Reading PLC Members provide tips for getting students to read and engage in classroom discussions at their “Fall” into Reading and “Spice” up your Instruction presentation, November 2016.

February Sweet TARTS (Tips, Activities, and Resources for Teaching Students)

Tips, Activities, and Resources for Teaching Students from the Institute for Academic Excellence (IAE)

1-2-3 Minute Tips that can quickly and easily be implemented into your classroom.

1 Minute – Struggling with students being distracted or distracting classmates with cell phone use during class? You may want to instruct students to place their phones face down on their desk, and let them know that you will take a break half way through class, so they can check their phones. Midway through your class, give students one minute to check their phones. By alerting them to this break, you may find them more focused and engaged in your class discussion and activities and less distracted by their cell phone.

2 Minutes – Are your students engaged in class conversations? Are they reflecting on discussion items and developing critical thinking skills? Do you find you are talking more than your students or that you are answering your own questions? Implement two minute pauses in class periodically. During the pause, have students identify the most important points or concepts from today’s lesson and post on Padlet or Today’s Meet. These responses will allow the instructor to dig deeper, identify gaps in learning, and build critical thinking skills.

“A minute of thought is worth more than an hour of talk.”

(John C. Maxwell, The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth, 2012)

3 Minutes – Do your students know what your course learning outcomes are? Do they make the connection between what you do in class and the learning outcomes? Take the last three minutes of class time to have your students reflect on what was covered in the day’s lesson, and ask them how it connects to course learning outcomes included in the course syllabus.

Activities to help promote Active Learning in the classroom.

Today’s Meet (https://todaysmeet.com/) – Students can use their phone or other technology to anonymously engage in classroom conversations. Open ended responses allow for 280 characters.

Padlet (https://padlet.com/) – Students respond to prompts and “post” a response or ask questions to support their learning.

Resources with information to support teaching and learning in the classroom.

20 Things Students Say Help Them Learn
How Can We Minimize Grade Challenges?

Do you have a tip, trick, activity, strategy, or resource that you would like to share in an upcoming newsletter? Contact IAE Director, Jodi Robson.

Jodi M. Robson, Ed. D.
Director of the Institute for Academic Excellence, Academic Affairs
772-462-7532 • jrobson@irsc.edu

Maria C. Seidel, A.R.N.P., D.N.P., IAE Co-Chair • 772-462-7562 • mseidel@irsc.edu

Joe Grisham, Ph.D., IAE Co-Chair • 772-462-5621 • rgrisham@irsc.edu

Access http://www.irsc.edu/IAE for the Institute for Academic Excellence webpage.
A number of faculty are sought out for their expertise in editing publications as well as submitting book chapters, books, and journals for publication. This newsletter highlights two Indian River State College faculty and their scholarly activity.

Dr. Bodi Anderson, Assistant Professor of Education, has been teaching education, technology, and ESOL courses for future teachers at IRSC since 2012. He is also co-chair of the Publication Professional Learning Community (PLC). Dr. Anderson has multiple publications and is very supportive of his colleagues and their efforts to publish. While Dr. Anderson’s publications have focused on educational technology with an emphasis on cultural issues and game-based learning, he has also published on the topics of applied linguistics/ESL with a focus on corpus linguistics and psycholinguistics.

Dr. Anderson’s most recent publication is a chapter in Culture, learning, and technology research and practice. The book is scheduled to be released March 2017 by Routledge. Dr. Anderson’s chapter is titled “How cultural factors influence the use of social constructivist-based pedagogical models of distance learning in culture, learning and technology research and practice.” KEY areas covered in this publication include: Distance Learning, Culture, Social Constructivism, Collaborative Interaction, and International Education.

Chapter Overview: Recent research has pointed to a potential problem with distance learning models, rooted strongly in social constructivism, as they relate to cultural factors internationally. Dr. Anderson, in examining distance learning, makes use of a mixed-methods inquiry which analyzes collaborative learning using Curtis and Lawson’s (2007) discourse analysis-based coding scheme. Findings from this study provide empirical evidence that cultural factors have a significant impact on how learners perceive, experience, and interact in distance learning environments in a manner which contradicts many core social constructivist principles.

Dr. Joseph Palencik, Assistant Professor of Humanities, has taught numerous philosophy courses at IRSC for four years. He is also co-chair of the Service Learning Professional Learning Community (PLC) and has presented on how to incorporate service learning components in courses that support the community and engage students in meaningful activities. Dr. Palencik has over 10 publications. His publications are diverse including epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics, social philosophy, and metaphysics.

Dr. Palencik has edited a new volume of essays on the philosopher Peter Hare entitled Pragmatism With Purpose: Selected Writings. Hare was an important ambassador of American philosophy, expanding the influence of the pragmatic philosophical tradition internationally.

Hare’s career spanned over forty years and included an array of intriguing theses in epistemology, ethics, metaphysics, and logic. While he is best known for his work on the problem of evil and the ethics of belief, Hare also wrote widely on William James and other American philosophers such as C.S. Peirce and John Dewey. He began his career at SUNY Buffalo after writing a dissertation at Columbia on Mead’s metaphysics of sociality. Later, Hare would serve as president of the Charles S. Peirce Society, as well as co-editor of the society’s publication Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society.

Dr. Palencik’s fondness for Hare developed during their time at The University at Buffalo. Together they shared a passion for philosophical naturalism and its history. This newly published collection of essays represents Hare’s finest work and culminates in a series of hitherto unpublished ideas that were his most developed and progressive.

The Research & Assessment Professional Learning Community (R&A PLC) at Indian River State College encourages faculty members to improve student learning by assessing the empirical dimensions of traditional and innovative teaching methods. The members of this PLC combine their personal interest and professional expertise in assessment practices to advise faculty about research design, data collection, analysis, and interpretation. The R&A PLC provides invaluable guidance and support in reviewing College programs, departments, and faculty projects.

During the Fall 2016 semester, the R&A PLC engaged in three projects to help improve student success, retention, and completion. The first project was commissioned by Dr. Sarah Mallonée, Professor of English and Honors Program Coordinator, to assess IRSC’s Honors Program. For this project, the R&A PLC researched the Honors Program and compared it to the National Honor Society’s recommendations and provided a thorough, actionable report to offer insight and to shape program growth and development. This internal audit helps to position the IRSC Honors Program for an external review as the self-evaluation is the first step in the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) program review guidelines. The second project responded to a request from Dr. Jodi Robson, Director of the Institute of Academic Excellence. In this project, the R&A PLC helped redesign the assessment procedures and instruments for the Institute aligning IAE presentations to student retention, course success rates, and completion rates. The final project for the Fall 2016 semester was in response to a request from Dr. Beverly Solesky, Associate Professor of Nursing. The Nursing Department has collected a lot of data on their students, and the department asked for assistance in analyzing the data in order to improve student success on the State nursing exam.

In the Spring 2017 semester, in addition to completing the assessment of IRSC’s Nursing Program, the R&A PLC offered a workshop on Friday, February 3rd through the Institute for Academic Excellence on classroom assessment titled: Classroom Assessment – What does it tell us about our students and about us? Finally, Librarian Kendra Auberry has asked for assistance in Spring 2017 with assessment of programs and services in the IRSC library system.

The current R&A PLC members — Dr. Carl Clark, James Dinsch, Dr. Mo Hasanovic, Dr. Taylor Kilman, and Dr. Beverly Solesky — look forward to continuing the R&A PLC’s mission to offer resources and support for IRSC faculty to improve student success, retention, and completion through research projects within the framework of the various course delivery methods available to IRSC students. For more information about this PLC and its mission, please feel free to contact any of our members or visit our webpage: http://ra-iac-irsc.weebly.com/. We look forward to seeing you and serving your research and assessment needs in the near future.

The Online Teaching & Learning Professional Learning Community (OT&L PLC) was established in Fall 2015 at Indian River State College. During their first year, the group focused on tools available to support online instruction. Their stated mission was threefold: 1) explain the available technology; 2) provide research on the implementation of technology within higher education; and 3) develop a practice component to give participants hands-on training. With this focus, the OT&L PLC introduced technology such as Twitter, Prezi, and LinkedIn during the 2015-16 academic year.

While the intention of the OT&L PLC was to focus on support for online courses, the workshops provided technology which was able to be utilized in online, face to face, and blended courses to support instructional development and curriculum enhancement as it relates to different delivery systems, student success, and course retention. This year the OT&L PLC continues to focus on these important areas of teaching and learning. Please join them on Tuesday, February 21 at 1:30 to explore the important topic, Effective Online Discussion Board Questions. Your participation will help with the first stage of creating best practices to developing meaningful discussion board questions that generate responses you look forward to grading!

To learn more about the work of the Online Teaching and Learning PLC, please contact members Dr. Heather Cintron, Co-Chair, (Human Services), Kate Bradford, Co-Chair (Criminal Justice), Rebekah Wright (Student Affairs), Dr. John Donahue (Public Administration), Tammy Eddington (Business), John Bray (Emergency Medical Technician), Mia Tignor (Library), and Dr. Teena-Louise White (Nursing) or visit our webpage: http://iae-onlineteachinglearning-irsc.weebly.com/.

We look forward to supporting you and seeing you at one of our presentations in the near future.
Dr. Kevin Cooper, Assistant Dean of Advanced Technology, and Jo Ann Balsamo, RCNET Nuclear Training Specialist, presented on the topic *Industries of the Future: These Fields Will Shape Our Economic Future*, February 2, 2017. Their presentation focused on customized technology modules which have been designed and embedded into Nuclear Training programs at IRSC and other partner colleges, and how these modules can be modified into other courses to support additional disciplines or meta-majors.

Jo Ann Balsamo, RCNET Nuclear Training Specialist, highlighted CyberSecurity, 3D Scanning, and Robotics programs that have been developed for the IRSC nuclear program. Ms. Balsamo identified other disciplines where these applications could have an impact. Embedding cyber technology into the health sciences, biology and chemistry, public services, and education was explored. Ms. Balsamo discussed the challenges that hacking presents, including targeting information like medical records that can be particularly vulnerable and are a priority with hackers. She also touched on 3D scanning capabilities including the reproduction of materials and the opportunities for students to create images or unique instruments for subjects like biology. In addition, the Virtual Reality room located on the second floor in the Kight Center is available to be used by students and faculty to manipulate bones and organs in a 3D skeleton. Finally, there was a discussion about Robotics and how it can stimulate curiosity and interest in learning and be a springboard for other applications such as designing or programming.

Ms. Balsamo is eager to partner with faculty across the college and volunteered her services. With access to a course syllabus, she can review the course objectives and identify where it is possible to modify and embed one or more of these modules. The modules are designed to support what is already being taught and highlight how these technologies are changing the future. Ms. Balsamo can provide the support for students to engage in meaningful activities that will support student success, retention, completion, and provide opportunities to connect graduates with jobs of the future. To learn more about any of these modules and how they can be embedded into your curriculum, please contact Ms. Balsamo at jbalsamo@irsc.edu or 462-7172.
As a 2017 grant recipient of the **Big Read**, with funding provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, in partnership with Arts Midwest, the IRSC Libraries kicked off their two month tour with events being hosted on every campus.

The events began with a **NEA Big Read & Just Read, Florida! Danticat Block Party** on Tuesday, January 31. The event started with an introduction to IRSC’s NEA Big Read; **Brother, I’m Dying**, by Edwidge Danticat and an opportunity to learn more about Haitian culture and food. IRSC Libraries, faculty, staff, and students engaged in a variety of activities and the first 50 attendees received a free copy of the book, **Brother, I’m Dying**. The events continued on Thursday, February 2 with a panel discussion that was informative and uplifting with excellent student participation.

Join the IRSC Libraries as they continue their events around our **2017 Big Read** project, culminating in a visit from the author on the IRSC Main Campus, Monday, March 27 at 1:00 p.m.

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<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Pictorial Exhibition and Jour des Aieux Oral History Project</td>
<td>Pruitt Campus Library</td>
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<td>February 15</td>
<td>Book Discussion: <strong>Brother I’m Dying</strong></td>
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<td>February 20-24</td>
<td>Pictorial Exhibition and Jour des Aieux Oral History Project</td>
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<td>February 24</td>
<td>Book Discussion: <strong>Brother I’m Dying</strong></td>
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<td>March 6-10</td>
<td>Pictorial Exhibition and Jour des Aieux Oral History Project</td>
<td>Mueller Campus, Brackett Library</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td>Book Discussion: <strong>Brother I’m Dying</strong></td>
<td>Mueller Campus, Richardson Center</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>Book Discussion: <strong>Brother I’m Dying</strong></td>
<td>Mueller Campus, Brackett Library</td>
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<td>March 20-24</td>
<td>Pictorial Exhibition and Jour des Aieux Oral History Project</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>Book Discussion: <strong>Brother I’m Dying</strong></td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>Book Discussion: <strong>Brother I’m Dying</strong></td>
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<td>March 23</td>
<td><em>Stones in the Sun: A Community Film Viewing</em></td>
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<td>March 27</td>
<td>Create Dangerously: An Afternoon with Edwidge Danticat</td>
<td>Main Campus- V110</td>
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*Marvin E. Hobson sharing his experiences in Haiti and drawing connections to *Brother, I’m Dying* by Edwidge Danticat, September 2016.*
**SPRING EVENTS**

- **Professional Enhancement Day for Full-time Employees**
  - Friday, February 24

- **Employee Recognition Ceremony**
  - Monday, March 6

- **Professional Enhancement Day for Adjuncts**
  - Saturday, March 25

- **Adjunct Recognition Ceremony**
  - Friday, April 21

- **College Awards Ceremony**
  - Thursday, April 13

- **Spring Commencement**
  - Saturday, May 6

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**BLACKBOARD UPDATE/HELPFUL TIPS**

**Helpful Documents**

- Copy your Development Shell
- Export a Previous Semesters Content
- Navigating the Blackboard Grade Center
- Setting External Grade Column
- Virtual Campus Faculty Support
- Blackboard Grade Center Training

**Need help?**

Email virtualclassroom@irsc.edu or go to Blackboard Help online.

**Forgot your password?**

Reset it here: https://irsc.okta.com/login/default or email the helpdesk@irsc.edu or call 772-462-4427.

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**SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY & UPDATES**

- **Echo360 Personal Capture**
  - Allows professors the freedom to create and edit customized instructional content whenever and wherever inspiration strikes. The use of personal videos offers **Just In Time** support to students. To request a copy of Echo360 Personal Capture on your computer, please contact videoservices@irsc.edu or call 772-462-7731.

- **Camtasia**
  - Allows faculty to edit, narrate, and convert a PowerPoint presentation into a short video that students can access anytime to support learning and success in the classroom. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact videoservices@irsc.edu or call 772-462-7731.

- **Launching Screencast-O-Matic Screen Recorder!**
  - Is a free screen recorder that allows faculty to capture any area of your screen to record videos, class lectures, and mini-lessons. Narration from your microphone can be added. Additional features are available, but will include a fee. If you are looking to access the free resources, please click here.

- **Microsoft Office 365**
  - Provides cloud-based solutions that allow users to access their calendar, email, and documents anytime from any location in a safe and secure environment. IRSC faculty and staff will notice the following benefits:
    - Desktop and Browser-based Access to Word, Excel, and PowerPoint Files
    - Safe and Secure Environment
    - Increased Email Inbox Storage (50 GB)
    - OneDrive Cloud Storage (1 TB)
    - Mobile Friendly (Android and iOS)

Office 365 will be installed on all desktop computers be the end of the Spring semester.

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**FACULTY OF THE MONTH FALL 2016**

- **Dr. Angie Bailey**
  - September 2016

- **Dr. Beverly Solesky**
  - October 2016

- **Hank Raulerson**
  - November 2016

- **Kate Bradford, J.D.**
  - December 2016
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>PLC or ETC</th>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
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| Clickable Rubrics in Blackboard                                       | Mike Pelitera (Virtual Campus)                                                | 2/9/17 12:30-1:30 Thursday | P = Online T & L  
S = Communication | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| No Holds Barred Q&A with Student Accessibility Services              | Liz Costello (Student Disability Services)                                   | 2/15/17 3:30-4:30 Wednesday | P = T & L  
S = Communication | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| Get Engaged: Innovations that "CAN"NECT to Certificates, Transferring, and Job Placement | Arlene Green (School of Business) and Sera Addison (EDP)                    | 2/16/17 2:30-3:30 Thursday | P = T & L  
S = Critical Thinking | P = Completion  
S = Job Placement |
| Coffee Conversations with the Online Teaching and Learning PLC        | Kate Bradford (Criminal Justice), John Bray (Health Science), Dr. Heather Cintron (Public Service), Dr. John Donohue (Public Services), Dr. Teena Louise White (Nursing), and Rebekah Wright (Student Affairs) | 2/21/2017 1:30-2:30 Tuesday | P = T & L  
S = Communication | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| Mindfulness and Success                                               | Dr. Robin Zide (Education)                                                    | 2/21/2017 3:00-4:00 Tuesday | P = T & L  
S = Communication | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| Speed Dating to Active Learning Strategies                            | Dr. Elle Browning, Michelle Kinggard, Emily Renscher (Education), Dr. Kim Milner (Learning Assistance) and Dr. Jodi Robson (IAE) | 2/28/2017 2:00-3:00 Tuesday | P = T & L  
S = Critical Thinking | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| Drop the MIC: Managing Intercultural Communication in the Classroom  | Communication PLC & Minority Affairs                                         | 3/1/17 9:00-10:00 Friday | P = Communication  
S = T & L | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| News Literacy: Evaluation and Use of News Sources in the Classroom    | Kendra Auberry, Angie Necely-Sardon, Brett Williams (Librarians)              | 3/3/17 10:30-11:30 Friday | P = T & L  
S = Communication | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| Withdrawals, Incompletes and Viewing Additional Student Information  | Jonathan Hart (Web Developer for Enterprise System) & Dr. Jodi Robson (IAE) | 3/7/17 3:00-3:30 Tuesday | P = T & L  
S = R & A | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| Using RiverSupport ReachOuts to Maximize Student Success             | Holly Macias (Retention and Success Coordinator)                           | 3/7/17 3:30-4:00 Tuesday | P = Communication | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| ASC Navigating the Website and Resources                              | Stephanie Gaffney (ASC STEM Coordinator)                                    | 3/7/17 4:00-4:30 Tuesday | P = Communication | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| Tutor Trac "How To"                                                  | Jason Mastros (ASC Learning Facilitator)                                    | 3/7/17 4:30-5:00 Tuesday | P = T & L  
S = Communication | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| Faculty Research Colloquium                                          | Dr. Bodi Anderson, Dr. Elle Browning (Education), Dr. Brian Freeman (History), Alexis Carlson (Library), Dr. Kim Milner | 3/29/2017 3:30-4:30 Tuesday | P = Publication  
S = T & L | Other = Faculty Interest |
| Social Justice Model VS Medical Model of Understanding Disability    | Liz Costello (Student Disability Services)                                  | 4/3/2017 4:00-5:00 Monday | P = T & L  
S = Communication | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| Make your Students ♥ You Again by Eliminating the Textbook Burden    | Alexis Carlson (Library) and Nicole Kenna (Virtual Campus)                  | 4/6/17 1:30-3:30 Thursday | P = ETC  
S = T & L | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| StoryCorps                                                           | Kendra Auberry, Angie Necely-Sardon, Brett Williams (Librarians)             | 4/7/17 10:00-11:00 Friday | P = T & L  
S = Critical Thinking | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| Publication PLC: Getting Started with Publication in Academia        | Dr. Bodi Anderson (Education) and Dr. Brian Freeman (History)               | 4/13/2017 3:00-4:00 Thursday | P = Publication  
S = T & L | P = Retention  
S = Completion |
| Blackboard Grade Center and Mariner Gradebook to support end of semester on-time grade submission | Sandra Nelson (Enrollment and Student Services), Steve Ramos, & Mike Pelitera (Virtual Campus) | 4/18/2017 3:30-5:00 Tuesday | P = Communication  
S = R & A | P = Job Placement  
S = Completion |

For an electronic copy of this newsletter and an up-to-date Spring Calendar of Events, access the Institute for Academic Excellence webpage at [http://www.irsc.edu/IAE](http://www.irsc.edu/IAE).