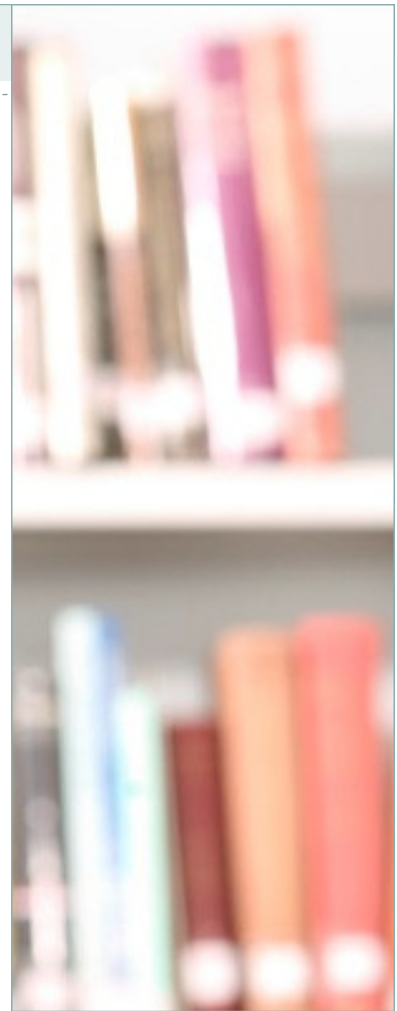


ATLE: A RECAP OF THE INAGURAL YEAR

From the beginning, this year's goal was to firmly establish ATLE as an organization supporting and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and the outstanding teaching, research, and service of the UALR faculty. Highlighted below are just a few examples of the ways ATLE has furthered these goals and established itself on the UALR campus as an organization of cooperation and collaboration.

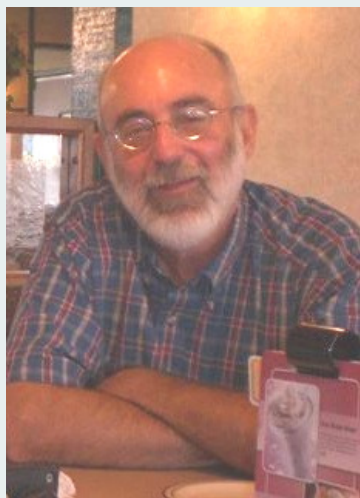
- ATLE Rollout: Lunch with a representative from each UALR department
- Teaching Demonstrations
- Table Top-Hot Topics Discussions
- Dr. Richard Light, *Making the Most of College: Students Speak Their Minds*
- Service Learning Workshop with the Office of Community Engagement



2008-2009 EVENTS

- Teaching Demonstrations
- Hot Topic Discussions
- Ken Bain Presenting *What the Best College Teachers Do*

DR. MICHAEL KLEINE ON ATLE'S FIRST YEAR



Dr. Michael Kleine

For the three co-directors of ATLE and for our two marvelous graduate assistants (DeAnn Hubberd and Elizabeth McAlpine), the Academy's first year has been a scramble to organize teaching demonstrations and lunches, hot-topic discussions, and a visit from Richard Light of Harvard. In addition, all five of us have been involved in a search for good institutional space and for funds to organize a summer teaching camp.

For me personally, the first year of the Academy has provided an opportunity to learn from excellent colleagues from other colleges and disciplines—about teaching philosophies, effective methodologies, and best-practice strategies. I have been at UALR for 25 years now, but this year with the Academy has enabled me to meet many other fellow teachers I would not have met otherwise, to participate in edifying interdisciplinary conversations, and to think about teaching from completely different perspectives. Too, it has been an inspirational year: it has helped me understand that in all of our colleges here, in all departments, there are men and women dedicated to teaching well and to improving their teaching.

I have learned from biologists, a math instructor, a philosopher, a business professor, professors from the School of Education, professors from Speech Communication, a political-science professor, and a colleague from my own department (Rhetoric and Writing)—all outstanding teachers—how to become, myself, a stronger teacher.

Although scholarship is still important to me, I have come to more fully embrace student learning as the most important aspect of my job, and I have come to understand, better, how scholarship might contribute directly to my teaching and my students' learning. It has been a good year.

DR. DAVE MCALPINE REFLECTIONS ON ATLE'S FIRST YEAR

It is hard to believe that we have completed the first year of activities for the Academy. Being a part of the beginning of a new organization has both its advantages and disadvantages—one has complete freedom to be creative, but there are no models to follow. Together with Dr. Michael Kleine and Dr. Carol Thompson, the three of us decided to follow the freedom trail and create what we thought would be an Academy that would meet the needs of the UALR faculty and remain consistent with the desires of the committee that designed the ATLE concept.

In my application to be one of the Directors of the Academy, I discussed my amazement with the high quality of the UALR faculty that goes unknown both on and off campus. One of my goals was to begin to share this little-used resource with the rest of the faculty. I believe we have done this through our Teaching Demonstrations held in both the fall and spring semesters. At these sessions, one or two faculty taught a twenty-minute lesson. Following each lesson, the Directors led the group through a discussion of what might work for them in their own discipline. These “take-aways” were recorded for others to use. Likewise, the teaching was videotaped and are archived on the ATLE website for others to watch. These Teaching Demonstrations, for me, were the highlight of our first year, and I hope they will be continued next year. The Teaching Demonstrations confirmed that we do have some of the best faculty in the nation right here at UALR!

I would be remiss if I didn't thank the people with whom I worked this year. Michael and Carol are such good colleagues. I don't think we had a single disagreement as we crafted what the Academy was to be this year. Our weekly planning sessions at our Denny's office were fun and loaded with the creative juices that energize faculty. We were fortunate to have two of the best Graduate Assistants at UALR. DeAnn Hubberd and Elizabeth McAlpine took our plans and made them happen in a most professional manner. As the University raises its expectations for research and service for its faculty, the Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence exists to preserve the University's mission of quality teaching by providing a venue for research and service to be shared with the university community.



Dr. Dave McAlpine

THE MAGIC OF LEARNING: ATLE'S FIRST YEAR

By Dr. Carol Thompson

Learning is magical. It binds itself to one's essence so that one never escapes its lure. Knowledge is here and there, in this book and in that, can be found with this instructor and with that, in this class and that one as well, in this video, reading, CD and also that, in this experience and that one too. When the opportunity to co-direct the Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence— ATLE arose, I gladly jumped at the chance to create a venue to showcase the excellence in teaching and learning we have on this campus. A very magical thing happened to me this year. I had the privilege of watching master instructors share their techniques, skills, philosophies and knowledge. Each time I attended or planned an event for ATLE, I found myself become excited once again at the amazing thing we get paid to do: we teach, and we learn. With ATLE, we learned from each other, and it was magical.



Dr. Carol Thompson