



Teaching Concerns

Newsletter of the Teaching Resource Center for Faculty and Teaching Assistants

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Fall Forum Showcases University Teaching Initiative

by Bill McAllister, Faculty Consultant, TRC and History Department

On November 4, 1998, faculty from across Grounds demonstrated the variety of teaching enhancement projects funded by the inaugural University Teaching Initiative (UTI) grants. The University Teaching Initiative grew out of Faculty Senate discussions that culminated in the creation of a fund by Provost Peter W. Low. The University dedicated \$300,000 over three years to fund projects designed specifically to enhance teaching. The UTI Forum provided an opportunity for departments to share their innovations on a University-wide basis.

The celebration included a multifaceted "poster session." Participants circulated among stations that showcased many creative projects, including materials developed to enhance student learning, promote interdisciplinary curricula, and redesign core courses. The Forum then featured thematic concurrent sessions dealing with applying technology in the classroom, training TAs, and improving student evaluations. Participants reported that the day highlighted the diversity of exciting teaching ideas currently employed by U.Va. instructors.

Requests for funding from the next round of the University Teaching Initiative are due February 1. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded from this year's fund of \$100,000. Information is available at the

website:

<http://www.virginia.edu/teachinginitiative/>,

from Richard F. DeMong, Chair, Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee (rfd@virginia.edu), or from Bill McAllister, TRC (982-2815, wbm8n@virginia.edu).