

## Teaching Tips

Submitted by Ruth Ault

Teaching Tips: Office of Teaching Resources in Psychology

*Many of us have benefited from the teaching resources on Division 20's web pages. The Office of Teaching Resources in Psychology (OTRP) is an additional resource, including information about a range of courses that you may teach and, more broadly, needs of Psychology Departments. The new director of OTRP, Ruth Ault, has kindly agreed to give us an overview of what is available to us. I echo Ruth's suggestion that Division 20 members submit information related to aging to OTRP. Increasing our presence on their web site will help us reach a broader audience about the importance of teaching aging-related issues. —KSM*

OTRP, operating under the auspices of The Society for Teaching of Psychology (STP, APA's Division 2), offers five primary categories of service directed at teachers of psychology from universities through secondary schools. These resources are free to anyone with an internet access. In this article I briefly describe each of those services and how each may be of use to you. In addition I invite you to contribute your resources and talents to add to those already available. I hope you will also tell your colleagues about the services.

OTRP's **Online Document Library** is a collection of miscellaneous documents posted online that teachers find useful, not only for course preparation but also for our other duties and interactions with students. For example OTRP documents include a lab manual for introductory psychology; introductory psychology text comparisons; activities for the first and last days of class; activities for college-high school partnerships; film study guides; informational resources on incorporating genocide, ethnopolitical conflict, and human rights issues into the curriculum; and annotated bibliographies on topics such as psychology and law, internationalizing the curriculum, diversity, and multicultural psychology. Other documents cover advising issues: assisting undergraduate majors with graduate school planning, advising students about the Psy.D. degree, and writing letters of recommendation. Some deal with research-related activities, such as instructions to make posters with presentation software or sensitizing students to research fraud. Another discusses ethical issues in teaching. If you have created documents on topics that you think a teaching audience would find valuable, I encourage you to submit them. As the director of OTRP, I am the point of contact for these submissions, [ruault@davidson.edu](mailto:ruault@davidson.edu). We engage in a peer-review process prior to accepting any document for posting. In this way, STP attempts to encourage teaching as scholarship and to provide an endorsement of such work to heighten its value at the local level. Authors retain copyright of their work but assign publication rights to OTRP for a 4-year initial period. After that, OTRP may continue to post it, at our discretion, until authors contact us and ask us to withdraw it.

**Project Syllabus**, a special section of the **online** library, serves the same purpose as Division 20's own **online** syllabus collection, but with representation from a wider variety of course topics, including introductory psychology, cognitive psychology, research methods, history of psychology, health psychology, psychological testing, psychology of adjustment, personality, physiological psychology, psychology of peace, teaching of psychology, human sexuality, and others. As with other documents, syllabi are peer-reviewed. Although the review does not impose uniformity on the syllabi, it does guarantee a certain level of quality. To guide syllabus development, Jeanne Slattery and Janet Carlson have listed pointers for preparing exemplary syllabi (see [http://www.lemoyne.edu/OTRP/syllabi/exemplary\\_syllabi.pdf](http://www.lemoyne.edu/OTRP/syllabi/exemplary_syllabi.pdf)). These pointers form the basis of the review criteria. Not only are you welcome to search the site for syllabi that may pertain to your teaching load, but you are welcome to submit your syllabi for review and possible posting, even if you have posted it on your own division's site. That way these excellent resources can reach a broader audience. Copyright procedures are the same as for the other **online** documents. Send syllabi to the service director Sue Frantz at [sfrantz@highline.edu](mailto:sfrantz@highline.edu).

The **Mentoring Service** lists faculty who have agreed to correspond with anyone seeking teaching advice, organized by the content expertise areas of those faculty members. It is most useful for faculty teaching at schools that have no formal mentoring program, but it can also be quite useful for individuals who do not want to share a particular concern with anyone from their own institution or who have no appropriate contact at their own institution.

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I hope you will consider joining the list of mentors and use the list whenever you have need of a mentor. Drew Appleby [dappleby@iupui.edu](mailto:dappleby@iupui.edu) is in charge of this OTRP function.

The **Departmental Consulting Service** is a joint undertaking of STP and APA's Board of Educational Affairs (BEA). Any psychology department or program that seeks recommendations of individuals who are experienced program reviewers can request those names after indicating on a brief form what criteria are most important to the department (e.g., the reviewer being from a public or private school, being from a comparable size institution, or having a particular area of expertise). Although consultants do not deal with problems concerning individual faculty members, they can address general personnel issues such as ways the department can promote faculty development. Programs are expected to compensate the reviewers in the standard ways (travel, honorarium) and do their own negotiations concerning the specifics of what they want reviewers to do, but having a "vetted" list of possible reviewers can be a big help to starting the process. If you are interested in becoming a reviewer, I invite you to contact STP's service coordinator, Tracy Zinn, [zinnte@jmu.edu](mailto:zinnte@jmu.edu) or BEA's Martha Boenau, [mboenau@apa.org](mailto:mboenau@apa.org)

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to STP-provided funding opportunities to develop instructional resources. Each year we issue a call for proposals and award up to five **Instructional Resource Awards**. These awards help faculty complete substantive projects that yield resources appropriate for distribution by OTRP, and the award winning documents are identified as such at OTRP-Online. The annual submission deadline typically occurs around February 1, but you can contact the Chair of the committee that evaluates proposals, Tara Kuther at [kuthert@wcsu.edu](mailto:kuthert@wcsu.edu) anytime. Application forms are posted at OTRP-Online, and we try to publish a call for proposals in *Monitor on Psychology* in the fall. Applicants do not need to be members of STP (or even of APA), although we would be happy to have you join us.

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## 2008 INTERNATIONAL COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE MARCH 6 – 9, 2008, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

CONTACT: D. Nolan, 561-339-7364; [conferenceplanner@icpc2008.org](mailto:conferenceplanner@icpc2008.org)

"Creating The Future, Counseling Psychologists in a Changing World" is the theme for the 2008 International Counseling Psychology Conference, to be held March 6 – 9th, at the Chicago Hilton & Towers in Chicago, IL. This is the fifth time the counseling psychology profession has hosted its own conference. Unlike previous conferences reflecting a national perspective, this will be the first counseling psychology conference promoting an international mission.

According to Linda M. Forrest, Ph.D., University of Oregon, conference co-chair, "The conference agenda will include four days of keynote presentations, symposia, roundtable forums, continuing education, professional training organized to promote interchange, dialogue, collaboration among counseling psychology practitioners and academicians, mid-career professionals, early career professionals and students from around the world. Topics of great importance to counseling psychologists include but are not limited to the intersection of science and practice, multiculturalism and diversity, a developmental, strength based, and prevention approach to psychological problems, career and vocational psychology, attention to global and international psychology, supervision and training, health psychology, and counseling processes and outcomes."

The three primary sponsoring organizations of the event are: The Society of Counseling Psychology, Division 17, of the American Psychology Association (APA), the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs (CCPTP), and the Association of Counseling Center Training Agencies (ACCTA). A call for proposals will be issued on or around July 1, 2007. For more information, go to [www.internationalcounselingpsychologyconference.org](http://www.internationalcounselingpsychologyconference.org) or send an email to [conferenceplanner@icpc2008.org](mailto:conferenceplanner@icpc2008.org).