

Seek ye
wisdom
and gain
under-
standing
--Prov 4:5

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

At Augustana College

Vol. 9, No. 2

May, 2000

SPRING 2000 BUSH PROJECT GRANT AWARDS

Sherry Barkley (HPER) "Test Bank and Graphics Package for Power Point in PE 320:
Physiology of Exercise"

Mary Brendtro (Nursing) "Web-based Instructional Component in NURS 630:
Economics and Policy in Health Care"

Nancy Dickinson (Academic Development Services); Joan Benz (student) "Training Distance Tutors
for the Writing Center"

Jetty Duffy-Matzner (Chemistry); Ann Smith (Library) "Literature Searches and Web Component for
CHEM 120: General Chemistry"

Andy Eastwood (Social Work) "Enhancing Diversity Education Through a Collaborative Partnership
with a Tribal University"

Ivan Fuller; Julia Pachoud (Theatre) "Operating the New Theatre's Computerized Lighting System"

Lisa Grevlos; Monty Barnard (Music) "SMARTMUSIC Interactive Intelligent Accompanist for Vocalists"

Tim Jones; Jeffrey Miller; Mark Van Wienen (English/Journalism) "Research Workshops for English Majors"

John Larkin (Physics) "Just-In-Time Teaching in PHYS 221: Introductory Physics"

Reynold Nesiba (Economics); Maggie Goodwin (student) "Writing an Economics Text"

Valerie Olness (Biology); Ann Smith (Library) "Biology 200 With a Twist of Lit."

Anne Windholz (English) "Promoting Technology in the Study of Literature: On the Web Page
and in the Romantics Classroom"

Watch the Bush Faculty Development web site <http://inst.augie.edu/~bush> for abstracts of these projects.

**FALL
FACULTY
SEMINAR**

“Being Ourselves: What Does That Mean in an Age of Diversity?” will be the theme of this year’s Fall Faculty Seminar sponsored by the Bush Steering Committee. The presenter will be Gracia Grindal, Professor of Rhetoric at Luther Seminary, St. Paul. The Bush Steering Committee has been in conversation about issues of identity and diversity. We want to explore the balance between claiming our Lutheran heritage and recognizing religious diversity. How do we affirm our commonalities while acknowledging the diversity? We want to explore what it means to be a Lutheran college of the Church, not as opposed to “non-church,” but as related to the increasing conservative, black-and-white religious backdrop. We are particularly interested in talking about academics and the faith of the community. How do we deal, for example, with faith becoming an impediment to asking questions, contributing to closed-mindedness? How does our religious vision shape our academic quest, and how can our Lutheran tradition help us here?

We envision the seminar as a rich dialogue on these issues as they apply to the dynamics of the campus-at-large, the community of faculty, and the interrelationship between faculty and

Dr. Victoria Littlefield, Associate Professor of Psychology, Augsburg College, was on campus May 5 to

students.

Gracia Grindal came to Luther Seminary from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, where she was a member of the English department faculty from 1968 to 1984. Following an interest in the connection between theology, culture, and hymnody, and to strengthen the ties between the church colleges and the seminary, Grindal created the Reformation Festival, which grew from “Songfest” (a series of hymn festivals begun in 1992) and “Singing the Faith” (Reformation Day services focusing on Luther’s Catechism).

She has a deep love for the colleges of the church and their history.

The seminar will be held on Wednesday, August 23 at the Good Samaritan Society (4800 W. 57th Street). Sign-in and a continental breakfast will be from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The seminar will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, and will end with lunch.

RSVP to Karin Lindell, Box 802. If you need an invitation or have any questions, please contact Karin at ext. 4808 or e-mail klindell.

provide an external evaluation of the first year of Augustana’s three-year \$300,000 Bush Faculty Development

**SITE VISITOR
EVALUATES
BUSH GRANT**

Program Grant. The Bush Steering Committee contracted her services through the Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning. Through the day, Dr. Littlefield held conversations with the committee, Academic Dean Richard Hanson, Instructional Technologist Sharon Gray, Bush Grant Evaluator Mary Friehe, and various faculty members who have received Course Enhancement Project Grants or Cell Group Grants or have been active participants in Bush Grant activities. These included Craig Spencer, Lee Johnson, Perry Hanavan, and Kyle Hanson (student) and their Multimedia Processing Workstation; Monty Barnard and Lisa Grevlos's Video

Cameras in the Voice Studio, Song Research Sheet, and SMARTMUSIC projects; and Debbie Hanson and Mark Van Wiene's Oral History and Joint Conference project. Other grant recipients and activity participants had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Littlefield over lunch.

The Bush Steering Committee appreciated Dr. Littlefield's knowledge of and general enthusiasm for faculty development. Her strong background in evaluation was apparent. She expressed great interest in the projects that the faculty and students were engaged in. The committee looks forward to receiving the insights and suggestions in her report.

“OPEN WINDOWS” BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

by Sharon Gray, Ann Smith, and Margot Nelson

What constitutes "consciousness" and can computers possess it? Is the human "mind" simply the neurons, synapses, and neuro-chemistry of the brain, or is it something more? Will computers someday declare, "I'm lonely?" Will they eventually demand citizenship and rights? Will humans someday approach immortality through mental "downloads" from their "bio-computers" (brains) into more powerful, digital computers? These questions and *many* more percolate through Ray Kurzweil's book, *The Age of Spiritual Machines*, which was discussed by a group of faculty, administrators, and staff under

during the spring semester. Three participants offer their perspectives:

Ann Smith, Public Services Librarian:

"There is no frigate like a book...." The power of a book to carry us into times, places, and adventures is phenomenal. Pick up a book and within minutes we can be 20,000 leagues under the sea, standing beside Joan of Arc, or witnessing the devastation of earth as pollution runs wild. Unfortunately, especially once we are no longer involved in formal

the auspices of the Bush Grant and the Stanley L. Olsen Chair of Moral Values

This spring I had the pleasure of experiencing Kurzweil's *In the Age of Spiritual Machines* with a group of people organized by Arlen Viste, Stanley L. Olsen Chair of Moral Values, through the "Open Windows" vector of the Bush Faculty Development Grant. Traveling through the pages of Kurzweil's book, we grappled with issues such as what is soul? If soul is the result of cognition, as computers continue to increase in computing power, will they eventually be sufficiently sentient to have a soul? As medical technology advances, will the day come when humans are no longer carbon-based beings? If so, will we still be human? Can God only relate to humans? What is the next step in the evolution of intelligence and consciousness? Is it possible to walk away from advancing technology?

Struggling with such issues as a group is far more fulfilling and instructive than mulling about them as an individual. Each person in the group brings a different perspective; what is threatening to one person is inviting to another, so we all stretch. One of the themes of the current Bush Grant is "opening windows." Certainly sharing this book with a group opened windows that, on my own, I more than likely would have

education, our experiences with books are largely individual experiences unless we link up with a book group.

interpretations of the predictions about our continued evolution as "cybersapiens." I found myself continually challenged to rethink my initial responses, in the process of which I moved from an initial very anxious response to a sense that maybe this merger with computers IS simply a continuation of our evolution. It may be pretty egocentric to think that we have arrived as the highest life form... I could certainly elaborate further, but I definitely found the group stimulating and mind-enhancing.

Sharon Gray, Instructional Technologist:

Kurzweil presented some very challenging questions in his book, *The Age of Spiritual Machines*. And the book group was an excellent format for reflecting upon and discussing them. I don't agree with Kurzweil on some of his core assumptions, however. I believe that it is not our "computing power" or intelligence, but our being made "in the image of God" (which includes our compassion, appreciation of beauty and justice, and our ability to love) that defines our humanity. Kurzweil includes a long list of his past predictions regarding technology, and he's been on target

left tightly closed and securely locked.

Margot Nelson, Nursing:

From my standpoint, a book like Kurzweil's needs to be discussed in the light of its implications for what we are all doing--both in our professional and personal lives. It was fascinating to have the opportunity of several

for just about all of them, with the only "misses" being when he OVER-estimated the time it would take for certain technological developments to come to fruition. Therefore, his notions about computers that possess consciousness and the blurring of the line between human and computer may very well be on target. If so, the changes and developments in society (we're already seeing some of them)

will come upon us so gradually as to be practically unnoticed. My hope is that we can, as individuals, act as a

humanizing influence on the technological developments in store.

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From Sharon Gray, Instructional Technologist:

We're trying something NEW...

Instead of a list of scheduled training sessions (that often don't work with your schedule), we're going to staff the training center in the basement of the Madsen Center, room 14, so that you may DROP IN at YOUR convenience for help on the topic of YOUR choice.

The DROP-IN training schedule is at <http://inst.augie.edu/~gray/calendar.htm> This schedule tells you which experts are staffing the center on which days. (If you'd rather, we can send you a paper copy).

The training room is open from 8-5 (even during the summer) and the experts will be there from 10-2. There will even be FREE coffee and treats! You may "camp out" at the training center whenever you wish. (This may be especially useful for those in the Humanities without offices and computers this summer due to the construction!)

Stop by to:

- check your e-mail
- work on a project with or without help
- create your own webpage
- visit with others about problems they've encountered and solutions they've found

NOTE: If you'd rather, we would be glad to schedule a time to come to your area and do one-on-one training. We have a list of sessions (<http://inst.augie.edu/~gray/descriptions.html>) already developed, but we'd be willing to custom design sessions to meet your specific needs. Call us at 336-5331.