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An electronic newsletter of the Integrative Teaching International <http://integrativeteaching.org>



ThinkTank is a facilitated forum offered by the Integrative Teaching ThinkTank organization. It brings together art and design master teachers, administrators & emerging educators to address thematic issues of higher education. By linking educational theory to practice, ThinkTank identifies innovative new approaches to higher education.

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Integrative Teaching International evaluates ThinkTank outcomes and creates or modifies theories, policies and curricula for future ThinkTank sessions. ITI is an educational non-profit corporation registered in the State of Illinois.

Comments?

ITI welcomes all comments about its activities or content. Please e-mail us at info@integrativeteaching.org

Our newsletter is designed to share news of a grass-roots initiative to improve art + design foundations. We believe that change happens by those who envision it – not just from the top or just from the bottom – but bi-directionally.

If you have not heard of ThinkTank or Integrative Teaching International, that's ok. We have been steadily expanding over the past six years, from the rough beginnings of an idea to the implementation of our current 4 day intensive. To date, we've had participation from over 300 master and emerging educators and administrators representing over 100 colleges and universities in 30 states and 4 countries.

We believe in leading change. Will you join us?

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We facilitate small groups to openly exchange—and sometimes challenge—ideas about the state of pedagogy. We seek to showcase best practices, heighten understanding of curriculum design, and explore innovative assessment strategies.

Integrative Teaching International (ITI) promotes wide sweeping discussion about the state of teaching and learning in the 21st century. Through our annual ThinkTank event, our journal *Future Forward* and other sponsored programs, ITI seeks to foster the intellectual skills necessary for exemplary instruction by master teachers, administrators and emerging educators.

Each year at ThinkTank, we bring master and emerging educators and administrators together to collaborate through hands-on workshops, presentations, and intensive facilitated discussions. We facilitate small groups to openly exchange—and sometimes challenge—ideas about the state of pedagogy. We seek to showcase best practices, heighten understanding of curriculum design, and explore innovative assessment strategies. One goal of a ThinkTank event is to share knowledge and supportive mentoring with emerging educators at the beginning of their teaching career. Teacher by teacher, we form a national network that seeks to change ossified conceptual frameworks for the professional development of educators and open new possibilities for the exchange of information in and outside of a classroom.

Furthermore, we recognize that the value of our model of exchange may be beneficial to educators from many fields of study. Pedagogy and scholarship across the curriculum requires habits of mind and forms of inquiry that are general skills for the 21st century workplace. ITI values discussion about the nature of play, research, technology, and co-curricular activities in the field of teaching. We welcome the expansion of our dialogue across the University as well as connecting to K-12 education.

Together, through shared dialogue and understanding, we become ready to face the challenges ahead. Please consider applying for one of our upcoming events listed on this website or hosting a ThinkTank event at your annual conference.

Join the conversation...

Anthony Fontana
President, Integrative Teaching International
Instructor of Art & Learning Technologist
Bowling Green State University



ITI Bridges the Gap and Works with High School Art Educators in Atlanta

Rae Goodwin, Vice-President for Education, Elect

Finding middle ground was of the utmost importance, a way to teach in a manner that serves students and carries art education into the 21st Century.

In early June of this year, representatives from ITI were invited by Raymond Veon, Interim Director, Fine and Performing Arts, Department of Learning Excellence, Atlanta Public Schools (APS) to facilitate a ThinkTank for AP and IB high school art teachers in the Atlanta area. This was a part of the APS conference, (Re) Thinking the Foundation, Shifting the Lens 2011. Also invited to the two-day professional development extravaganza were notables Howard Gardner, Eric Booth, Bruce Taylor and Olivia Gude. The event was the finale to a two-year initiative to transform arts education in Atlanta.

Richard Siegesmund, Clint Samples, and I represented ITI in Atlanta as ThinkTank facilitators. We spent part of two days with the participants, as they learned from one another about their respective programs and intentions working as an art teacher in a public school. Initially we broke into focus groups to discuss the cultural, conceptual, and historical frameworks of AP and IB art education. Each group reported back to the whole and thus began a great dialog about intentions and actualities.

This engaged group proved they were stakeholders through their intense debate about the best practices for art education on the secondary level. The passionate discussion was packed with commentary, disagreements, concerns, and ultimately hope for both their students and the future of art education itself. We found these instructors to be dynamic, invested, con-

cerned, and willing to listen. They work with great diligence to assure student intellect in, with, and through the arts.

For them, this includes a sense of play or exploration and understanding that art educators help people learn via hand-held material manipulation. This intelligent and energetic group of professionals debated and elaborated on what tomorrow's classroom will look like and how to engage their administrators in their work. The following are the findings they presented to the participants at the end of the conference:

What is important about AP and IB art courses?

- A recognized adjudicated forum to test drive 21st Century concepts
- Focuses alignment of curriculum and resources down through K-12 and up to post secondary
- Creates a nationwide coalition of motivated teachers to drive rich conversation
- Can be a model good teaching

What are the advantages of the AP and IB courses for students?

- The curriculum can engender a classroom where students become: adaptable, curious, playful, productive, explorative, engaged, perseverant, synthesizers who are disciplined towards completion of long-term projects.
- Outsiders—including the program assess-

sors, administrators, and parents—become stakeholders in assessments.

- Students learn more about themselves through personal choices of themes, media, compositions etc. This leads to surprising self-discovery greater confidence in self-expression. This is really the content that art allows us to teach.
- Students learn how to operate within a culture of respect and evaluation (both self and peer.)
- The curriculum engages all students in learning.

What will tomorrow's classroom look like?

- Portable
- Excursions
- Flexible
- Adaptable
- Multiple problem solving- students know the solutions
- Collaboration
- The classrooms have multiple avenues of content and technology that filters and shapes content

What do we need to keep in our classrooms as we advance into the 21st Century?

- We learn with materials, with others, through the hand, and all of the senses

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- Playful explorations

What are our skills and benefits of being a teacher?

- Emotional connection through listening
- Joy of watching learning happen
- Engaging the classroom and working with individuals

How do teachers communicate about these ideas?

- Through existing channels
- Georgia Art Education Association
- Smaller meetings
- Facilitated children and adult workshops
- Regional professional development
- Facebook

How do we get on the principal's agenda?

- Advocacy through Georgia Art Education Association
- Workshops that encourage cross communication with administrators and educators
- Speaking with them about the qualities of our instruction
- Not just being the entertainment
- Find/create a state advocate
- Work in small group meeting with principals- focus on the processes, habits of mind, forms of engagement
- Local Bureau of Cultural Affairs or State Arts Council

Think Tank with AP and IB Art Teachers from the Atlanta Area

June 1st and 2nd 2011, held at Westminster School in Atlanta

Facilitators: Richard Siegsmund, UGA, Clint Samples, WGA and Rae Goodwin, UK

Participants: Pam San Martin Kalista, Anastasia Fink, Suzanne Yates, Natalie Brandhorst, Jena Sibille, John Brandhurst, Susan Staggs, Julie Deavers, Larry Banks

Foundations Now

Jim Elniski, Vice President for Programming

ThinkTank 7: *Foundations Now* will explore ways of integrating the ever-changing models, methods, motivations, and practices of contemporary art and design into foundational art courses

Integrative Teaching International will be offering its annual facilitated forum, Think-Tank next June 6-9, 2012. It brings together art and design master and emerging teachers and administrators to address thematic issues of higher education. It employs a mix of facilitated discussions, workshops and presentations, interspersed with informal meals and social interaction.

ThinkTank 7: *Foundations Now* will explore ways of integrating the ever-changing models, methods, motivations, and practices of contemporary art and design into foundational art courses. Exploring ways in which foundational curricula can respond to 21st century needs, we will compare emerging processes and motivations to existing models. Building on ideas generated by ThinkTank6: Leading Change, TT7 will continue to consider ways in which foundational coursework sets the stage for the undergraduate experience as a whole.

Objectives for ThinkTank7 include:

- To explore ways of integrating emerging practices into existing foundation curricula;
- To develop effective connections among our missions, goals, learning outcomes, and assessments;
- To identify the essential features of a foundations curriculum that is responsive to a multicultural contemporary framework;
- To develop students' studio research skills and expand critical thinking;
- To experiment with new teaching technologies, including, work with social networks, virtual spaces, and online tools.

Some of the breakout session topics we are considering to include:

- The Contemporary Learning Community
- Cultivating Creative Inquiry
- Artist/Citizen
- The Tipping Point: From Inertia to Action
- Intrinsic Motivation; Extrinsic Impact
- Integrative Teaching and Learning
- Connecting the Dots

Applications for ThinkTank 7 are now being accepted.

Go to <http://integrativeteaching.org/> for more details.



ThinkTank Fellowships for TT7

Peter Winant, Vice President for Education

In order to facilitate inclusion of highly motivated and accomplished emerging educators, ITI will offer a limited number of Fellowships and stipends to ThinkTank applicants.

In order to know how valuable ThinkTank sessions are, try missing one. This was the first time since TT3 that I was unable to attend, and I missed the flush of adrenaline, camaraderie and infusion of ideas that had become my summer 'fix' that propelled me towards fall with wonderful momentum.

The reports from TT6 were highly positive, and of course the presence of Fellows and emerging educators, once again, was a critical aspect of the success of the sessions there. ITI strongly encourages you to suggest to your emerging faculty and highly promising graduate students that they make a Fellowship application for TT7. We seek a pool of applicants from a broad spectrum of geographies, educational environments and personal experiences. The criteria are posted below, and the process is straightforward.

Thank you,
Peter Winant
VP for Education

The participation of emerging educators in visual art, design and art history and theory has been crucial to the success of past ThinkTank sessions. The Board of ITI encourages emerging educators to apply for a ThinkTank Fellowship to attend ThinkTank 7. A panel of former ThinkTank participants, including past Fellows will select this year's recipients.

The following are the qualifications for Emerging Educator or promising Graduate Student.

1. Up to 4 years teaching experience beyond graduate school
or
2. Graduate students within 18 credits of graduation (MFA for Art and Design, PhD for Art History and Theory)
3. Recent Graduates up to one year past graduation (MFA for Art and Design, PhD for Art History and Theory)

In addition to submitting your materials for consideration to receive an Emerging Educators Fellowship all Fellowship applicants must fill out a ThinkTank 7 application. Go here for the complete directions on-line; <http://integrativeteaching.org/fellowship/>

Expanding Publications

Mary Stewart, Vice-President for Publications

Integrative Teaching International currently offers two publications: *Future Forward* and *State of Play*.

We launched our publications program with *State of Play* in 2009. Led by Anthony Fontana and Stacey Isenbarger, a group of emerging educators created the first edition of this book following ThinkTank 4. Our expanded and re-designed edition, which was finalized in June 2011, contains nine warm-up exercises and nine extended projects. Our new publication, *FutureForward*, is becoming an annual journal. The first issue, titled *Four Minds for the Future*, published in fall 2010, offered extensive articles and sample assignments inspired by ThinkTank 5. The second issue, *Manifestos and Manifestations*, was distributed in April 2011 to coincide with the biennial FATE conference. This issue offered four very different philosophical positions and detailed the types of curriculum and assignments these programs inspire.

In June 2011, Mathew Kelly took over as editor of *FutureForward*. Working with ThinkTank 6 facilitators Michael Arrigo, Anthony Fontana, Bill Hill and Stacy Isenbarger, plus a team of Future Forward assistant editors, he is developing our third issue, titled *Leading Change*. It is due out by the end of the year.

Mat is also developing ideas for a special issue of *FutureForward*, titled *Get With the Program: Teaching Technology and Teaching Technologies*. Due out in 2013 to coincide with the biennial FATE conference, this issue will focus on the unique qualities of new technologies and how they enhance the communication and creation of ideas. What visualization technologies will best extend student capabilities? What educational technologies will best expand teaching effectiveness?

When is it appropriate to use a new technology exclusively, and when should it be inte-

grated with more traditional approaches? How can both emerging and master educators master the new technologies they are being asked to teach?

While we already have a preliminary list of possible contributors to this issue, we really want to send out a broader call for proposals, focusing on the following questions:

1. What is the new technology you wish to discuss?
2. In what curricular context is it used?
3. How do instructors learn both the technology and develop effective pedagogies?
4. What is the effect on student learning?
5. What advice can you offer to others seeking to use this technology?

Please contact Mat at: matkelly@iowatelecom.net by September 30 if you want to make a proposal for this issue.

We are also developing a new publication, called *Integrative Teaching Advisory*. Inspired by two-page advisories distributed by NAEA, we want to provide substantial and lively advice on curriculum design, personnel review processes, leadership, pedagogy, and other practical topics. This publication will be co-edited by Dr. Richard Siegesmund and Mary Stewart, and submissions length can be up to 1000 words.

We plan to distribute a prototype of this publication in fall 2011, and will invite submissions from all Think Tankers, probably using the following deadlines: January 5 and June 5 each year.

If you have questions about this new project, contact Mary Stewart at mstewart3@fsu.edu

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Moving Forward and Building on the Past

Chris Kienke, Vice-President for Communications

My responsibilities for the upcoming year include helping to keep the information on the ITI website up to date, publishing the ThinkWire newsletter and adding to our online assignment archive.

I would like to welcome several new people to the ITI Board this year, Stacy Isenbarger as Vice President for Outreach and Matthew Kelly as Editor of *FutureForward*. Moving into my second year on the Board of ITI my responsibilities continue to include editing this ThinkWire newsletter and updating our assignment archive. In addition I will be working with the VP for Outreach on gathering information about past ThinkTank attendees current activities and helping to publicize them on the ITI website and through our mailing list.

ThinkTank 6 was a fantastic event, yielding a number of new assignment exemplars that will be posted to our Assignment Archive on the Integrative Teaching International website. In keeping with ITI tradition each assignment has been organized using the same format. This will allow for maximum clarity when being used as a classroom resource and for adaptability by the instructor who is using the resource. Web site link here I hope that you find this resource useful in the classroom and as we will keep updating it, please come back to re-visit it every year.

The Board of ITI is asking every past ThinkTank participant to send us information on your current activities and accomplishments regarding exhibitions, publications and classroom activities. We will share these accomplishments with the rest of the ITI/ThinkTank community on our website. Have a great Fall semester or quarter.



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Town Crier

Stacy Isenbarger, Vice-President for Outreach

Integrative Teaching International is devoted to creative exchange and educational development and I appreciate your aid in spreading our mission further

As one of the new ITI board members, I look forward to using my new title, VP of Outreach as an exciting “excuse” to eavesdrop on your creative lives and spread the word about our collective dynamism as ThinkTankers. Educators from various backgrounds come together at ThinkTank to network and share their own unique perspectives. As VP of Outreach I will be working to keep you connected year round. To help me in this pursuit, please email me at stacyisenbarger@gmail.com about your involvement in current and upcoming exhibitions, publications, conference panels, workshops, etc... I will post this information on the ITI website and Facebook page. Thank you for this opportunity in advance!

If you plan to present research inspired by a ThinkTank breakout session at an upcoming conferences, please let me know. I would like to help you by providing you with ITI and ThinkTank logos for your presentation as well as post information about your presentations on our website. The Board of ITI would like to keep track of how ideas exchanged at our ThinkTank events are becoming integrated into the bigger picture of academia. We feel this type of follow up will help us in planning future programming. Integrative Teaching International is devoted to creative exchange and educational development and I appreciate your aid in spreading our mission further.

Please keep a lookout for our monthly online ITI Educators Showcase. To highlight some of the best and brightest individuals that have come to ThinkTank over the years, the ITI blog will profile a former ThinkTank participant each month, from emerging educators to seasoned veteran faculty. The showcases will feature the educator's biography, personal research summary and a course assignment with student examples. Please visit www.integrativeteaching.org/educators-showcase/ to read about each showcased educator. So think of me as the ITI “town crier” without the flamboyant outfit... but feel free to envision the outfit if it helps you remember that I'm out there and at your service. I look forward to hearing from you throughout the year. I hope you enjoy the start of a new and productive academic year!

