**TEACH YOURSELF TO BE A GREAT TEACHER**

**OR**

**ADVICE FOR YOUNG FACULTY**

**FROM A RETIRED TEACHER**

**Bonnie S. Jefferson**

**Boston College - Retired**

**SEARCH FOR GOOD TEACHING MENTORS**

Some institutions have formalized mentor programs for young faculty. This can be good/ or not so good depending on the pairing. If you are lucky and are paired with someone you admire and work well with it can be an amazing experience. If you do not click start searching for your own mentor. You need to find someone who can be a mentor for your research focus and someone who is a good teaching mentor. **THEY MAY NOT BE THE SAME PERSON.**

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS ON YOUR CAMPUS**

* 1. **Ask your students who the best teachers are in your department**. Talk to them, go see them teach. Let that person become your teaching mentor.
* 2. **Ask your students who the best teachers are at your institution**. Go see them teach
* 3. **Find the resources for new teachers on your campus**.Many schools have teaching resource centers that help with syllabus preparation, etc.
* 4. **Find out about all the media support facilities on your campus.** Become good at integrating media into your classes

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR GRADUATE SCHOOL FRIENDS AND FORMER PROFESSORS**

* **1. Go to your favorite teachers in undergraduate and graduate school.** They always have your back. They are often willing to share material they have used in the classroom and give the best advice and support.

* **2. Go to your buddies in your graduate school cohort** - They also can be more than willing to share material. They can also give the best support when you are feeling overwhelmed

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUTSIDE RESOURCES**

* **Look for Great Teaching tips on Social Media**

**For example the following link is a"listicle" is from Tim Anderson, a Communication professor at Old Dominion. [handout available]**

Below is the link:

https://medium.com/@loganpoppy/rethink-university-teaching-with-ten-simple-suggestions-6a660f7f4d0b#.9l5nvox63

**Many of his points seemed like really good advice for anyone at any point in their career**

1. Don't deny your student's reality

**2. Be light, for lightness is harder than being hard**

**3. Take the stage, stand proudly, lecture and remember: only boring lectures are boring.**

4. Embrace the Silence

5. Loop back and Repeat

**6. Show up early and talk about anything other than the class**

7. Wear your subject lightly like a veil so you can shine through

8. Accept gifts when they are given

**9. If you feel comfortable, talk about yourself and your life experiences**

**10. Allow yourself to suck. Don't blame the students**

**Use the Resources of your Regional and National Organizations.**

* **1. Start attending your regional [ECA for me] and National [NCA] conference regularly**. Use the teaching resources available at your conference. Attend the GIFTS [Great Ideas for Teaching Speech] programs. Attend programs in the Instructional Divisions.
* **2. Find the Super Star Teachers who attend your conferences**. Find the people are who are considered to be fabulous teachers, the ones winning the teaching awards. Go to their programs, become their groupies. **People who love teaching are always willing to give advice to young teachers.**
* **3. Take Short Courses at Conferences** Great material for prepping a new course is often found at short courses.
* **4. Learn to Use the Resources Available on the NCA Website** The **Teaching and Learning Tab** and the **More Resources Tab** on the NCA homepage [natcom.org] both have a tremendous amounts of information For example under the **Teaching Learning Tab**'s the first item is called **"In the Classroom**" **[handout available]** This area includes:

**Assign This**

**Course Teaching Tips**

**Undergraduate Course Syllabi**

* **5. Consider attending NCA's Institute for Faculty Development or The Hope Conference [handout available]**

According to the NCA webpage "The NCA Institute for Faculty Development, also known as the “Hope Conference,” is a small conference that provides undergraduate Communication faculty members opportunities to solicit feedback on scholarship, to build collaborative research and pedagogical relationships, to learn about new directions in theory and pedagogy, and to develop new course area expertise."