

## **2009 EDC Grants Program Interim Report**

**Submitted by Svitlana Taraban-Gordon and Natasha Patrito Hannon**

### **Project title: Mapping Graduate Student Engagement in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning**

Our plan was to conduct an environmental scan of the Canadian teaching centres in order to identify the extent to which they incorporate SoTL-oriented activities into their programming for graduate students (especially future faculty-type programs). To do this, we developed a survey which received ethics approval at the University of Western Ontario. In January 2010, the survey was sent to the directors of teaching and learning centres at 26 universities across Canada. To date, we have received 11 responses to our survey from various universities across Canada.

A second component of the project focused on identifying conceptual literature and descriptive studies with a focus on SoTL, graduate students and preparation of future faculty. Our literature search to date shows that very little has been published on how SoTL can be incorporated into the graduate program curriculum and professional development programs. The majority of scholars advocating SoTL-oriented initiatives for graduate students (e.g., Gale & Golde, Kreber, McKinney, Shulman) are based in the US. Some of the literature which we identified is summarized in our recent article for the Collected Essays in Teaching and Learning (CELT, Volume 3) titled “Two models for Introducing Graduate Students to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.” In the next two months, we will continue to search for relevant literature and network with colleagues in the US involved in this topic in order to expand our literature review.

In addition to the Canadian portion of the study (e.g., the survey), we began to look at some of the novel SoTL-oriented programming for graduate students that have been developed and implemented by teaching and learning centres in the US. Some of the US examples that we identified through our project are: SoTL mini-workshop for graduate students at Illinois State University; learning community approach in Miami’s University Graduate Student Teaching Enhancement Community; SoTL seed grants with graduate students as primary investigators at Indiana University Bloomington. Over the next two months, we will continue to identify examples of SoTL programming for graduate students offered by teaching and learning centres in the US and compile these into a document that can be conveniently shared with colleagues across Canada.

Next steps: We will present preliminary results from the Canadian survey on graduate students and SoTL at the sessions at two upcoming conferences in Toronto - TA and Graduate student PATH conference and the STLHE conference.