



The University of Georgia

Center for Teaching and Learning
UGA Teaching Academy

~ FALL TEACHING WORKSHOP ~

*The Role of Faculty Learning Communities
In Higher Education*

by

Dr. Milton Cox
Professor of Mathematics and
Director for Teaching Effectiveness Programs
Miami University of Ohio

Tuesday, November 7, 2006

2:30 p.m. Reception - Tate Center Gallery
3:00 p.m. Lecture - Tate Theater

University faculty, graduate students and administrators are cordially invited.
Please RSVP to Stefani Hilley (shilley@uga.edu)

Promoting Faculty Learning Communities at the University of Georgia

a message from

Nelson Hilton, Director,
Center for Teaching and Learning

The Center for Teaching and Learning proposes to organize a program in topic-based Faculty Learning Communities at the University of Georgia. The Center will support the organizing, supply, and scheduling of the FLCs and recognition of participants.

A Faculty Learning Community consists of six to twelve faculty from different disciplines who meet every two or three weeks to consider the organizing topic. At the end of the year, the FLC offers the larger University community some conclusions at a general forum.

The Center for Teaching and Learning and the UGA Teaching Academy will launch this effort at the fall Teaching Academy Workshop, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2006 with a presentation by Dr. Milton Cox, Professor of Mathematics and Director for Teaching Effectiveness Programs at the Miami University of Ohio. Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching*, Dr. Cox is a leading figure in the discovery of faculty learning communities.

A dynamic and inspiring speaker, Dr. Cox will discuss the frequent absence of community in higher education, where connections across classrooms, disciplines, and curricula are tenuous. Faculty Learning Communities, he finds, *"help establish these connections and achieve most of the outcomes of student learning communities: increased interest in learning, retention, active learning, rate of intellectual development, and civic contributions to the common good. The safety and support engendered in a community enable risk taking and the achievement of both individual and team objectives. Evidence shows that FLCs provide effective 'deep learning' that encourages and supports faculty to investigate, attempt, assess, and adopt new approaches to teaching."* Dr. Cox will speak at 3:00 p.m., Nov. 7th in the Tate Center Theater and all are welcome to attend.

The Center for Teaching and Learning solicits proposals for Faculty Learning Communities to be offered next year (2007-08). Proposals will be reviewed by an ad-hoc committee drawn from the Teaching Academy, and the proposers of topics selected will be asked to participate spring semester in an FLC devoted to the facilitation of FLCs. Interested faculty are invited to send a description of the proposed topic to the CTL director, Prof. Nelson Hilton, by Wednesday, Nov. 14 (nhilton@uga.edu). Applications are also invited for an FLC on "podcasting" which the CTL will conduct spring semester (see www.ctl.uga.edu/).