

Program Events

Searle Fellows participate in a series of linked events focused on a variety of issues and aspects of learning and teaching in higher education. These include:

(A) Group Activities

- 1) *Searle Fellows Fiesta*: At this informal welcome to the program, the new Searle Fellows will have a chance to interact with the Searle Center staff, as well as former Searle Fellows and their mentors.
- 2) *Dinner Meetings*: Throughout the academic year, we will meet for dinner to explore participant-selected topics and conduct other business of the program. We open the year with the *Introductory Dinner*, during which we will extend a general welcome to the fellows and their mentors. The 2009-2010 Searle Fellows Program will conclude at the *Farewell Dinner* in the spring, during which participants will present the results of their projects to the group. Senior members of Northwestern University administration will be on hand as we present awards and reflect on the year. *Mentors are welcome and encouraged to attend all dinners.*
- 3) *Two-Day Retreat*: In early December, the Searle Fellows will retreat to the shores of Lake Michigan for a time of reflection and professional growth. Amid the picturesque landscape of Lake Forest, we will hold sessions and discussions to further explore important issues related to learning and teaching. **Please note: Searle Fellows are required to attend this event.** *Mentors are welcome and encouraged to attend.*
- 4) *All-Day Retreat*: In mid-April, Searle Fellows will again leave campus to focus on their teaching projects (sharing their progress, giving and receiving feedback, discussing common teaching concerns and issues, etc). **Please note: Searle Fellows are required to attend this event.**
- 5) *Project Meetings*: Throughout the year, fellows will meet with 2-3 peers in project groups on their own time to discuss the progress of their projects. A member of the Searle Center staff will aid in project development.
- 6) *Faculty Workshops*: Searle Fellows are required to participate in at least **3** teaching and learning workshops. These workshops are open to all Northwestern Faculty and address various learning and teaching issues in higher education, such as course design, academic integrity, lecturing, small group teaching, assessment, and technology. Please register on-line at www.northwestern.edu/searle/programs_and_research/facultyprograms/faculty_workshops.html#tab2

(B) Individual Activities

- 7) *Substantive Teaching Project*: (See separate attachment)
- 8) *Critical Account of Teaching Project*
- 9) *Individual Consultations*: Searle Fellows may meet with Searle Center staff to discuss their projects and other teaching concerns during the course of the year.

- 10) *Class/Course Analysis*: During the course of the academic year, each participant will have a small-group analysis (SGA) conducted in class. (See description below for further details). Fellows are expected to meet with a Searle staff member to discuss the results of the SGA. If an SGA does not seem to be the appropriate format, then the Searle staff will help devise a different format to acquire feedback from the students.
- 11) *Meetings with your mentor*: Fellows should meet with their mentors as appropriate to develop their projects and teaching expertise in their discipline. Fellows are expected to create a *mentoring agreement* that outlines the expectations for fellows and mentors.

Small Group Analysis (SGA) Description:

Developed at Vanderbilt and Northwestern, this simple procedure provides instructors with early and extensive feedback from students, often including information and insights that do not emerge from end-of-term student ratings and comments.

SGAs typically take 20-25 minutes at the end of class. The instructor introduces the consultant to the class then excuses him/herself from the room.

Follow-up meetings are held within a week of the scheduled evaluation. They are between the instructor and the teaching consultant where in the consultant offers a report of the feedback from the class.