

# ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Volume 5, Issue 3

February 2006

## CASL Members

Caridad Brito  
Melanie Burns, Chair  
Rigoberto Chinchilla  
Ryan Hawkins  
Mary Herrington-Perry  
Peggy Holmes-Layman  
Debra Hopgood  
Daiva Markelis  
Debra Reid  
Karla Sanders  
Rebecca Throneburg  
James Tidwell

Assessment website:  
[www.eiu.edu/~assess](http://www.eiu.edu/~assess)

## WRITING FORUM PLANNED

Each year CASL chooses an assessment topic of interest about which to build a forum for faculty development. This year the topic is writing since Fall 2005 saw the first readings of the Electronic Writing Portfolio. The focus on writing at the forum will help faculty use the results of the readings in their classes to improve student writing.

This year's forum will be held on Thursday, March 30 from 8:30-4:30 in the Charleston-Mattoon Room of the MLK Union.

The forum will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a 2-hour general foundational session, "Learning that Lasts: Writing and

Assessment Across a Curriculum." It will then be broken down into modules that concentrate on specific aspects of writing. At 10:45 the topic will be "Creating Assignments that Matter." At 1:30 the subject will be "Effective Revision Across the Disciplines," and the final module at 3:00 will focus on "Strategies for Meaningful Feedback."

Dr. Carole Barrowman, an Associate Professor of English from Alverno College, has been invited to lead the forum. Dr. Barrowman is an expert on teaching and assessment and is a popular workshop consultant and keynote speaker. Dr.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Important Dates

Speaking Across the Curriculum Workshop, "Using the University Rubric to Assess Individual and Group Presentations," **Thursday, February 23, 2006**, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Arcola-Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union.

Annual Assessment Forum is focused on writing this year and will be held on **Thursday, March 30, 2006** from 8:30-4:30 in the Charleston-Mattoon Room of the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union.

## 2005 RECIPIENTS OF THE PROVOST'S ASSESSMENT AWARDS

CASL would like to congratulate the three recipients of this year's Provost's Assessment Awards, which were announced at the January 10 Council of Deans meeting.

**1st place (\$2500):** M.S. in Communication Disorders and Sciences

**2nd place (\$1500):** B.S. in Geography

**3rd place (\$1000):** M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences-Gerontology.



Pictured: Dean Diane Hoadley, Jeanne Snyder and James Painter from Family and Consumer Sciences

*(Continued on page 2)*

## WRITING CONT.

Barrowman is also a colleague of Dr. Robert O'Brien Hokanson who designed and led our EWP training workshop. Alverno College has been a leader in assessing student learning outcomes for three decades; Alverno faculty began assessing writing abilities in the early 1970s. Dr. Barrowman was a leader of the Summer Assessment Institute held at Alverno for 10 years.

Dr. Barrowman is on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of General Education* and is a regular contributor on literary matters to the *Milwaukee*

*Journal Sentinel*. A native of Glasgow, Scotland, Carole Barrowman has been described as a “troubadour teacher” who is known to be “a wee bit cheeky.”

CASL invites you to come learn new ideas and strategies for incorporating writing and revision within your courses and for responding to students. We ask that you RSVP to 581-6056 or [kksweeney@eiu.edu](mailto:kksweeney@eiu.edu) if you plan to attend the forum so that we may prepare an adequate amount of materials and refreshments.



Pictured: Carole Barrowman

## RECIPIENTS CONT.

Recipients are chosen by the Provost based on recommendations from a CASL subcommittee. Members of this subcommittee were Dr. Jie Zou, Physics; Dr. Peggy Holmes-Layman, Recreation Administration; and Dr. Daiva Markelis, English.

Deans may nominate up to three programs each year. Awards are given to programs that “in the process of systematically assessing their majors’ achievement of learning objectives, adhere to established best practices in assessment, address university-wide goals in the major, demonstrate continuous progress in implementing their assessment plans, and cultivate a culture of assessment.”

When asked about the strengths of assessment in his program, Vincent

Gutowski, Professor of Geography, responded, “We have the support of the entire Geography faculty. . . . We have used the assessment efforts to engage the faculty in discourse about our discipline to a degree that we had not done before. It has provided impetus for us to consider and implement curricular changes. . . . We were delighted to see that our efforts were rewarded with recognition for doing our job well.”

Jeanne Snyder, Assistant Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, shared this feeling of accomplishment upon receiving the award, “It was a feeling of accomplishment to have recognition for the program’s efforts. . . . The program is most proud of the major core course curriculum changes made as a result of ongoing program assessment. The result of the changes and additions strengthened our core course requirements.”

Nominations for 2006 awards will be due October 9, 2006 to Karla Sanders in CASA. Copies of each of the winning departments’ assessment summaries are available on the assessment web site.



Pictured: Vince Gutowski and John Stimac from Geology/Geography, Dean Mary Anne Hanner, and Gail Richard and Rebecca Throneburg from Communication Disorders and Sciences.