TA Preparation Reconsidered

In his book *Scholarship Reconsidered* (1990), the late Ernest Boyer, President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching from 1979 to 1995, challenged the academy to expand what it means to be a scholar. In the years since that time many have responded to his challenge by examining the roles of research, teaching, and service in order to recognize each as a form of scholarly work. This CIDR Bulletin asks: What can graduate students do to explore these roles as they prepare for their professional lives?

Graduate students at the University of Washington have a number of opportunities to develop in these areas of research, teaching, and service, both within and outside of their home departments

**RESEARCH: THE SCHOLARSHIP OF DISCOVERING AND EXTENDING THE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR DISCIPLINE**

*Develop* a relationship with a research mentor

*Participate* in conferences, journals, newsletters and internet forums of your department, discipline, and professional organizations

*Initiate* research conversations and activities in your department and the university. For example, see the variety of seminars in the Math Department: www.math.washington.edu/Grads/Research/seminars.html

**TEACHING: THE SCHOLARSHIP OF INTEGRATING AND COMMUNICATING THE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR DISCIPLINE**

*Develop* a relationship with a teaching mentor and other colleagues who teach

• Visit classes of colleagues teaching similar courses
• Initiate internet conversations or department brown bag lunch meetings that focus on teaching

*Participate* in courses and take advantage of resources that focus on teaching

• TA orientation and training in your department
• Preparing Future Faculty (PFF): http://www.grad.washington.edu/pff/pff.htm
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- Graduate School Courses: 610, 620, 630:
  http://www.grad.washington.edu/courses/courses.htm
- Huckabay Fellowships:
  http://www.grad.washington.edu/pff/huckabay.htm

Initiate contacts with UW services that help you learn more about teaching and develop alternative teaching strategies:

- Center for Instructional Development and Research
  http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/
- Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology
  http://catalyst.washington.edu/
- Curriculum Transformation Project
  http://depts.washington.edu/ctcenter/
- Involvement of Undergraduates in Research
  http://www.washington.edu/research/urp/
- Development of a Teaching Portfolio
  http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/resources/portfoliotools.html

SERVICE: THE SCHOLARSHIP OF BRINGING YOUR DISCIPLINARY EXPERTISE TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Develop a relationship with a faculty mentor who contributes his or her expertise to the community.

Participate in programs that promote community connections:
- Outreach events sponsored by UW departments
- Volunteer in schools or serve in community groups

Initiate contacts with UW outreach programs and services:
- Service Learning
  http://depts.washington.edu/leader/servicelearning/index.html
- UW Outreach
  http://www.outreach.washington.edu/uweo/

HOW CAN CIDR HELP?

CIDR specializes in the scholarship of teaching. We work with UW faculty and TAs on course design and syllabus preparation, on the development of assignments, projects, class activities, and on classroom assessment of teaching and learning. For more information, visit our web site:
http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb

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