

Faculty Focus

A free electronic newsletter
for those involved with
teaching in Higher Education

Magna Publications
2718 Dryden Drive
Madison, WI 53704
www.magnapubs.com

Only a month or so left until the fall semester begins! Hopefully you've gotten caught up on your stack of things to read over the summer months, your summer research time is going well, and your summer travel has been interesting, educational, and relaxing. If you're looking for some fall training programs to help get you inspired and motivated to dive back into the school year, check out some of our [audio conference and web seminar offerings](#).

Magna's newest conference resource for busy higher education administrators is less than two months off!

The [Academic Leader Conference](#) is a five-week, telephone- and web-based conference series, featuring some great topics and top-notch presenters. Additionally, Magna will premier its all-new online discussion forums for this event, so that you can interact and network with other attendees before, during and after the conference.

Want to present an online, interactive poster session at the 2006 *Academic Leader Conference*? Magna is now actively soliciting proposals!

For more information, just click [here](#).

Shhh!!! *Faculty Focus* is letting you in on a big secret: All registered *Academic Leader Conference* attendees will be automatically entered in a number of drawings (one for each week of the conference). Prizes will range from autographed copies of presenters' books to the grand prize-- a free registration (for you or anyone on your faculty) to the [2007 Teaching Professor Conference](#) in Atlanta, GA!

[Register](#) now for this one-of-a-kind conference event!

**GOT QUESTIONS?
GET ANSWERS.**



2007

THE
TEACHING
PROFESSOR
CONFERENCE
EDUCATE ENGAGE INSPIRE
May 18-20
Atlanta, GA



To see YOUR ad in the space above, contact:
sales@magnapubs.com

Upcoming events:

[August 2, 2006](#)

Facebook On
Campus:

In this issue:

- [The Evolution of Online Course Development: From Basics to Bells and Back Again](#)
- [Faculty and Diversity-Related Course Content](#)
- [Student Evaluations of Instructors: A Good Thing](#)
- [Take the Poll!](#)
- [Special Announcement from Anker Publishing](#)

The Evolution of Online Course Development: From Basics to Bells and Back Again

The venture into online course development can be a daunting journey. Not only must you navigate the nuances and strategies of effective online course facilitation, but this must be accomplished in harmony with the creation of an online course structure that allows you to stimulate, inspire, and educate students in the novel environment of the virtual classroom.

[...Click here for the full article](#)

Faculty and Diversity-Related Course Content

The push for greater diversity in the curriculum continues. Experience and evidence now confirm that, when present, material that highlights differences does have positive effects on a number of learning outcomes. Control of the curriculum remains in faculty hands—both collectively, in terms of course and program approval processes, and individually, in terms of daily decisions about what to teach. As a result, the success of efforts to make curricula more diverse depends to a large degree on faculty willingness to incorporate these materials.

[...Click here for the full article](#)

Student Evaluations of Instructors: A Good Thing

By Thomas R. McDaniel, PhD

My students have always given me positive evaluations of my undergraduate and graduate courses. I still teach four courses a year because I love the classroom and believe academic administrators are well served by ongoing connections with students in instructional settings. Good for me, good for them. As a department chair, dean, provost, and vice president, I have found these evaluations informative

Understanding the Issues

[August 16, 2006](#)

Distance Education: Are the Benefits Worth the Costs?

[August 31, 2006](#)

Teaching Portfolios: Improve Teaching and Personnel Decisions

[September 21, 2006](#)

Using Humor to Enhance Traditional and Online Instruction

[October 19, 2006](#)

Creating and Maintaining a Climate of Civility on Campus

[October 26, 2006](#)

The Learner-Centered Classroom: Building Rapport and Community

as I considered questions about tenure, promotion, and yearly raises for faculty.

[...Click here for the full article](#)

Take the Poll!

Last month's poll asked, "In my department, interdisciplinary work is:

- a. Strongly discouraged
- b. Somewhat discouraged
- c. Neither discouraged nor encouraged
- d. Somewhat encouraged
- e. Strongly encouraged"

For complete survey results and a summary of your comments, [click here](#).

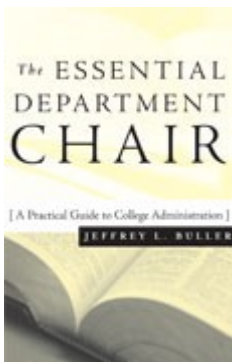
This month's question is, "Do you think that student evaluations of instructors provides accurate information that will help instructors improve their teaching techniques? Why or why not?"

Please participate! A selection of your responses will be listed in next month's *Faculty Focus*.

[...Click here to take the poll](#)

We are pleased to share the following announcement from Anker Publishing with our subscribers

Anker Publishing offers an exceptional list of professional development resources for academic administrators. Here are some of our recent titles:



- ***The Essential Department Chair***, Jeffrey L. Buller (cover shown at left)
- ***Evaluating Faculty Performance***, Peter Seldin & Associates
- ***Engaging Departments***, Kevin Kecskes, Editor
- ***Work and Peace in Academe***, James R. Coffman
- ***Putting Students First***, Larry A. Braskamp, Lois Calian Trautvetter, & Kelly Ward

Please visit [Anker Publishing's web site](#) for more information on these titles and our complete list of Leadership & Administration titles.

Please let us know what topics are important to you! If you have a suggestion for an article for a future issue of this newsletter, contact Director Ginny Haight at ginnyh@magnapubs.com or 608-227-8190.

To Update Your Profile, [click here](#).

To unsubscribe, [click here](#).

© Copyright 2006, Magna Publications