Thursday, September 20, 2012
Limited seating: registration is required

Session #1: for Graduate Students & Future Faculty (Your GSO funds at work!!!)
“Teaching What You Don't Know Well—and Staying Just Ahead of Your Students”
Thursday, September 20, 3:00 - 5:00pm; ITLAL Underground (Library 69)

The landscape of university teaching has been changing in ways that faculty and administrators can be reluctant to admit: at many institutions, it's necessary but no longer sufficient to be brilliant in one's specialization. There is a growing demand to broaden teaching repertoires and teach on the edge of one's expertise. This does not, however, have to be the excruciating squeeze of a square peg in a round hole. How can we be prepared to enter the professoriate with the tools and attitudes needed to navigate such challenges? And what can we learn from professors who have mastered this mindset (and skill set) that might inform, invigorate, and improve our own teaching?

Friday, September 21, 2012
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Session #2: for all UAlbany Faculty
“The Joy in the Chaos: Teaching Beyond What You Know Best”
Friday, September 21, 10:30am - 12:00noon; ITLAL Underground (Library 69)

Most people don't like to admit it, but we know it's true: as faculty, we often find ourselves teaching the unfamiliar. In some instances, we're adding our own cutting edge research into our courses, and in others, we're teaching topics we haven't studied (or used) since we were sophomores ourselves. We can immediately picture the pitfalls of this latter scenario, but in what ways can this make us better teachers and our students better learners? In this interactive seminar, Therese Huston shares her research and interviews with faculty from across the country. What are best practices from professors who teach material outside of their comfort zone and do it well? What are some of the most common but fully avoidable mistakes we all tend to make? Whether you're teaching your next course for the first or the umpteenth time, we hope you'll join us to examine this experience of “teaching while learning” and what it suggests for how we can work more creatively and innovatively with students.

Dr. Therese Huston, (Ph.D. in cognitive psychology, Carnegie Mellon University) is the author of Teaching What You Don't Know, published by Harvard University Press and recipient of a 2009 Book of the Year award in the education category with ForeWord Reviews. Her primary research focuses on faculty morale and retention, innovative teaching strategies, and peer mentoring programs for college teachers. Dr. Huston was the Founding Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Seattle University. She was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical cognitive neuroscience at the Center for Neural Basis of Cognition at the University of Pittsburgh. Previously, Huston was an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Pacific University and the Assistant Director for Faculty Support at the Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence at Carnegie Mellon University.