

# The Assessment Times



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER, 2004

## From the Chair

Jen Asimow

Dear All,

I am pleased to report that the administration of SAILS was a success. 38 faculty volunteered over 40 sections of credit courses, over 1000 students participated and 777 of those chose to include their information in the aggregated data we will receive from the SAILS team, sometime in January.

There are many people who deserve accolades for their hard work.

- Dennis Macklin from OIT designed the technology needed to administer the test. He worked countless hours, troubleshooting, reworking and adjusting the test to suit our needs.

- Florinda Bayod and the open computer lab techs who supported both the faculty and students during assessment week.

- The CDL office's Carla McKenzie and Brandon Taylor who ran the faculty training sessions and helped staff the open computer lab during testing times.

- Armen Sarrafian for his beautiful "Measure your Mind" artwork.

- David Locke for printing and posting the posters as well as copying hundreds of copies for the committee at the last minute.

- The entire Assessment Committee spent the first 5 weeks of the semester preparing for Assessment Week.

- VP Lopez, for her continued support.

All faculty who were willing to participate in SAILS. Sarah Kaiser, Armen Sarrafian, Ellen Eason-Montgomery, Athir Mahmud, Matt Shevitz, Syd

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Daniels, Carrie Nepstad, Anita Kelley, Glenn Weller, Larry Su, Isabelle Belance, John Metoyer, Peter Remus, Phil Stucky, Cheryl Dias, Myra Cox, Sangha Saha, Adriana Tapanes, Jashed Fakhrid-Deen, Sammie Dortch, Pierre Tchetchen, Sarah Liston, Camelia Salajeon, Ivan Tejada, Rita Lowe, Rosie Banks, Lynel Kieley, John Hader, Dave Richardson, Shanaz Shamsi, Mike Davis, Marcy Henry, Anthony Ealey, Amanda Loos, Laura Chambers and BJ White.

Until Next Month

## Committee Meeting Highlights

- The committee is working with the Diversity sub-committee to find an appropriate measure to assess our general education goal.

- The committee is working on creating a 1-3 year calendar in order that the entire

college can look ahead to assessment activities.

- The committee agreed to host an all-faculty workshop on November 18th.

- The committee agreed to

host an all-faculty workshop on January 13, 2005.

- The committee is planning to implement the CCSSE (Community College Survey of Student Engagement) survey in late February.

## 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
Sangha Saha	Bio
Armen Sarrafian	Art
Glenn Weller	CIS

## Assessment Committee Chairs

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

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*Good Assessment  
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## Another Word on Information Literacy

By Michael Lorenzan, Librarian, Penn State

Information Literacy is essential in an ever-growing and complex Information Society. Being literate in a world where the written word dominates not only requires good reading and writing skills, but also the ability to think critically, to read between the lines, to share ideas and to build collective action. Literacy in the Information Society also demands these skills but additionally, requires new mental and operational capabilities, enabling us to deal successfully with a highly fluid, evasive and yet strongly – though sometimes invisibly – structured environment. Not being able to attain the right level of literacy implies some degree of alienation, a dispossession of the right to fully and meaningfully participate in society. Conversely, being in command of the right mental tools engenders empowerment, the capacity to act and to think for oneself and for the common good.

Information Literacy, or the lack of it, is perhaps the most crucial facet of the so-called digital divide. But because it has very deep roots in the social and economic inequalities that govern access to education, it is much harder to solve than the provision of access to networks or to hardware.

In a globalized world, any divide is a threat to all. It must therefore be high on any global political agenda that strives to bridge the various divides that menace us. Among these, the Literacy Divide seems to me the crucial one to address and fix, because it is a precondition for self-empowerment.

## Dates To Remember

October 20—Assessment Meeting Rm. 1030, 3-4PM

October 27—Assessment Meeting Rm. 1030, 3-4PM

November 3—Assessment Meeting Rm. 1030, 3-4PM

November 10—Assessment Meeting Rm. 1030, 3-4PM

November 17—Assessment Meeting Rm. 1030, 3-4PM

**\*\*\*November 18—Assessment Workshop 2:15-3:45**

**All Faculty are Welcome**

### CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

### THESE ARE INFORMATION LITERACY TUTORIALS

<http://tilt.lib.utsystem.edu/>

<http://intra.fiu.edu/library/tutorial/>

## Something to Critically Think About...

What is wrong with the following reasoning? Do you know the name for this sort of fallacy?

"Jack is opposed to the war, but he's a coward. I wouldn't take any of his arguments seriously."

The speaker is making an *ad hominem* attack on Jack. That is he's attacking Jack's character rather than his arguments. The fact that Jack is a coward has no bearing on whether or not his arguments are valid.