



# PIE Newsletter

February/March 2019 - Issue no. 4



## Letter from the Editor:

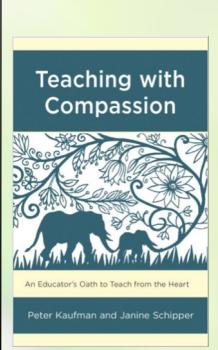
A week without classes can interrupt the flow of material and send students' minds wandering. Unexpected departures due to weather are particularly challenging; however, spring break can also put a hitch in an otherwise great semester. Keep your class on track and plan for the break by scheduling midterms, papers, readings, extra credit assignments, or discussion board post requirements after the break has concluded. Put some thought into how your class will benefit from the break without forgetting that there is still a lot to do before finals.

## Book Recommendation:

**Teaching With Compassion**

By Peter Kaufman and Janine Schipper

This book compares the act of teaching to the doctor's Hippocratic oath, creating 7 pledges for teachers to follow. The book is full of activities and tips on how we can be more compassionate towards our students, while still pushing them to meet high academic standards.



## Teaching Tip: Let's Get Critical

Try taking a few minutes at least once a week to do an activity called "let's get critical." Simply ask students a short critical thinking question pertaining to a lecture topic from that week. This can help address the importance of critical thinking and become a component of your course evaluation. It can also be used as an attendance tool

## Campus Resources: PRE



ACADEMIC CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE  
DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Midterm time is near! Check your students' progress – those who are falling behind may benefit from outreach from FSU's **Proactive Referral and Engagement (PRE) Program**. Upon referral, PRE staff will attempt to address students' needs, and may also refer students to tutoring and other services. See PRE for details:

<http://ace.fsu.edu/pre>.



## TA Spotlight: Kate Hill

Kate Hill, PIE's TA of the Month, was nominated for the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award last year (2018), and has been a PIE Associate for the Department of Biology from 2015-present. At FSU, Kate has taught Biology for non-majors and assisted in developing the new Biology 2 Laboratory, which incorporates inquiry-based learning methods. She has also served as a TA for Conservation Biology and Marine Biology. Kate believes that learning should be an exploratory process in which students ask questions, gather and assimilate evidence, draw conclusions, and construct explanations. One of Kate's students had this to say after taking a course with her: "Kate was very interactive and made sure to teach the material so that it would stick." Thank you, Kate, for all you do for our students at FSU!

To nominate a TA to highlight in our PIE Newsletter, please email us at [PIE-info@fsu.edu](mailto:PIE-info@fsu.edu)

## The PIE Hotline Q&A:

Dear PIE,

This semester I have a student who is not performing well on exams. I know this student studies and comes to office hours. How can I help them succeed on the next exam?

Sincerely,

**Unsure of how to help**



Dear **Unsure of how to help**,

First, you need to diagnose why your student isn't succeeding. For example, perhaps the student didn't prepare appropriately, suffers from test anxiety, or lacks proper exam-taking strategies. Alternatively, the exam may not align with the course's learning objectives, or the exam questions might be confusing or poorly formatted. Once you diagnose the issue(s), you can provide appropriate resources to the student or edit your exams accordingly.

Sincerely,

**PIE**

Have a question of your own? Email [PIE-info@fsu.edu](mailto:PIE-info@fsu.edu)

## FEBRUARY/MARCH EVENTS

### TUES 2/19 – ONLINE TEACHING TIPS

Join us to go over the basics of what an instructor needs to know when teaching an online course, and discuss tips and techniques for building an engaging online learning environment.

Presenters: Jennifer Kellett & Spencer Youngberg

[Click here to register.](#)

### WED 3/6 – 3:30-5PM - TA PANEL Q&A SESSION

Have a question not yet covered in a workshop? Don't see a topic scheduled that could serve your teaching needs? This event aims to tackle all of those questions and more by combining your questions and a collection of TAs who have extensive experience in the classroom. **Send in your questions at the PIE helpline: [pie-info@fsu.edu!](mailto:pie-info@fsu.edu)**

Presenters: J.T. Bandzuh, Vivianne Asturizaga

[Click here to register.](#)

### MON 4/8 — SPECIAL TIME: 10AM-11:30AM CRAFTING A LEARNING-CENTERED SYLLABUS

Creating an effective syllabus is essential for setting the tone for the semester and is an important component of the academic job search. This session will discuss the process of creating a syllabus that clearly communicates learning objectives and course expectations. We will conclude with suggestions for how to utilize the syllabus as a learning tool to promote student success in your course. Presenters: Kate Hill, Jeffrey Conley

[Click here to register.](#)



## EVENTS ON CAMPUS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Feb. 18	19 – <a href="#">PIE Workshop – Online Teaching Tips</a>	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	March 1
4	5	6 – <a href="#">PIE Workshop TA Panel Q&amp;A</a>	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18 SPRING	19 BREAK	20 CAMPUS	21 IS	22 CLOSED
25	26	27	28 – <a href="#">DIRECTO Conversation Series: Implicit Bias 11:30-1:30</a>	29