

Friday @ the Center: April 25, 2008

Great Teaching Idea? Six Days Left . . .

. . . to submit a great teaching idea for the annual SPU Best Teaching Idea of the Year Award, sponsored by the Center for Scholarship and Faculty Development and the Faculty Development Committee. Email me a Word document with a brief, one-page description of an effective teaching idea, pedagogical practice, or instructional tool, by **May 1**. All submissions will be compiled and distributed at the June 2 faculty in-service and will subsequently be publically available on the Center's website. Five finalists selected by the FDC will give brief 5-10 minute presentations of their teaching idea at the in-service, and the faculty as a whole will then select the Best Teaching Idea of the Year. The originator of the best idea will receive a \$500 honorarium, and the four runners up will each get a \$50 Amazon gift card. Any faculty member who has taught at least two courses per year for at least two years is eligible to participate.

Grant Writing Myths: #4

Myth 4: "Meeting the deadline is the most important goal of a successful grant writer." Henson says, "Not exactly. The two most important goals are to produce a top-quality proposal and target it to the right grant agency. Far too many professors succumb to the urge to put deadlines ahead of everything else. Resist firing off 11th-hour proposals to meet a last minute deadline. Slow down, produce a quality proposal, and submit it to the agency next year or submit it to a similar agency now." Gallagher adds, "This is one reason we have internal SPU deadlines for external grant applications. In addition to collecting the necessary signatures, we need the time to do adequate budget checks and to allow our grant writer to review and help improve your application. Just think about the quality of last minute student papers when you are tempted to submit before your proposal is polished" ("Debunking Some Myths About Grant Writing," by Kenneth T. Henson, *Chronicle for Higher Education*, 2003).

Congratulations!

- To **Jack Levison**, Professor of New Testament, who received a \$30,000 grant from the Shoet Foundation, for a research and symposium project titled "The Historical Roots of Early Christian Pneumatology." The award will be used as leverage to apply for a larger, matching grant from the Humboldt Foundation, in cooperation with scholars from Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich. The project is scheduled to start in 2009.
- To senior classics major and University Scholar **Susan Bilynskyj**, who has been named a Lilly Graduate Fellow in the inaugural year of a new program sponsored by the Lilly Fellows Network. This program annually selects a cohort of 15 fellows who are entering Ph.D. or equivalent graduate programs in humanities and arts at schools of their choosing. Over a 3 year period, these fellows, along with two senior mentors, will regularly communicate and collaborate with each other in areas of research, teaching, and professional development. Fellows receive annual \$3000 stipends and will gather each summer with their cohort and mentors for a short conference. Susan will be attending the University of Toronto in the fall to continue her work in classics.

And don't forget to gather with the SPU community to participate in our distinctive blend of Academics and Abbey in the Walls Lecture, Tuesday at 9:30 a.m., FFM.



Susan

Susan VanZanten Gallagher
Professor of English
Director, Center for Scholarship and Faculty Development