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In Review - ATLE Luncheon
March, 2016
Faculty Research Presentation

What happened today?

During our February 18th event, ATLE hosted three faculty members to present their research on teaching and learning. For this luncheon, we brought in Dr. Karen Kuralt from the Department of Rhetoric and Writing to discuss online collaborating, as well as Dr. Amar Kanekar and John Siegel to discuss the role of LibGuides in online classes. Starting with Dr. Kuralt, each guest/team presented for 15 minutes on their respective topics, with a ten minute question and debrief period following each presentation.

Dr. Kuralt Highlights:

In her work, Dr. Kuralt talked about the difficulties we face when collaborating: we all have different writing and working styles, we’re control freaks, we have trust issues, and specifically in an online setting: we don’t all like the same technologies, technologies don’t always work reliably, technologies can make our interactions feel depersonalized.

She argues that some conflict is necessary for productive teamwork, and then highlighted 3 types of conflict: substantial-conflict about ideas, procedural-conflict about how best to accomplish the team’s work, and affective-personality conflicts. She states that team members need to be able to tell the difference between these 3.

Recommendations include: introduce collaboration with low-stakes assignments initially, provide clear structure for group processes, grade individual as well as team efforts, teach teams to expect and solve problems, provide models of effective online communication

For more information, you can view Dr. Kuralt PowerPoint and her suggested readings here: Can this Team be Saved?, Team Writing A Guide to Working in Groups (Joanna Wolfe), Technology Review, Collaborative Research

Dr. Kanekar & Siegel Highlights:

Beginning with an activity involving Poll Everywhere, the two gathered information from the audience about library use and knowledge.

They discussed frustrations students have concerning libraries and how faculty-librarian collaborations can help with those frustrations; their arguments being the use of LibGuides as an aid in research.

In their research, they found that students who used the LibGuides were able to find correct research faster, use credible sources, find information from home and that the guides were easy to use and made completing assignments easier.

Instructors found higher quality references and projects, improved research skills and critical thinking.

You can review Dr. Kanekar and John Seigel’s PowerPoint, and their handout on Research and Instructional Support

For more information about past events, visit our At-A-Glance recaps at ATLE At-A-Glance Reviews

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