

WORKSHOPS ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

FOR GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS

IN THE SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS, AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

AUGUST 31 – September 2, 2009

MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY AND LIFE SCIENCES

MEETING YOUR FIRST CLASS

Monday, August 31, 1:00 – 3:30

First impressions matter. Students will form opinions about you and about your course based on how you conduct the first class. On Monday, we'll talk about what you can do to get your course off to a good start, and you'll have a chance to practice your introductions. Also on Monday a panel of undergraduate students will join us to talk about what their TAs did that was especially helpful to students.

PRESENTING AND EXPLAINING

Tuesday, September 1, 1:00 – 3:30

Knowing the subject matter is one thing; explaining it to students is quite another matter. How does one explain clearly? Equally important, how does one know if students are understanding? On Tuesday, we will talk about strategies for explaining and about how to use questions to check for understanding. You will have a chance to practice those skills on Wednesday.

PROMOTING THINKING

Wednesday, September 2, 1:00 – 3:30

Working with students individually, in pairs, and in small groups is a major part of the Teaching Assistant's role both in class and during office hours. These are the contexts in which TAs can prompt students to think more deeply and develop problem-solving skills. On Wednesday, we will discuss how to use questions – a key skill for helping students develop their thinking skills – in one-on-one and small group interactions.

SPONSORED BY

The Graduate School, the Instructional Development Program, and
Participating Departments
University of Rhode Island

To confirm registration, please send an email message indicating the sessions you will attend to:
bshea@uri.edu