Cornell Undergraduate Information Competency Initiative (2008-2010)

Basics
- Goals of the Institute
    - To explore creative and effective ways to engage students by integrating research skills into the classroom and the curriculum through the redesign and creation of assignments for undergraduate courses
    - Create the programmatic structures at Cornell necessary to enhance undergraduate research skills and information competencies;
    - Engage faculty, librarians, academic technologists and pedagogical experts in the establishment of a shared infrastructure for the teaching of undergraduate research skills
- Funded by grants from Cornell University Library, the office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, and the Center for Teaching Excellence
- Facilitators/instructors from the Library, Cornell Academic Technology Services, Center for Teaching Excellence, and the John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines

Faculty participants and their departments:

2008 – Kathy Berggren (Senior Lecturer, Communication), Jami Carlacio (Lecturer, English), Kuei-Chiu Chen (Lecturer and Director of Introductory Biology Laboratory (BioG 103-4), Neurobiology and Behavior), Laurel Hester (Lecturer and Assistant Director, BioG 103-104, Neurobiology and Behavior), Peter Hobbs (Adjunct Professor, Crop and Soil Sciences and International Agriculture and Rural Development), Tracy Mitrano (Adjunct Assistant Professor, Information Science and Director of IT Policy and of Computer Policy and Law Program), Alicia Orta-Ramirez (Lecturer and the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Food Science), Steve Pond (Associate Professor, Music), Christine Ranney (Associate Professor, Applied Economics and Management)

2009 – Darlene Campbell (Lecturer, Biological Science), Darlene Evans (Senior Lecturer, English), Shade Gomez (Graduate Co-Instructor, Education), Ronald R. Hoy (Professor and Chair, Undergraduate Biology Curriculum Initiative, Neurobiology & Behavior), Kate McCullough (Associate Professor, English and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies), Jane Mt. Pleasant (Associate Professor, Horticulture)

2010 – Antje Baeumner (Professor, Biological and Environmental Engineering), Mary Pat Brady (Associate Professor, English), Barry Maxwell (Senior Lecturer, Comparative Literature and American Studies). Janice Kanemitsu (Assistant Professor, Asian Studies)

Feedback from Participants

- "This community completely revitalized my teaching. I've never gotten such high evaluations from my students."
- "The institute has begun a slow but inexorable transformation of my teaching. . .[it] is much more oriented toward the students' discovery of knowledge and much less invested in my imparting it in the front of the classroom. It's them teasing out the questions and devising research strategies with my guidance. The results are stunning."

<u>Key Issues</u>
- Scaling up to reach more faculty
- Developing information literacy programs within departments and units that offer a discipline-based approach

Currently, the week-long Initiative model is on hiatus. We are examining the discrete components of the Initiative – faculty/librarian pairing, integrating learning outcomes into the curriculum, building a community of information literacy practitioners – to ascertain whether cumulative components offered to the faculty one at a time could yield success similar to the comprehensive approach of a weeklong "immersion" experience. We are also considering if information literacy could be scaled by building cohesive, sequential programs in departments by targeting a few key courses and faculty. In order to do this, the library and campus partners will need to consider current allocation of resources.

More information about the Information Competency Institute is available on the Institute web site: http://infocomp.library.cornell.edu/