Welcome Ania!

Dr. Ania Kowalik joined the CTE in the summer of 2018. Before coming to Rice, Ania was a Teaching and Learning Specialist in the Center for Teaching at the University of Iowa, where she coordinated Iowa’s active learning classrooms program TILE and facilitated faculty communities of practice dedicated to teaching large lecture classes. She also worked with faculty, graduate students, and post-doctoral scholars at Georgia Tech, Georgia Southern University, and Emory University. With her background in literary studies and foreign language acquisition, Ania brings to the CTE wide-ranging teaching experience: she has taught writing and literature courses for non-majors as well as graduate seminars, and she has also worked with non-native English speakers. What she loves most about her new role at the CTE is the ability to engage in scholarly discussions about teaching and learning with Rice faculty and graduate students.

The CTE Teaching & Innovation Colloquy

The CTE will run its 3rd annual Teaching & Innovation Colloquy during the Spring 2019 semester. A small cohort of faculty members was selected (Alex Butler, BUSI; Jorge Loyo, CEVE; Lydia Musher, BUSI; Elizabeth Roberto, SOCI; Maria Stasevicius, CLIC; Hiromi Takayama, CLIC; and Allison Hunter, VADA) through a competitive application process to participate in the semester-long pedagogy workshop focused on the theme of “Course (Re) Design.” The colloquy will be led by the CTE Senior Associate Director Robin Paige, and participants will be using L. Dee Fink’s book Creating Significant Learning Experiences: An Integrated Approach to Designing College Courses to guide a (re)design of a course of their choice. Faculty will implement the course design, or aspects of it, in a course or courses taught the following academic year and they will report results to the CTE.
Updates on Graduate Student Programming

Demand for our Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning has increased significantly since we launched the program in 2014. This semester we had 24 Ph.D. students from across the disciplines enrolled in UNIV 500 (Principles of Effective College Teaching). In addition, UNIV 501 (Research on Teaching and Learning) is almost full for the spring with 20 students. To date, more than 115 graduate students have participated in the Certificate program, and 46 have completed it. Several Certificate alumnae/i have gone on to accept tenure-track positions at teaching-intensive colleges.

The CTE also facilitated university-wide T.A. training again in the fall, and we ran an orientation session for graduate students who are instructors of record. We’ll be leading another version of this orientation on Thursday, January 3rd, from 12:00-3:00 in Herring 129 for those who will be instructors of record in Spring 2019.

Book Release of How Humans Learn

How Humans Learn: The Science and Stories Behind Effective College Teaching by Joshua R. Eyler, Director of the CTE and Adjunct Associate Professor of the Humanities, was published in late November 2018 by West Virginia University Press. Weaving stories of effective teaching observed in classrooms across the country with the science that explains why it works, Dr. Eyler provides practical takeaways to enhance student learning in the classroom. The book is organized around five themes animating current inquiry into the science of learning: curiosity, sociality, emotion, authenticity, and failure. Surrounding the release of this highly anticipated book, it was reviewed in the Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed, and featured on the podcast "Teaching in Higher Ed."

External Teaching Awards

Do you know an excellent teacher at Rice that you would like to nominate for an external teaching award? The CTE provides a comprehensive list of disciplinary and interdisciplinary teaching awards in higher education. Our searchable database allows you to locate teaching awards by discipline/field or by due date. The CTE staff are available to provide consultations for preparation and submission of nomination materials.