

THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY

Office of the Dean

March 8, 2000

To: Members of the University Faculty

From: Bob Cooke and John Ford

Subject: Invitation to attend the *University Faculty Forum on Connection with Students: Some Best Practices in Teaching and Learning at Cornell*
Wednesday, March 15, 2000, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
Call Alumni Auditorium, Kennedy Hall

One of the fundamental tenets of Cornell's graduate research degree programs is that our students learn best through a close and sustained association with their faculty mentors. In fact, we track residency credits to assure that the opportunity for this close encounter of the best kind can occur.

Our undergraduates are not provided this level and extent of access to the faculty. In fact, most faculty contact with undergraduates occurs in larger, formal courses that inherently provide much less 'face time' and individual mentoring. Yet, our undergraduates consistently report in course evaluations and other formal surveys a strong desire for more individual attention. They want us to be interested in them and for us to be able to write meaningful letters of recommendation.

If you wish that you could do a better job of connecting with your students – despite the heavy demands on your time to fulfill your many other university obligations – come hear four of our faculty who are the most recent recipients of the Weiss Presidential Fellows Award (our only university-wide faculty recognition for outstanding teaching), share their enthusiasm and their insights about connecting with students. We've also invited two articulate students (the President of the Student Assembly and a current student-elected Trustee of Cornell University) to help us identify teaching and learning practices that students appreciate.

We'll not limit our attention to teaching and learning in the classroom. As faculty, what are our responsibilities for nurturing learning outside the classroom? How might we improve the intellectual experience for Cornell students – inside and outside the classroom?

As an extension of this Forum, we will solicit contributions of best practices from faculty and Emeritus across the University and create a publication of 'Best Practices in Teaching and Learning at Cornell'.

Spend 90 minutes on March 15th learning about approaches your colleagues have found to be especially effective in connecting with students.

University Faculty Forum on Connecting with Students: Some Best Practices in Teaching and Learning at Cornell

**Co-sponsored by:
J. Robert Cooke, Dean of Faculty, and
John Ford, Dean of Students**

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The focus will be to find synergies between in and out of class connections, especially with respect to large courses. As a product of the Forum we expect to create a 'Best Practices in Teaching and Learning' publication this semester to share and to celebrate the good things that are already happening somewhere on campus.

Moderator:

Susan C Piliero, Education and Director of the
Center for Learning and Teaching

Faculty Panelists:

Florence Berger, Hotel Administration

Ali Hadi, Industrial and Labor Relations

Dan Schwarz, English

Charles Williamson, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

(All are Weiss Presidential Fellows and some have participated in the
Faculty Fellow/Faculty-In-Residence Programs)

Student Panelists:

Katie Dealy

Emanuel Tsourounis

The Forum is Open to the Community