

# Teaching and Learning Center

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## Teaching to Learn and Learning to Teach

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- **Rain Gardens**
- **Peer Visitor Program**
- **TLC Chat Room Available**
- **Featured Teachers**
- **Calendar Of Events in Teaching Learning Center**
- **New Resources Available**

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### Trudy Biehn Is TEDU Advisor

As of September 1, 2005, Trudy Biehn was officially awarded the position of Assistant to the Dean, Advisor for Teacher Certification in the Teacher Education Program. Trudy comes to the department with 17 years of university experience. As the former Coordinator of Student Evaluation Services in the Registrar's office, she acquired a great deal of expertise in issues related to degree certification, transfer evaluation, SOLAR, and knowledge of DARS. Prior to this, Trudy worked as an administrative assistant in the Chancellor's office. She was also Assistant to the Assistant Chancellor for Equity and Diversity. In her position in

the Teacher Education Department, she is responsible for advising teacher education program intended students and assists with advising students who have been admitted into the program. She also serves as the DPI liaison and certification review assistant to the Dean and prepares DPI licensing documentation for the Dean's signature. Trudy is also responsible for organizing and conducting informational meetings/workshops for faculty, staff, and students. These include: individual and group advising, general teacher certification info sessions, teaching licensure workshops, portfolio preparation workshops, Ma-

gor Mania, Freshman Orientation, and Praxis I workshops. This past summer, she collaborated with Jaci Haley-Renaud, Charlotte Short, and the Tutoring Center in establishing a Math PPST preparation workshop. She also looks forward to working closely with teacher education liaisons, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, Student Support Services, and the Pre-College Program. She especially enjoys meeting with students and student organizations. One of her goals is to recruit more minority students into the teaching profession. She has simply stated that "It's a social and societal need-one that our nation and

### Rain Gardens

On Make A Difference Day, Saturday, October 22, 2005, Professor Chris Evans and her Introduction to Environmental Science class created four rain gardens along the Root River in Racine. The rain gardens, about 10 by 15 feet each, are located between

Dodge Street and the river, near the northern edge of the Main Street Bridge. Each of the gardens is a level, scooped-out area that will be planted with moisture-tolerant native plants. Two things will happen to the runoff once it reaches the rain

garden; some will be filtered as it descends through the soil and some will be picked up and used by the plants. Because of the location of the rain garden, being several feet from the river's edge and at the bottom of a steep slope, it was an important site for the

## Trudy Biehn (Cont from page 1)

UW-Parkside must address. In addition to the above, she continues to look forward, toward established good working relationships with the Career Center, Advising and Testing Center, Admission, Financial Aid and Scholarships, and Registrar's office to assist students in their teacher education goals at UW-Parkside. Trudy is very pleased to have acquired her position and is busy assisting the department in implementing new DPI initiatives of re-accreditation. These will include constructive changes in portfolio format and assess-

ment, clinical experiences and assessment, and use of assessment for program improvement. She truly enjoys and appreciates advising a diverse population of students that has grown from approximately 350 students to 451 students under her direction. This past spring, the department also experienced a significant increase in the amount of requests for admission into the Teacher Education Program. This increase may well be due to the commitment she has in providing knowledgeable, positively

charged, and effective advising to students at UW-Parkside and interested individuals in the community. Trudy has always had a passionate appreciation for the field of education. This apparently transpired into members of her immediate family that are employed within the Kenosha Unified School District. Her son is a kindergarten special education instructor at Bain/Kenosha School of Languages. Her daughter-in-law teaches as a special education instructor at Pleasant Prairie, and her daughter is a fourth

Grade instructor at Curtis Strange. She loves discussing the challenges and rewards of the teaching profession with them. She is also currently pursuing her Masters at UWM in Educational Administrative Leadership. This program offers her the opportunity to interact with other educators, many of whom are involved in K-12 teaching or administrative fields. This is extremely beneficial to her in her current position, as it keeps her up-to-date with issues related

To teacher education programs and Wisconsin DPI teacher licensing. When asked what she thinks of her new position, Trudy states, "I'm honored to be a part of the Teacher Education Program at UW-Parkside. I consider this work to be a type of community service. Just imagine-we are educating future

educators in our community. What a truly noble profession! What other profession offers the opportunity to touch and make a difference in so many lives!"



*"What a truly noble profession! What other profession offers the opportunity to touch and make a difference in so many lives!"*

## Rain Gardens (Cont from page 1)

Class. It will prevent a lot of contamination from reaching the river. The four gardens will be planted with about 600 plants from Taylor Creek Nursery in Brodhead. They will consist of rushes, asters, penstemon, and cardinal flower, and will be planted in the ground

about one per square foot. The gardens will not only be functional, they will be beautiful. After years of designing theoretical rain gardens, this is the first time the class was actually able to create real rain gardens. According to Professor Evans, "Anybody could do it." The

UW-Extension has a manual that shows step-by-step how to build and plant a rain garden. The DNR website also has instructions:

<http://www.dnr.stte.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/rg/#How>



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## Peer Visitor Program

The Teaching Learning Center would like to develop a pool of interested faculty and teaching staff to participate in a Peer Visitor Program. The idea is that we could informally visit each other's classrooms and be co-mentors for teaching development. Initially, the program would be extremely informal, with the TLC acting as a clearing center for requests for classroom visits. The principal idea is that most teachers at UW-Parkside are very committed to

excellence in student learning, and we could serve as sounding boards and inspiration for each other. Participants could request either a visitor to their own classroom, or an opportunity to sit in and observe a colleague's approach. Critiques would, therefore, be on request only, and involve only a private conversation between the two teachers. WE will compile lists of classes that are open for visits at any time, and those that will welcome pre-arranged vis-

its. If you would like to request an observation visit, we will also match up interested teachers. Likewise, if you have an interest in observing a particular class or instructor, we will make those scheduling arrangements. If there is an interest in observing a particular class or instructor, we will make those scheduling arrangements. If there is an interest, the program could be expanded to provide documented observations that could be included in promotion and

Tenure dossiers as an augmentation to the student evaluation forms. I know that many of us would welcome a supplement to those, prepared by a qualified peer. If you are interested in collaborating in this fashion with your teaching colleagues, please contact the TLC, 595-2068, or e-mail Chris Evans at [evansc@wwp.edu](mailto:evansc@wwp.edu).

## TLC Chat Room Available

The Teaching Learning Center is now open on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., since Beth Gronholm has come on board. Beth is our new LTE, and she will be available during these times to welcome you to our rather elegant and luxurious space, which includes comfortable chairs, meeting facilities, and a growing library of literature on teaching and learning. The TLC also hosts gatherings at noon on Wednesdays and occasional Mondays for an assortment of

learning communities, all of which invite new and/or "visiting participants. These are an excellent, low time commitment way to get a flavor for what your colleagues are working on, studying, and/or implementing. Learning communities center on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Science Education and Civic Engagement, Community-Based Learning, General Education Assessment, and Project Success, an experimental project linking first-year classes for at-

risk students. Within these topical areas, faculty and teaching academic staff are exploring a range of issues: work load, engagement, linked courses and team teaching, proposal development, and classroom management. Please see the Calendar of Events for specific groups and dates. For those who haven't been here yet, the TLC is 245 Wyllie, on the second floor of the library, adjacent to the faculty/staff lounge. We have a food exemption, so

It is an excellent place to bring your lunch, relax and chat. The TLC is also open on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 5 p.m., and can be reserved for meetings by request. To reserve the TLC, please call Beth or Chris at 2068. To enjoy the space, just drop by.

## Featured Teachers

Appointment of new Teaching Scholar and Teaching Fellow

UW-Parkside's new Teaching Fellow for AY '06-'07 will be Kristi L. Schoepfer, from the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics (HPEA)). Kristi is described by her Department Chair, Penny Lyter, as "...one of the best instructors on campus..." who is

"always looking for ways to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in her classes." As UW-Parkside's Teaching Fellow, Kristi Schoepfer plans to study "the different ways in which students learn, how learning styles are best recognized, and how recognition can foster an effective learning community within the college

classroom.

Carol Tebben, from the Department of Political Science and Law, is UW-Parkside's new Teaching Scholar. She has previously won the Regents' Teaching Award, In Her Footsteps Teaching Award (twice), OMSA Faculty of the Year Award, and the Racine Unified Certificate of Excellence. As

UW-Parkside's Teaching Scholar, Carol Tebben plans to study how students respond to various learning opportunities, and to experiment with learning facilitation, in order to "see the effectiveness of the learning process expanded."

## UW-Parkside

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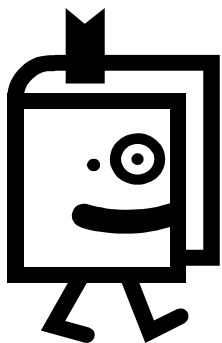
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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN TLC

All meetings are at noon in the TLC

- *November 23, 2005: Teaching Science to science teachers / SENCER*
- *November 30, 2005: Community Partners and Project Ideas for Spring CBL courses / CBL*
- *December 5, 2005: Developing SoTL projects / SoTL*
- *December 7, 2005: Literacy courses—assessment of student progress / Gen Ed*
- *December 14, 2005: Problem Solving and Practical Advice: Lessons from Project Success / Project Success*



## New Resources Available in TLC

- *Make A Difference: Tools for Enabling Faculty to Teach Students with Disabilities / Handbooks and CD-ROM*
- *Assessing Student Learning— a common sense guide*
- *Technopoly—The Surrender of Culture to Technology*
- *College Of The Overwhelmed—The Campus Mental Health Crisis and What To Do About It*
- *Metropolitan Universities: An International Forum— Learning Communities and Collaboration*