The central mission of the CETAL is to support teaching and learning by fostering pedagogical development of IWU faculty. We strongly believe that faculty development and collaboration across disciplines is crucial in promoting “challenging teaching practices that actively engage students’ critical and creative faculties” (IWU 2020 Teaching and Learning Goal).

This fall we welcomed three new members: Mike Theune as Director of the Writing Program, and Pennie Gray and Nawaraj Chaulagain as faculty representatives. The CETAL is entering its third year as an appointive committee and Carmela will be rotating off as CETAL chair at the end of this academic year. Thus, this seemed an appropriate time to review and evaluate the council’s membership and procedures to ensure effective support of teaching and learning on campus. We will present our ideas to the faculty by the end of the fall semester.

Carmela and Diego, as chair of the CETAL and university Technology Fellow respectively, completed two EDUCAUSE webinars (ELI Courses) over the summer, led by Patricia McGee, associate professor at UT San Antonio. The first webinar dealt with faculty readiness for teaching online, and the second one on pedagogical strategies for blended online teaching. This semester, the CETAL will be discussing ways in which the Mellon Center can support faculty members who would like to experiment with blended or hybrid learning environments. If you are interested in this initiative, please contact Carmela cferrada@iwu.edu or Diego dmendez@iwu.edu

The CETAL continues its thinking about creative ways in which faculty from across disciplines can collaborate and learn from each other, through team-teaching, linked courses and/or the ongoing course clustering activity. If you have any ideas on this, please contact Carmela cferrada@iwu.edu

1.- CETAL’s ongoing activities & initiatives (fall 2015):

- **MC News.** In an effort to keep faculty informed about CETAL activities and the crucial conversations in undergraduate education, the CETAL will compile a newsletter twice a year in fall and spring.

- **Faculty scholarly and artistic showcase at Ames.** The big monitor at the entrance of the Ames Library displays a power point honoring faculty scholarly and artistic achievements.

- **Teaching Library.** The Mellon Center now holds a “teaching library” with books and articles related to teaching & learning. We also have printed copies of AAC&U’s High Impact practices, VALUE rubrics, issues of *Peer Review: Emerging Trends and Key Debates in Undergraduate Education*, together with printed copies of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. You can stop by the third floor of CLA and check out items at the Mellon Center Desk.
Teaching Circles program is underway for fall 2015. This semester we have three groups of faculty from across disciplines working together on a variety of teaching practices. Teaching Circles are a “safe zone” to converse with your colleagues from other disciplines and programs about pedagogy without the pressures imposed by the tenure and promotion process.

If you are interested in participating in Teaching Circles, please contact Lynda Duke or Carmela Ferradáns. A call will go out in December for those interested in participating in Teaching Circles for the spring 2016.

For more information on the program, please visit the Mellon Center webpage.
https://www.iwu.edu/melloncenter/faculty-development.html

Recommendations for Letters of Recommendation: A Workshop. Monday October 12, 4:00PM Davidson Room.

January Pedagogy Symposium. January 16th 2016. Please save the date for Saturday, January 16th. This year we are inviting the authors of They Say/I Say, Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. The Writing Program will also lead a faculty reading group (10/19/2015 at 4:00PM, Evelyn Chapel) to discuss Graff’s Clueless in Academe: How Schooling Obscures the Life of the Mind (Yale UP, 2003). This book was the 2004 winner of the David H. Russell Research Prize from the National Council of Teachers of English. It essentially offers the critical background for They Say / I Say. Reading this book will allow those participating in the January Pedagogy Symposium to more deeply and knowingly engage this book prior to Graff and Birkenstein’s visit in January.

The project “Hybrid Learning and the Residential Liberal Arts Experience,” funded by a Teagle grant, is moving along. Please contact Diego Méndez-Carbajo dmendez@iwu.edu if you have questions.

Mellon Center Grants. The Mellon Center invites tenure-track faculty to apply for small grants to develop or significantly modify an assignment or project for classes to be taught during the 2016-17 academic year. A call for proposals will be out in February 2016.
https://www.iwu.edu/melloncenter/faculty-development.html

As chair of the CETAL, Carmela continues to apply for faculty development funds from the Re-centering the Humanities Mellon grant.

2.- Old Business

Student Focus Groups. During spring 2015, the CETAL and the Mellon Center worked with the Dean of Students Office to conduct student focus groups to get a sense of what our students value in their learning experiences at IWU. We selected the student facilitators, and they conducted one successful focus group in January, 2015. After a careful evaluation of this initiative over the summer, we
decided that the effort involved outweighed any benefit and that we should not continue with this effort. To learn more about students’ views on their learning experiences here at IWU, please visit Michael Thompson website https://www.iwu.edu/instres/assessment/nsse1.html

- **Google Glass initiative**
  The university received a donation of Google Glass through the Explorer program. CETAL invited the university community to submit proposals for creative uses of Glass in teaching and learning, research, entrepreneurial initiatives and more. We were able to fund 14 different projects. Because Google is not taking Glass into commercial production, our experimental use has ended. We will create procedures in the Library to make the Glass devices part of our circulating technology collection. For more information on this initiative, visit https://www.iwu.edu/news/2014/05-google-glass.html

- **Summer Bridge Program**: As chair of the CETAL, Carmela worked with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to develop the academic side of a summer bridge program targeting admitted IWU students. With the help of a funded Innovation Fund grant, the **ELSI 2015** program (Emergent Leaders Summer Institute) was supposed to bring thirty admitted IWU students for a week-long program with focused academic, leadership, and social programs related to the 2015-16 University theme “Nation(s) Divided?” ELSI’s main goal is to equip enrolled students with the necessary tools and connections to be successful at Illinois Wesleyan. Sadly, we did not generate enough student interest for the program to be viable. We are in the process of evaluating how best to proceed in this area.

The CETAL welcomes any suggestions, initiatives, plans, or ideas you might have in regards to supporting teaching and learning on campus. Please send any of these in an electronic form to Carmela Ferradáns cferrada@iwu.edu

Respectfully submitted,

Carmela Ferradáns
Your CETAL chair