

To: CPP Faculty

From: Victoria Bhavsar

Subject: Waking up knowledge from early on; upcoming events & programs

Date: Wednesday, Nov 9, 2022

Dear faculty,

As we enter the semester's downslope, students have likely forgotten material from early on, especially if exams aren't cumulative. Then if the final exam *is* cumulative, it can pack a hard punch to the grade. Here are three ideas to wake memories up:

- *The cold water splash:* Announce for next week an ungraded in-class activity composed of problems or material from Week 1 on. Be a little cautious because even though the activity is ungraded, students will likely react with some fear.
- *The slow drip:* To every class meeting from now on, add a couple of problems, warm-up questions, minute papers, or such small activities that require students to *recall* previous information and skills. The recall aspect is important, don't make this open notes.
- *The cup of hot tea:* Give a more complex task -- elaboration. When introducing a new topic, have students write in their own words how the new topic relates to material they (should) already know from previous weeks.

It may feel like time wasted to go back -- shouldn't we be covering all the content possible? Evidence from learning science argues that new content is much easier to learn if it's consciously attached to previous knowledge, which means that we need mental access to that previous knowledge. A little recall of older material might well make new content go better.

Take care,

Victoria

PS: Here's an idea I was just reminded of by a professor who had attended CAFE's 2022 Wall of COOL workshop by Dr. Jose Bowen: If you can reasonably do so, it's highly effective to add an online "student success hour," aka office hour, the evening before an exam, presentation, project, or other high stakes due date. Students greatly appreciate even 30 minutes of extra just-in-time time, and the conversations tend to be pretty high-quality.

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Anti-Racist Teaching & Learning Winter Institute:

CAFE's [Winter Institute: Anti-Racist Teaching & Learning 2.0](#), will be held **in person** January 10-12 and 17-18, 2023. Hear speakers including CPP's own Dr. José Aguilar-Hernández, Dr. Michelle DeJohnette, Dr. Cecilia Santiago-González, Dr. Anthony Orlando & Dr. Gerd Welke, and Dr. Sandy Kewanhaptewa-Dixon -- plus very special guest speaker Dr. Luke Wood. In addition, work with each other and on your own. See [Winter Institute: Anti-Racist Teaching & Learning 2.0](#) for all the details.

From Friends of CAFE:

[Impact Grants for Service and Community Engaged Learning Courses](#): \$1000 grants are available for S/CEL-designated courses that respond to critical needs in Pomona and the Greater Los Angeles area through meaningful engagement. Applications are due November 18, 2022. See CCE's [Funding Opportunities page](#) for details.

Effective, Efficient, and Enjoyable Teaching:

- ***"Champions for Accessibility & Inclusivity" (CHAI) College-Based Workshops***: Faculty champions from every college offer discipline-specific workshops on making course materials accessible for students with disabilities and on using universal design for learning principles to support all students. Still coming up this fall, join [Jason Zhang](#) (Collins College), [Jodye Selco](#) (Science), or [Brian Ramirez](#) (Engineering).
- ***"Small Teaching Strategies, Important Learning Gains" Series***: Learn practical, research-based strategies that are quickly and easily adoptable. All sessions held via Zoom. [Register for one or attend all!](#)
 - Tuesday Nov. 15, 12:00-1:15pm: Connections, practice, and explanations
 - Thursday Dec. 1, 12:00-1:15pm: Summing up and preparing for finals

Research, Scholarship, & Career Support:

- ***"Everybody's Mentor"***: Lisa Kessler, CAFE faculty associate and retired interim Dean of Agriculture, provides individual, confidential consultation and coaching. Email [Lisa](#) directly to set up an appointment.
- ***The "CAFE Creates" Writing Group: Fall Semester Wednesdays, 9am-11am***. Contact [Amy Dao](#) or [Erica Morales](#) for more information and to join.

Technology:

The End of Blackboard: Cal Poly Pomona's contract with Blackboard ends June 2023. After that time, no one will be able to get data from Blackboard. Faculty will need to "harvest" any materials and information you want to have access to. Neither CAFE nor IT&IP will be able to provide individual support (i.e. we can't do it for you). See our [Transitioning from Blackboard](#) site for more information, tutorials, and sessions.

Save the dates for Spring 2023:

- **[Wall of COOL 2023](#) award presentation**: 9am - 12pm, Friday April 22, 2023. In addition to putting this on your calendar, watch for the Call for Nominations for Wall of COOL 2023!
- **CAFE Summer Institute 2023**: May & June 2023. This multi-week remote (synchronous + asynchronous) institute will focus on using classroom data to identify areas to improve learning.

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Get help from CAFE M-F 8am-5pm: canvas@cpp.edu | [CAFE's Studio 6](#) at 909-869-3099