

The Assessment Times



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER, 2004

From the Chair



Greetings and welcome to the first edition of the Harold Washington College *Assessment Times*. I am pleased to be the Chair of the Assessment Committee for the 2004-2005 academic year.

The committee has hit the ground running. In August we hosted a faculty workshop on Critical Thinking. Over 60 full and part-time faculty members attended this event. The committee hopes to continue to offer professional development opportunities in areas where our assessment activities reveal needs.

We are now gearing up for Assessment Week, Oct. 4-9. Our college will participate in a national pilot administration of SAILS, an **Information Literacy** measure designed by Kent

State University (KSU).

30 instructors have volunteered their time and their classes as participants in the assessment.

You can support Assessment Week by reading about the SAILS instrument, answering student questions and discussing the import of these sorts of activities at the institutional level.

Our next challenge is to address the issue of diversity as it pertains to our general education objective. This cross-disciplinary committee will be looking for a measure to implement in Spring 2005.

Each of the cross-disciplinary committees

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is working hard to establish definitions, guidelines, measures and research. If you would like to join a committee please let me know and I will be happy to help you get involved.

Until next month,

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Keenan Andrews	Dean
Jen Asimow	CD
Saundra Banyard	Dean
George Bickford	Dean
Sydney Daniels	Thea
Sammie Dortch	SW
Jashed Fakhrid-Deen	Math
Joe Figuero	Math
Helene Gabelnick	Chem
Luke Ishihara	ESL
Anita Kelley	CIS
Cecilia Lopez	VP
Denise Maduli-Williams	ESL
Carla McKenzie	CDL
Willard Moody	Eng
Carrie Nepstad	CD
Celia Perez	Lib
Dana Perry	Chem
Peggy Rademaker	CDL
Michael Ruggeri	Hist
Armen Sarrafian	Art
Glenn Weller	CIS

Committee Meeting Highlights

- The committee approved the publication of the Assessment Times and the distribution dates. The monthly newsletter will come out to the faculty, SGA and PTK during the third week of each month during the academic year.
- The committee has been working on the logistics of the SAILS assessment tool.
- The committee approved the artwork to publicize SAILS.
- We are beginning to look ahead and create an assessment calendar.

Assessment Committee Chairs

Jennifer G. Asimow, Chair
Glenn Weller, Co-Chair

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INFORMATION LITERACY: Why do we need it?

By Celia Perez

Have you ever wanted to buy a digital camera or some kind of appliance but had absolutely no clue as to which one might suit your needs? You could go to the store and pick the one that is bigger or shinier or less expensive, but what do these details REALLY tell you about the item you are buying? You could ask a salesperson for advice, but how reliable do you think their recommendations might be? Most of us do a little research when making an important decision. We don't take wild guesses. We assess our information need, find out as much as we can, digest that information, and use what is pertinent to accomplishing our mission.

Information literacy allows us to find and use information in a manner that is efficient and relevant to making informed decisions, whether they involve writing a research paper due next week or the kind of car we buy. Teaching students to apply information literacy skills in the classroom fosters a knowledge that will continue to serve them in real world situations.

We live in a society in which information can be accessed in so many different ways—television, radio, print, the Internet. While this can be a blessing, it can also be a curse because it makes our search for information that much more overwhelming. How do I decide the kind of information I need? How do I go about obtaining that information? How do I evaluate the information to determine if it suits my purpose? How do I then use that information to make decisions? These are all questions that an information literate individual must ask. Information literacy skills, like critical thinking, can be applied inside the classroom, but even more importantly these skills can be and must be applied in real world situations if we and our students are to make well-informed decisions.

Dates To Remember

Wednesday, September 29—Assessment Meeting, 3:30-4:30 in RM 1030.

Monday, October 4-Saturday, October 9—Assessment Week

- All assessments will take place in RM 404

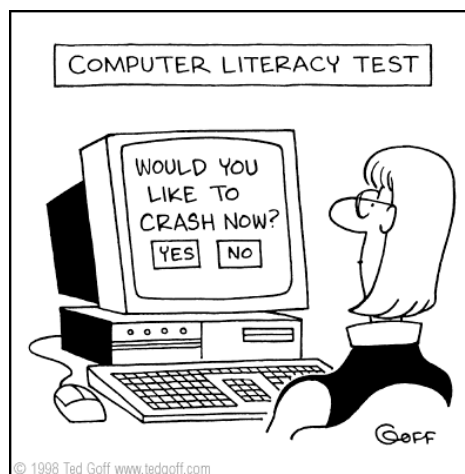
Wednesday, October 6—No Assessment Meeting

Wednesday, October 13—Assessment Meeting, 3:30-4:30 in RM 1030.

Wednesday, October 20—Assessment Meeting, 3:30-4:30 in RM 1030.

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

- www.projectsails.org
- www.tltgroup.org/programs/seven.html
- Www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards/characteristics.htm



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