KILM

The Kenyon Intensive Language Model

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NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Caring in the Classroom: How Do Our Students And Colleagues Know We Care?

February is that month when Valentine's Day comes along and we are all reminded to show others that we care about them. Truthfully, I can't say that it is among my favorite holidays. Don't get me wrong, if friends want to exchange pretty cards or drop by with roses or chocolate, I would certainly be delighted! What has always bothered me about Valentine's Day, though, is first, we have designated this one day of the year as the day to show people we care or we love them. It's always seemed strange to me that, if I authentically cared about people, I might only be letting them know on one predetermined day. Next, it always felt less sincere to give people I cared about gifts or cards chosen from a limited range that are all similar in style to those given by everyone else. I often wondered if the people I gave them to felt that my caring was genuine since I had not actually composed the messages in the cards or made the gifts myself. It seemed somewhat impersonal which then seemed less thoughtful and by nature, less caring. What I most disliked, though, was to think of all of the people who might feel uncared about if they did not receive these sorts of cards or presents that society had determined meant someone cared about them. The idea that some might feel excluded or uncared for because their friends or families might show they care at different times in other ways that do not fit the mold led me to consider a host of other questions related to caring. For instance, beyond giving people chocolate, how do others know we care and why does it matter? In Education, does caring matter? Does it matter for our students to know that we care about them and if so, then what does caring look like in the educational setting? Similarly, does it matter for our co-workers or fellow students to know we care about them too? Are there consequences when our students or colleagues think we do not care?

There is a whole body of research focusing on issues of caring in education, especially when discussing questions of equity, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. In her book, *Subtractive Schooling: US-Mexican Youth and the Politics of Caring,* Angela Valenzuela (1999) distinguishes between *aesthetic caring* (saying we care but not showing it in our actions) and *authentic caring* (truly caring by showing others respect, listening, hearing, and engaging in meaningful ways). She shows us how a lack of caring in education subtracts resources and even identities from students. René Antrop-González and Anthony de Jesús in their study of urban school reform, argue that it is not only the size of schools that matter, but also the "high quality interpersonal relationships between students and teachers" that are critical to student success (2006, p. 1). Though these scholars study issues of schooling dealing primarily with race, their concepts of caring, even as an act of resistance, may be transferred to all humans. In what ways do you show you care in and outside of the classroom? How has someone else's caring in your educational experience transformed your life? How have your ways of caring touched your students, your colleagues or other students, your family, other people in society?

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How do you KILM?

Let's face it. "KILM" sounds a little violent. But, we all know that KILM is just an acronym. Could we use it as a verb and assign it our own meaning, though? How do you construct AT lessons? How do you teach AT classes? What tools do you use for your language? What or who inspires you? Is the way you participate in KILM an innovation in foreign language teaching and learning?

How do you KILM?

Through a series of dialogues for ATs and Faculty (and anyone else interested in the teaching and learning of foreign languages), we will discuss the ways in which we participate in KILM and why we do what we do.

Lunch will be provided so please RSVP!

(Please let Concetta know if you have dietary restrictions.)

ATs, INVITE YOUR MTs! FACULTY, INVITE YOUR ATs and STUDENTS! JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

Upcoming Events and Important KILM Dates!

February

Feb. 10 Lunch-and-Learn: Unique Language Learners
11:30 Center for Global Engagement (Hoehn-Saric House)
Come and discuss how you address your students' diverse learning needs! (Reading material will be sent when you RSVP)

Feb. 25 AT Applications Due

Feb. 26 Lunch-and Learn: Innovation in KILM
11:30 Center for Global Engagement (Hoehn-Saric House)
Come and discuss ways you are innovative in KILM! What tools or techniques do you use or have you developed to improve language learning?

March

March 17 Lunch-and-Learn: Digital Tools and the AT Classroom
11:30 Center for Global Engagement (Hoehn-Saric House)
Come and discuss ways you use digital tools in your foreign language classroom! (Reading material will be sent when you RSVP!)

You Deserve An Award!

Apprentice Teachers, do you know a MLL faculty member who
- Has been an exceptional mentor to you?
- Has been in frequent contact with you?
- Been extra helpful in providing thorough feedback after observations?
- Produces outstanding, timely AT lessons?

NOMINATE HIM/HER FOR AN AWARD!

Faculty, do you know an AT or Alternate who
- Has been an exceptional apprentice?
- Is an outstanding instructor?
- Has taken your advice and improved his or her teaching?
- Is exceptional in providing timely, detailed AT reports?
- (Alternates) Is always willing to step in and help?

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS ON KILM WEBSITE! (KENYON.EDU > KILM)

DO YOU WANT TO PROPOSE A LUNCH & LEARN DISCUSSION TOPIC RELATED TO TEACHING AND LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES?
DO YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR OTHER KILM EVENTS?
PLEASE LET CONCETTA KNOW!

KILM

Keep Sending Your Stuff!

Thank you to the ATs who have been contributing to the online repository! If you haven't heard, we're working on collecting resources ATs use in their classes (websites, games (with instructions) videos, music, powerpoint presentations, documents) and organizing them on the KILM website by language. This is meant to help ATs have access to a wider variety of the tools their peers are using so that all the students may benefit. So, if you have anything you would like to share, please send it as soon as possible to Concetta or to Liam Reilly so we can add it to the collection!

Attention MLL Faculty!

Is your language discipline hosting cultural activities that Apprentice Teachers and first year students would benefit from participating in? Want it advertised in the newsletter? Just let Concetta or Liam Reilly know!

Let's Give 'Em Something To Talk About!

MLL Faculty, ATs, and the KILM Director had lunch together on January 27th to talk about *Places and People of Inspiration*. As we ate, ATs shared about who they turn to for support and ideas. While some ATs mentioned supportive faculty members, others shared how talking with peers is often very helpful as well. ATs voiced a desire to connect more frequently and more quickly with their peers both in their own languages and in other languages as well. Out of this discussion came the idea to form a private facebook group for ATs/Alternates. The online space will serve as a community where ATs and Alternates can offer each other support. If you are an AT or Alternate who has not been invited to join the facebook group yet, please email Liam Reilly (reillyl@kenyon.edu).

Be sure to join our next *lunch and learn* discussion on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 11:30 in the Center for Global Engagement (Hoehn-Saric House). The discussion topic will be *Unique Language Learners: Come and Discuss How You Address Your Students' Diverse Learning Needs*. Please RSVP by Monday, Feb. 9. You will receive the article that will guide our discussion when you RSVP.

Activities to Invite Your Students to…

FRANCOPHONE FILM FESTIVAL

French Club and Pierre Dairon have organized a fantastic Francophone Film Festival that is free and open to the public. Even if you do not speak French, GO! You will NOT be disappointed!

Thursday, February 12: *Elle S'en Va (On My Way)*
Friday, February 13: *Le Passé (The Past)*
CLOSING RECEPTION: Friday, February 13th
5 PM, Fischman Lobby, Gund Gallery
Community Foundation Theater, Gund Gallery

You Have the BEST ideas!

Did you know that Aisha Simon collects students' cell phones at the beginning of every AT class? One day I observed her and to my amazement she began class by walking around to each student in her very large AT class and having them drop their cell phones into a hat! At the end of class students collected their phones with no problem. Her class ran like one predating the 2000s! Great idea, Aisha!

What are your ideas? How do you resolve classroom issues? Please let us know by sharing at an AT event, AT Advisory Council Meeting, talking to Concetta in person or emailing!

2015 is the year of the wooden sheep.

In February, China celebrates the Chinese New Year. German, Spanish, Portuguese and French-speaking countries as well as Italy celebrate Carnival. How do you share your knowledge of cultural celebrations with your students? Do you share experiences from having studied abroad? Do you bring in cultural artifacts or show celebrations online? How do you engage students in conversation? Do you compare experiences or traditions with ones in the US? What activities have been most productive and meaningful? How do your students react?

Mardi Gras King Cake

WANT TO TEACH AGAIN?
APPLY NOW!
IT'S TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR AT APPLICATION!!
APPLY ONLINE BY FEB. 25

KENYON.EDU > KEYWORD: KILM