TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATE – September 2011

In this issue:

Upcoming Programs and Events: Professional Identity Formation, Generational Differences
Two-Minute Tutorial: Writing Effective Multiple Choice Questions
Does it Work? Using art to teach visual thinking strategies
Resource of the Month: Insight into today’s learners: Beloit College Mindset List™

Upcoming Programs and Events:

1. **Topic:** Professional Identity Formation
   
   **Date:** TODAY! Thursday, September 29
   **Presented by:** Kelley M. Skeff, MD, PhD
   Vice Chair for Education, Dept of Internal Medicine, Stanford University
   **Time/Location:** 11 AM to 1 PM, Room 455 Criss III

2. **Topic:** Honoring Generational Differences: Optimizing Student Learning
   
   **Sessions:**
   - Interdisciplinary Panel Discussion
     Monday, Oct. 24, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Skutt Student Center, room 104
   - Sharing Your Experiences
     Monday, Nov. 14, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Skutt Student Center, room 104

Two-Minute Tutorial: Writing Effective Multiple Choice Questions

Writing high-quality test items begins with clearly-defined objectives for learning. The traditional multiple choice question (MCQ) format is the One-Best-Answer question, consisting of a single question with one best answer. This is one of only two formats (see below) used by the USMLE for the Step I examination (but additional, innovative formats are in development for all USMLE exams).


Please also review the document, Test Question Formats for M1 and M2 Quizzes and Exams Creighton University School of Medicine.

[http://medschool.creighton.edu/fileadmin/user/medicine/Administration/docs/08TestQuestionFormatsM1M2.pdf](http://medschool.creighton.edu/fileadmin/user/medicine/Administration/docs/08TestQuestionFormatsM1M2.pdf)

Does it Work? Using art to teach visual thinking strategies

In the October 2011 issue of *Academic Medicine*, authors Klugman, Peel and Beckmann-Mendez present findings from a curricular innovation, Art Rounds. The Art Rounds program at UTHSC-San Antonio “uses visual thinking strategies (VTS) to teach visual observation skills to medical and nursing students.”
The goal of this study “was to evaluate whether students’ exposure to VTS would improve their physical observation skills, increase tolerance for ambiguity, and increase interest in learning communication skills.” The authors reported that students “significantly increased the amount of time they spent looking at art and patient images (P = .007), the number of words they used to describe art (P = .002) and patient images (P = .019), and the number of observations made of art (P = .000) and patient images (P = .001).”


Creighton faculty can read the entire article online via e-Journals at the Health Sciences Library – or use Google Scholar to find the article and click on “Find it at Creighton”

Resource of the Month: Beloit College Mindset List™
Feeling out of touch with students today? Check out the annual Beloit College Mindset List to review a list of “the cultural touchstones that shape the lives of students entering college.”

For example, most students entering college for the first time this fall were born in 1993. A sampling:

For these students,

- There has always been an Internet ramp onto the information highway.
- Nurses have always been in short supply.
- There has never been an official Communist Party in Russia.
- Moderate amounts of red wine and baby aspirin have always been thought good for the heart.

http://mindsetmoment.com/Mindsetlist.html

Miss an issue of the Teaching and Learning Update?
Archived issues of the Teaching and Learning Update are available here:
http://medschool.creighton.edu/medicine/admin/teach/teachingupdate/index.php

Looking for books about teaching and assessment? Need help writing exam items or preparing a poster for presentation? Want to know more about MedEd Portal, a peer-reviewed repository and publication site for teaching materials?

Please email or call for a consultation: kathrynbuggett@creighton.edu