport** (Electrical and Computer Engineering) has been inducted as a Fellow into the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

7) Upcoming Events & Deadlines.

* **May 6, 2006 (Saturday).** Graduation in the TD Banknorth Garden.

* **May 9, 2006 (Tuesday).** Career Proposal Writing Workshop, 333 Curry Student Center.

* **May 12, 2006 (Friday).** Deadline for NSF Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center for High-rate Nanomanufacturing (CHN) call for proposals. Questions should be directed to Carol Barry at UMass Lowell, cbarryt@aol.com.