



## The Sciences Teaching Club Heads to Madison, WI, for CIRTTL 2008

Two of the founding members of the club, Melissa Witzberger and Ken Hovis, were invited to attend the Center for Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTTL) Forum 2008. They, along with Assistant Vice Provost Suzie Laurich-McIntyre, represented Carnegie Mellon among 76 colleges, universities and organizations at this NSF-sponsored initiative that aims to understand how to better train future faculty to excel in both teaching and research.

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

### Fall 2008 Semester

- Aug. 14 Microteaching Workshop  
Deanna Matthews  
5 – 7 p.m.  
MI 355
- Sept. 16 Teaching Millennials  
Michael Bridges  
5 – 6 p.m.  
MI Social Room
- Oct. Finding a Light  
Guided Discussion
- Nov. Ethics in Teaching  
Case Study

### Spring 2009 Semester

- Jan. "Teaching" Job Market  
Panel Discussion
- Mar. Modes of Learning
- Apr. Bob Mathieu and CIRTTL

In addition to the listed Sciences Teaching Club seminars, Eberly seminars will be held throughout the academic year. Make sure to sign up early to guarantee a spot – as these seminars fill quickly.

# WHAT IS THE SCIENCES TEACHING CLUB?

## WHERE CAN YOU GO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Melissa Witzberger  
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Resources, seminar schedule, contacts and more are available on our website.  
[www.cmu.edu/bio/teaching-club](http://www.cmu.edu/bio/teaching-club)



## WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

- To enhance the skills of graduate students preparing for a teaching career.
- To learn pedagogy through workshops and seminars.
- To encourage members to seek out teaching experience.
- To provide members with documentation of teaching experience upon completion of Eberly Center training and seminars.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Doctoral students, masters' students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty within the Mellon College of Science and Biomedical Engineering are welcome to attend our events! Visit our website, [www.cmu.edu/bio/teaching-club](http://www.cmu.edu/bio/teaching-club), to join our distribution list and receive e-mails about upcoming events.

As graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University, we have recognized the need to gain both teaching experience and pedagogical understanding for success in future academic careers. Therefore, we have formed Sciences Teaching Club, which has expanded to include graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in Chemistry, Physics, Math and Biomedical Engineering.

The Sciences Teaching Club has gained recognition and positive feedback from the Department of Biological Sciences, the Graduate Student Assembly, the Office of the Vice Provost at Carnegie Mellon and the NSF-supported Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning.

## Does the Sciences Teaching Club collaborate with the Eberly Center?

Yes. We encourage club members to attend a monthly seminar series at the Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence, whose mission is to improve the quality of education at Carnegie Mellon by providing teaching support to faculty and graduate students. By attending seminars, interested students enrich their teaching knowledge and obtain documentation of their teaching endeavors to include within applications to tenure-track positions. Students may also participate in microteaching workshops and work toward building their teaching portfolios.

## What are microteaching workshops?

In these sessions, graduate students teach a small sample lesson and receive both peer and expert feedback. Eberly professionals meet with the Sciences Teaching Club for microteaching workshops approximately once a semester. These sessions count toward the documentation process.

## How many pedagogical seminars do members attend?

Students must attend 10 core Eberly seminars over the course of their graduate training to obtain documentation of their teaching endeavors. For the complete schedule of seminars, visit: <http://telab.web.cmu.edu/eberlyforms/>

## What outreach activities are offered?

The Sciences Teaching Club strives to encourage young students to enter science careers. We create opportunities to interact with students in both formal and informal settings. These interactions increase our exposure to teaching, enable us to develop our teaching styles and philosophies and provide us with opportunities to serve as positive role models for young students.

### Science Fair Judging

Members of the Sciences Teaching Club have participated as judges at several science fairs including Meeting of the Minds at Carnegie Mellon, a campus-wide undergraduate research symposium, and the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair, an open competition of science research for students in grades 6-12 in 23 Pennsylvania counties.

### Tutoring Program

Jeanne Morin-Leisk, the Sciences Teaching Club's Treasurer, and Newell Washburn, an Assistant Professor of Chemistry, collaborated to create a tutoring program with a local high school. Graduate students meet weekly with high school students to help with homework or test preparation. Members of the Sciences Teaching Club are encouraged to volunteer as tutors for this program.