

# CTL NEWS

*A quarterly from the Yale-NUS College Centre for Teaching and Learning*

## CTL Visitors for Semester 2!

### **Deb Pires (UCLA): Active Learning - Feb 8-12th, 2016**

Pires is an Active Learning expert. She will be sharing her techniques with us during her visit to Yale-NUS College.

### **Jenny Fredrick (Yale CTL) + Scott Strobel (Yale): Teaching at Yale and Yale-NUS - Feb 29-March 4, 2016**

Fredrick and Strobel will be visiting the College for a full week, hosting workshops, visiting classrooms, and sharing their experiences of best practices in teaching from New Haven. Stay tuned for more information.

### **Judy Harackiewicz (U. Wisconsin, Madison): Psychology of Motivation in Teaching and Learning - March 21-23, 2016**

Harackiewicz will discuss the psychology of motivation, grades and goal setting, and how we can use such research in teaching.

### **Brian Brophy (Caltech): Theatre in Teaching March 27-April 3, 2016**

Brophy is a renowned screen & stage actor, as well as an accomplished playwright and professor. He will share his insights on theatre and teaching.

## Happy New Year from the CTL!

We hope you all had restful and enjoyable Winter Break and are ready for a great new semester teaching at Yale-NUS College! Our Centre has lined up an exciting range of Visiting Scholars of Pedagogy for you during the upcoming semester. They will be giving workshops, lunch talks and sharing expertise in their fields in sciences, social sciences and humanities.

We also had a great first semester last fall, hosting several visitors such as Darryl Yong, who discussed diversity in the classroom, and Dan Bernstein, who discussed assessment practices with our group.

Do contact us if you would like to suggest programs, or request services from our Center to help you design a new course, explore new techniques in teaching or arrange for a confidential consultation on your teaching!

This newsletter provides an overview of our CTL activities this semester. Please refer to our web site at <http://teaching.yale-nus.edu.sg> or email us at [teaching@yale-nus.edu.sg](mailto:teaching@yale-nus.edu.sg).

Bryan Penprase, CTL Director  
Nancy Gleason, CTL Associate Director

*Above: Darryl Yong, of Harvey Mudd College, speaks to Yale-NUS faculty about teaching and diversity in the classroom as part of the CTL's Scholar in Residence program in November 2015*



### New Course Proposals are Due to Registry Jan 15th

The CTL is here to help you think through course design, learning objectives and assessment options for your new courses. Contact us: [Teaching@yale-nus.edu.sg](mailto:Teaching@yale-nus.edu.sg) The library and ERT are also great resources for developing interesting and innovative assignments so reach out.

### CTL on Social Media

Follow us on Twitter @TeachingYNC Like us and follow our feed on Facebook "Yale-NUS Centre for Teaching and Learning"

### Peer Tutoring at Yale-NUS College

Peter Tutors will again be available in Sem2 AY2015/2016. Let our tutors know what open sessions might be helpful for them to host or refer a student to our services.

### Contacts

Bryan Penprase (Director)  
[bryan.penprase@yale-nus.edu.sg](mailto:bryan.penprase@yale-nus.edu.sg)

Nancy Gleason (Assoc. Director)  
[nancy.gleason@yale-nus.edu.sg](mailto:nancy.gleason@yale-nus.edu.sg)

Tim Wertz (Mathematics and QR)  
[tim.wertz@yale-nus.edu.sg](mailto:tim.wertz@yale-nus.edu.sg)

Hai Guang Lian (Deans Fellow)  
[haiguang.lian@yale-nus.edu.sg](mailto:haiguang.lian@yale-nus.edu.sg)

JiaYing Lim (FSO contact)  
[jiaying.lim@yale-nus.edu.sg](mailto:jiaying.lim@yale-nus.edu.sg)

Cindy Seah (ERT technology expert) [cindy.seah@yale-nus.edu.sg](mailto:cindy.seah@yale-nus.edu.sg)

### More on our CTL Visiting Scholars for 2016!

#### Deb Pires - Biology Education (UCLA) February 8th - 12th, 2016

Academic Administrator, Center for Education Innovation and Learning in the Sciences, (CEILS) Instructional Consultant. Dr. Debra Pires teaches courses in the Life Sciences Core Curriculum at UCLA and is an expert in technologies that enhance learning.



#### Jenny Frederick and Scott Strobel (Yale University) February 29-March 4, 2016

Yale University's Executive Director of the Centre for Teaching, Jenny Frederick and Scott Strobel, Deputy Provost for Teaching and Learning and the Henry Ford II Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry will be visiting Yale-NUS College from February 29<sup>th</sup> to March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. They will be hosting interesting sessions on best practice in pedagogy for different disciplines as well as sharing their experiences from New Haven. Details of scheduled talks will be forthcoming.

#### Judy Harackiewicz (University of Wisconsin-Madison) March 21-23, 2016

Prof. Harackiewicz is a psychologist and expert in human motivation, specifically intrinsic motivation, interest, and achievement motivation. She will be here to share with our teaching community about the psychology of teaching, grades and goal setting.

#### Brian Brophy - Theatre Arts - teaching with theatre & workshops

#### Co-sponsor with Arts and Humanities Division March 27-April 3, 2016

Brian Brophy has been involved in the performing arts for nearly thirty years, as an actor in theater, film and television, as well as a theater director, playwright, and over the last ten years, a college professor at Caltech. His IMDB page lists over 40 film credits and he will share his experience with us at Yale-NUS.

#### Eric Mazur - Physics Professor & Expert in Interactive Pedagogy (Harvard University) August 22-26, 2016

Eric Mazur is a physicist and educator at Harvard University. Mazur's research is in experimental ultrafast optics and condensed matter physics as well as interactive pedagogy.

## Services from the Yale-NUS College CTL

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**Video-recording of Lectures:** Several faculty have already arranged to have their classes filmed for their own use - and we are happy to help set up video-recording with ERT, to give you a chance to view your teaching from a student-eye view. These recordings can be a great way to learn more about your teaching!

**Confidential Teaching Consultations:** Another great way to learn more about your class is to have an outside perspective. We can meet with you before your class to discuss your goals, and then after sitting in on the class can meet with you to discuss how the class went in a friendly, and confidential de-briefing.

**Mid-semester assessment:** Within Canvas are a number of pre-loaded mid-semester course evaluation forms. We are happy to help design, deploy and interpret feedback from your classes, to help you optimise your teaching!

## TEACHING TIPS

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### *Writing letters of recommendation for your students*

Writing letters of recommendation is a rewarding opportunity to help our students meet their personal and professional goals. Once asked by a student to write a letter of recommendation, first consider if you have reservations. If you do be straightforward with the student and explain why it would be better if the student requested a letter from another source. Once you have agreed to write a letter of recommendation consider the context closely: internship, study abroad, graduate school, or a professional job. Writing a compelling letter takes some effort to ensure you know the student well enough and have the details you need to effectively support the students candidacy.

Time permitting you can meet with the student and ask for transcript and CV to provide context for your commentary. Use the meeting or emails to help understand the student's specific purpose in pursuing this opportunity. The student should also provide you with all the logistical information you need including deadline and submission guidelines. CIPE has prepared our students well for this step. It is best to write the letter as soon after your meeting with the student as possible to ensure details are fresh in your mind and that you are able to make the strongest case for your student. Use Yale-NUS stationary for any hard copy letters - this is available in the Faculty Support Office.

### *Writing Graduate School Letters*

Soon we will be preparing letters of recommendation for our students to attend graduate schools. These letters should include a specific kind of support.

Letters should include details on the following: (1) Your relationship to the applicant and length of time you have known her/him, (2) Specific details about the applicant's skills; past work for you or present job responsibilities; strengths or weaknesses; any unusual aspects that might contribute to or hinder the applicant's performance; and motivation; (3) Comments on how the above information relates to the student's choice of graduate program or job opening. When writing to a prospective employer, translate academic skills into business skills (e.g., a student's ability to use library facilities for independent research demonstrates curiosity, initiative, and the capacity to work independently). Stress the potential of the individual and why that person is qualified for the job or admission to a graduate program; (4) Your title and full contact information. *Also keep a copy of all letters for your records - the same student is likely to return for future letters after Yale-NUS!*

Source: Stanford Teaching Commons