



# center for teaching excellence

Level 5, Room L511, Thomas Cooper Library  
[www.sc.edu/cte](http://www.sc.edu/cte)

Volume 5, Issue 2

*Everyone has the power to be an excellent teacher. We're here to help.*

## free courses for full-time faculty who teach

First Round Applications Due  
 January 4th, 2012

### vocal delivery

Do you want to improve your vocal delivery skills to be a more effective instructor? In this course for full-time faculty, participants will learn how to integrate vocal variables such as pitch, volume, rate and tonality, resulting in the ability to make more dynamic presentations. For more information and to apply, visit: <http://www.sc.edu/cte/voice>

### accent reduction

Would improving your American accent help you communicate with your students? In this course for full-time faculty, participants will receive professional training in an interactive environment designed to improve English pronunciation. For more information and to apply, visit: <http://www.sc.edu/cte/accent>

## consultations

Want to discuss your syllabus? Incorporate more active learning strategies? Put a class online? We're ready to meet and talk with anyone about their teaching at USC.

## contact us

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## try this

Do some of your students seem discouraged, come to class late, or submit work that lacks any sense of enthusiasm? Often, this occurs when students begin to doubt their own ability. There is a magic elixir for this problem that research has demonstrated to be surprisingly effective. This is to bring in students from the previous year who describe their experiences of frustration and self-doubt, and report that they surmounted them and survived. The theory explaining why this works is that it convinces discouraged students that their problems need not be attributed to a lack of ability, but to a temporary problem. By developing more effective strategies, investing more effort, or simply becoming less worried, students are likely to achieve better results.

*- Adapted from McKeachie's Teaching Tips (2006)*

## spring 2012 highlights

### Teaching Excellence Grants on Integrative Learning

Proposals due Tuesday, January 17, 2012

These grants of up to \$3,000 will support faculty in designing and implementing instructional strategies to engage students in learning beyond the classroom, and assist students in making connections across their experiences. The integrative learning approach includes a blending of within-the-classroom activities and course content with intentionally selected beyond-the-classroom experiences with the goal of developing independent, creative thinkers who are able to connect theory and practice in meaningful ways.

For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.sc.edu/cte/integrativegrant>

### Power Lunch: The Socratic Method and Critical Thinking

Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 12:00-1:25 p.m.

Dr. James S. Cutsinger received USC's highest teaching honor in 2011, the Michael J. Mungo Distinguished Professor of the Year Award. His pedagogy has been recognized many times; he has been a past recipient of the South Carolina Honors College Distinguished Professor of the Year Award and the Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award. His students describe his classes as 'engaging' as he 'brings complex ideas and information to life' and 'makes us think critically and deeply.' Professor Cutsinger attributes much of his success in the classroom to his use of the Socratic method, and he will focus his presentation on this topic. He has found "that this pedagogy generates a certain intensity: students quickly sense that they are contributors to a larger dialogue, whose significance transcends deadlines and grades."

For more information and to register, visit <http://cte.sc.edu/S12/Socratic>

### Teaching Assistant Workshop: Acting Principles for TAs

Thursday, January 19, 2012, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

What can instructors learn about teaching from actors? How can you use theatre arts techniques in the teaching/learning process to make it more engaging, personal, relevant and enjoyable? These questions will be addressed during this workshop. Through this interactive workshop participants will:

- Learn basic principles of acting technique and how they can be applied to teaching.
- Discover the relationship between improvisational theatre and teaching.
- Identify how to apply basic design concepts to lectures.
- Practice strategies that place more performance responsibility on students.

For more information and to register, visit <http://cte.sc.edu/S12/Acting>

For Event Details and to Register, visit [www.sc.edu/cte](http://www.sc.edu/cte)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2- <u>January</u> 2012	3	4	5 <b>Blackboard and Educational Software Technologies (BEST) Institute</b> Times and Locations Vary – visit <a href="http://www.uts.sc.edu/events">www.uts.sc.edu/events</a>	6
9	10	11	12- <b>Teaching Our Students: Workshop for Faculty</b> 2:30-4:30p.m., CTE	13- <b>Teaching Our Students: Workshop for TAs</b> 2:30-4:30p.m., CTE
16 <b>MLK Day Holiday</b>	17- <b>Integrative Learning is Intentional</b> 2:00-3:15p.m., CTE Integrative Learning Grant Proposals Due	18- <b>Integrative Learning is Intentional</b> 3:35-4:30p.m., CTE	19- <b>Acting Principles for TAs</b> 2:00–3:30p.m. Graniteville Room, TCL Mezzanine	20
23- <b>Accommodating Common Disabilities</b> 3:35-4:25p.m., CTE	24- <b>Engaging Students with Difficult Content Online</b> 11:00a.m.-12:15p.m., CTE	25	26- <b>Crisis in the Classroom</b> 3:00-5:00p.m., CTE	27
30- <b>Service-Learning Faculty Forum I</b> 10:10-11:00a.m., CTE	31- <b>Service-Learning Faculty Forum II</b> 12:30-1:20p.m., CTE	1- <u>February</u>	2	3- <b>Case Method Teaching</b> 1:15-4:45p.m., CTE
6- <u>February</u>	7-	8- <b>Power Lunch: The Socratic Method and Critical Thinking</b> 12:00-1:25p.m. Hollings Library, TCL	9	10- <b>Power Lunch for Columbia Tenure-Track Faculty</b> 12:30-1:45p.m., CTE
13	14- <b>Good Teaching Evaluations (Faculty)</b> 3:30-4:30p.m., CTE	15- <b>Good Teaching Evaluations (TAs)</b> 3:30-4:30p.m., CTE	16- <b>Integrative Learning is Beyond and Within the Classroom</b> 9:30-10:45a.m., CTE	17- <b>Integrative Learning is Beyond and Within the Classroom</b> 3:35-4:25p.m., CTE
20	21	22- <b>Lecturing in an Online Environment</b> 11:15a.m.-12:05p.m., CTE	23	24
27- <b>Moving Your Classroom Online</b> 2:30-3:20p.m., CTE	28	29- <b>Faculty Forum on Leadership</b> 11:15a.m.–12:05p.m., CTE	1- <u>March</u> <b>International Teaching Assistant Workshop</b> 9:30-10:45a.m., CTE	2
5- <u>March</u>	6	<b>Spring Break – No Classes</b>		9
12	13	14- <b>Integrative Learning is Reflection</b> 1:10-2:00p.m., CTE	15- <b>Integrative Learning is Reflection</b> 2:00-3:15p.m., CTE	16- <b>Testing in an Online Environment</b> 2:30-3:20p.m., CTE
19	20- <b>Faculty Forum on iPads</b> 3:30-4:30p.m., CTE	21- <b>Technology Tools as Teaching Assistant</b> 2:30-3:20p.m., CTE	22- <b>Power Lunch: Student Organization Leadership</b> 12:15-1:45p.m., Russell House Ballroom	23 Teaching Leadership Grant Proposals Due
26- <b>Integrative Learning Best Practices</b> 1:25-2:15p.m., CTE	27	28- <b>TA Workshop: Teaching for Your Career</b> 9:00-9:55a.m., CTE	29- <b>Study Abroad Workshop</b> 3:00-4:30p.m., Gressette, Harper College, Horseshoe	30- <b>Study Abroad Workshop</b> 10:00-11:30a.m., Gressette, Harper College, Horseshoe
2- <u>April</u>	3	4	5	6
9	10- <b>Online Course Development</b> 3:30-4:45p.m., CTE	11	12- <b>Power Lunch: Undergraduate Research Mentoring</b> 12:15-1:45p.m., CTE	13