

**Critical Conversations: Faculty Dialogues on Pedagogy**  
**Fall 2011 & Spring 2012**

How do we actively engage *all* students in their educational experiences and connect them to the “big” questions in our disciplines? The Center for Teaching and Faculty Development, in collaboration with UMass Amherst Libraries and the Teaching Commons, offers the *Critical Conversations* series as an opportunity for instructors from across the disciplines to share effective teaching practices that enrich and enliven undergraduate education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. This year's dialogues will focus on building teaching and learning environments that are inclusive and create a sustained impact on student learning.

*Box lunch is provided. To register please email [DBurns@admin.umass.edu](mailto:DBurns@admin.umass.edu).*

**Fall 2011**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 (Wednesday)**

*Jillian Schwedler, Political Science\**

*12:00 – 1:15 pm*

How do you stimulate students' enthusiasm to participate productively in discussions (even in large lecture settings)? When the world is changing around us, would you consider revising a syllabus mid-stream? In this session we will address how to teach what you love to study and cover the required course material at the same time. We will also consider a variety of strategies for linking course material to students' current and future lives.

**November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (Tuesday)**

*Farshid Hajir, Mathematics & Statistics\**

*12:00 – 1:15 pm*

How do you teach and engage a wide range of students in math and sciences classes? What are some strategies that help the instructor create a climate in which students feel secure and excited about participating in class discussions? In this session we will address building rapport, encouraging active learning, and strengthening student learning in the sciences.

*\*2011 University of Massachusetts Amherst Distinguished Teaching Award Winner*

## Spring 2012

### **February 7th, 2012 (Tuesday)**

*Maurianne Adams, Student Development*

*Alex Deschamps, Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies*

*12:00 – 1:15 pm*

*(On the knowledge, skills, and values students need in our diverse democracy.)*

### **March 7th, 2012 (Wednesday)**

*Lisa Green, Linguistics*

*Haivan Hoang, English*

*12:00 – 1:15 pm*

*(On moving students towards a more critical understanding and skillful use of communication and language.)*