

GASP! Get a Student Pondering

QEP & Assessment “Stuff”

Librarians recognize faculty efforts to help students develop information literacy skills



Information Literacy Spotlight

By *Connie Tuisku*

There are many faculty members at the College who deserve recognition for their challenging and thoughtful information literacy assignments—assignments that engage students in developing their information literacy skills. This spotlight features faculty members whose assignments motivate students to use information literacy to solve a problem, use higher order thinking, use information to illustrate a concept, require the use of multiple types of information sources, present an information literacy rubric, or require the use of a unique format of information.

Faculty members are featured for creating a unique student assignment requiring information literacy skills. In some instances, a librarian provided an instructional session, consulted or created a resource guide for the assignment. At other times, the process of discovering a great assignment was more serendipitous as students found their way to the library to ask a reference librarian for help.

Using these guidelines, three faculty members and their information litera

Meet Connie Tuisku

Connie has served as a librarian at Palm Beach State College since 2001.

She is a passionate advocate of information



literacy as a lifelong learning skill and volunteers her time and expertise on the General Education Assessment

Committee. In 2005, she coordinated the College's participation in a national information literacy assessment study [Project SAILS](#), which served to benchmark information literacy skills at U.S. colleges.

An outdoors enthusiast, Connie enjoys the study of plants, hiking, yoga and poetry.

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Special points of interest

Featured author
Connie Tuisku

Shout-outs and Spotlights

Guess who's coming to
Development Day?

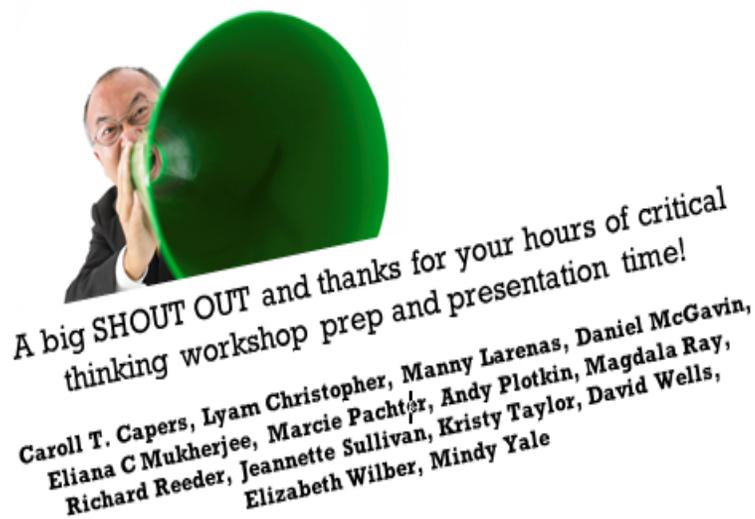
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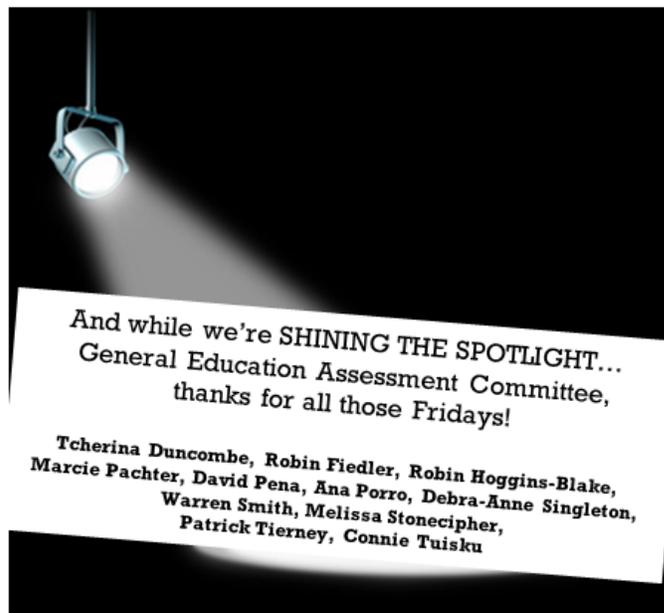
Critical Thinking Workshop Success!

Last fall, several faculty and staff members began to review a variety of ideas and strategies related to critical thinking. As each honed in on a particular topic of interest, workshop development began. Presenters included faculty members, staff, and instructors from the QEP Implementation Team, plus four faculty volunteers. At least two workshops were offered on each campus, and a combined total of 18 workshops were presented between February 15 and February 22. Thanks to these hard-working colleagues, as well as scheduling staff for help with room assignments, and MTIS staff on all campuses for assisting with video-taping to make the workshops available online. Most sessions were recorded and will become available next month with additional information.



General Education Update

There is an old Chinese curse that goes something like “May you live in interesting times,” and these are certainly interesting times in the world of general education! With the clarifications from SACS, the possible changes on the State level, and our own desire to make our assessments more meaningful, there are many potential changes on the horizon. Sometimes, however, the things that challenge us the most also provide the best opportunity for self-reflection and growth. The faculty forums that have now taken place on each of our four campuses were excellent examples of the types of conversation that we will continue to facilitate. Not only were new ideas generated, but these dialogues took place within and across disciplines. Once the General Education Assessment Committee has fully reviewed all the input from the forums, they will utilize that information to refine the general education philosophy statement. In addition, information from the forum discussion tables will be shared with the faculty for cluster discussion on Development Day in order to craft the wording for the General Education learning outcomes. Once complete, all of this information will be sent out to the entire faculty for review and comment. In the meantime, we are also working on ways to improve how we assess general education so there is a clearer connection between the curriculum and the measurement. This is an evolving process, and your input is always welcome. Stay tuned!



The response to last year's survey on Academic Development Day was overwhelmingly positive. Comments about the keynote speaker were highly favorable with many requests for us to bring him back.

Well, we listened!

Back By Popular Demand!

[Dr. Mark Taylor](#)

Academic Development Day, March 19, 2013



Information Literacy Spotlight

By *Connie Tuisku (continued from Cover)*

Continued from Cover

cy assignments are featured. Continue to read about Professor Sandra Didner, Sabrina Greenwell, and Alice Mecoli.

PROFESSOR SANDRA DIDNER

Courses taught: Composition and literature, Lake Worth campus
Assignment: Professor Didner requires creative use of information to solve a research problem. She created the persona for 27 individuals that live in specific historical times and settings. Each student is given a unique scenario to help them avoid plagiarism and to solve a complex research problem. Used with permission, following are some excerpts from Professor Didner's research paper assignment.



Professor Sandra Didner
Lake Worth Campus

From text: *You are a Chinese noble woman living in Peking in the year 1800. Describe your physical condition, your home, your clothing, your*

diet, your society, your religion, your leisure activities, and your government. What books would you read?

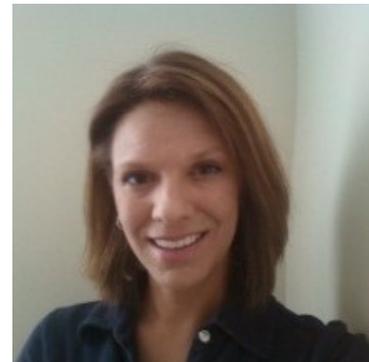
You are a French merchant living in the province of Lorraine, France in the year 1420. Describe your medical care, your home, your clothing, your diet, your society, your religion, your leisure activities, and your government. What books would you read if you could read?

PROFESSOR ALICE MECOLI

Course taught: Nutrition, Boca Raton Campus.
Assignment: Professor Mecoli requires her students to locate a recent news article related to nutrition and to write a review of the article. Professor Mecoli provides a grading rubric and asks students to list new terms/concepts and definitions; explain why the information should be considered valid; and to identify important facts in the article and how they relate to their own life.

PROFESSOR SABRINA GREENWELL

Courses taught: Intro education courses on Lake Worth campus
Assignment: Professor Greenwell schedules all of her education classes for library instruction to learn about and find a peer reviewed journal article. As students learn about becoming an educator, they go forward with the knowledge of how to learn. They also know about the professional literature in education and how to access literature that will make a difference in their own classrooms.



Professor Sabrina Greenwell
Lake Worth Campus

Librarians at each Campus are ready to work with faculty to propose an information literacy dimension to a new or existing assignment. Besides challenging students with active learning, faculty on the Lake Worth campus will be eligible to compete in a library assignment competition to be juried in April, 2013. Look for details about this in a future newsletter or Twitter. If you have a great information literacy assignment, please send it to the author of this article and you may find your assignment in the spotlight.

All the best...from your friendly librarians.

**CHECK OUT LIB GUIDES AT
PALM BEACH STATE
COLLEGE—NEARLY 300
EXPERTLY-DESIGNED
RESOURCES.
VISIT TODAY TO SEE WHAT'S
AVAILABLE FOR
YOUR STUDENTS.**

*About **GASP!** Palm Beach State College*

The idea behind *GASP!* is pretty simple. We all want students to think! As faculty and staff, we appreciate ideas that will make it easier for us get students thinking, and we want to better understand how assessment can help us know we're on the right track. *GASP!* may come in the form of a single fact sheet, a newsletter, or sometimes perhaps, something more journalistic.

The QEP and General Education Assessment Committees want to use *GASP!* as a platform to

- feature faculty and staff who have or are using strategies that help students demonstrate achievement of any of our general education learning outcomes, including critical thinking;
- update readers on important issues related to assessment, accreditation, or the QEP;
- promote College events related to critical thinking, assessment, or professional learning opportunities for faculty or staff that will lead to improved student learning.

So what do you think? Have an idea? We're listening!

Please contact us if you have something to share!

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Helen Shub: shubh@palmbeachstate.edu

Who's Who?

**Assessment Chair: Helen Shub
QEP Chair: Karen Pain**

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Robin Fiedler	Carleton Chernehoff
Robin Hoggins-Blake	Lyam Christopher
David Knopp	Brian Findley
Marcie Pachter	Manuel Larenas
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