

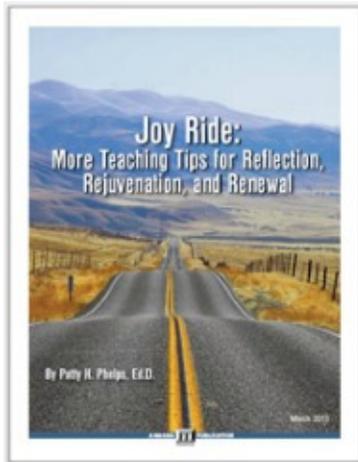
# FACULTY FOCUS

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## mid-career faculty

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### [Joy Ride: More Teaching Tips for Reflection, Rejuvenation, and Renewal](#)

If you've lost your joy of teaching, Joy Ride offers practical tips for getting it back. This special 22-page download is divided into 17 sections, each with its own set of tips and strategies for strengthening one's commitment to teaching.

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### [When Teaching Grows Tired: A Wake-up Call for Faculty](#)

Bea Easton, the adjunct English teacher in Glen Chamberlain's short story, "Conjugations of the Verb 'To Be'," is doing a crossword puzzle instead of grading English essays. She hasn't touched the stack of papers since she read the first page of Staci Cook's composition in which definitely is spelled defiantly and points are emphasized by using really twice.

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### [Signs You've Lost Your Joy of Teaching](#)

It's 9 a.m. on a Wednesday morning around mid-term. "Carrie James" (a fictional name) grabs her textbook and class roster and heads upstairs to her first class of the day. It starts at 9 o'clock. She makes a pit stop before arriving at the classroom. When Carrie enters the room, most students immediately stop talking. She quickly calls roll and says, "Let's get started. We have a lot to cover today." Carrie begins the lecture by displaying a list of key terms on the document camera. She lectures for most of the period, closely following the text outline and then announces a test to the moans and groans of students. As soon as class ends, Carrie returns to her office, shuts the

door, and turns her attention to the manuscript that she was editing for publication. She has an hour before her next class which she puts completely out of her mind.

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## **[“But This is What I’ve Always Done” – Tips for Avoiding Teaching Ruts](#)**

As an undergrad I had a hard time settling on a major so I sampled a lot of different courses during my first couple of years. I remember signing up for one course that looked perfect because it combined two of my interests — media and American politics. In addition to learning about the changing dynamics between the two from a historical perspective, I was excited to see how the professor would incorporate the current presidential election into the course.

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## **Recent Seminars**

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### **[15 Practical Strategies to Re-energize Mid-career Teachers](#)**

Looking for a pedagogical power boost? This seminar offers concrete techniques for staying engaged and productive during those long middle years when enthusiasm may start to wane.

video Online Seminar • Recorded on Thursday, March 10th, 2011

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### **[Mid-Career Faculty: Staying Challenged and Enthused](#)**

“Mid-career faculty can easily reach a plateau where professional goals are less clear, even while an array of attractive personal and professional options may be available. The absence of motivating professional goals can cause professors to settle into a dull routine or begin to invest their energies in activities outside of their professional lives.” (p. 49)

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### **[Mid-Career Faculty Issues Often Overlooked](#)**

Faculty careers are often divided into three phases: beginning, middle, and end. New faculty have been studied in some detail—probably because of the great influx of them. So have senior faculty, although less than new faculty. But what about that expanse in the middle? Researchers Baldwin, Lunceford, and Vanderlinden (reference below) quote sources describing mid-career faculty as “perhaps the least studied and most ill-defined period in life.”

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