

Great Teachers Descend on Lake Arrowhead

by Tim Moran

For the third straight year, instructors from Bakersfield College came together for the Great Teachers Seminar. Held on February 22-24, 2008, at the Lake Arrowhead Conference Center, the seminar brought together 14 faculty members from nearly as many disciplines. Several were returning for the second or third time, while others were enjoying their first great teachers experience.

As in the past, Bakersfield College's Staff Development Coordinating Council generously supported faculty members by underwriting part of the cost for this seminar, which included accommodations in luxurious lodge-cabins, well-appointed meeting spaces, and six delicious meals served in the UCLA Conference Center restaurant. Rest assured, no one returned home hungry.

Participants braved unpredictable weather conditions to drive up the mountain on Friday afternoon. After a brief get-together, and a wonderful dinner, the real work began. Professors exchanged and presented papers dealing with teaching successes. The next day, participants convened again—after breakfast—to exchange and present another set of papers, these dealing with problems encountered in teaching. Soon an agenda was crafted to address topics of interest to the group, and various break-out sessions were held to brainstorm ideas and action plans for the group's return. Saturday afternoon is traditionally reserved for free time, and this year was no exception. Braving snowy conditions, the group disbanded and headed off to the woods for a walk, back to the cabin for a nap, or to nearby shopping for souvenirs. Following this recreation, the group reconvened for dinner, followed by an opportunity to share tips and tricks for successful teaching strategies.

Sunday morning offered yet another delicious breakfast and brief wrap-up meetings. After checking out and eating one final lunch, groups of car-poolers headed down the mountain, in better weather, rejuvenated and ready to return to the task of serving our students and making Bakersfield College an even better place to work and grow.

If you've yet to join the Great Teachers movement, you're missing one of the most revitalizing and enjoyable FLEX opportunities available to faculty members at Bakersfield College. If you have any questions or are interested in attending a future GTS, please feel free to contact Professor becki whitson.



GTS participants enjoy a free Saturday afternoon. L-R: John Carpenter, Sociology; Billie Jo Rice, Psychology; Karen Kettner, Anthropology; Ralph Cazares, Psychology. Photo by Tom Moran



2008 Great Teachers Seminar participants: Front Row, L-R, Janet Tarjan, Math; Jason Stratton, History; John Carpenter, Sociology; Karen Kettner, Anthropology. Back Row, L-R: Nick Strobel, Astronomy; Clark Parsons, Academic Development; Billie Jo Rice, Psychology; becki whitson, Psychology; Ralph Cazares, Psychology; Pam Boyles, English; Tom Moran, Foreign Languages/ASL; Ann Tatum, English. Not Pictured: Chuck Feer, Science and Technology.