

## Learning-centered teaching comes to DSC

by **Stephanie Harrell**  
staff writer

Dalton State College is undergoing a renovation, but don't worry—you won't be seeing more contractors and hard hats around campus.

This particular overhaul is a gradual one and begins not with any one building but with more than 60 faculty. Part of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' Red Balloon Project, it intends to re-imagine undergraduate education.

Known locally as learning-centered course redesign, the initiative involves DSC faculty representing nearly every discipline, all voluntarily reevaluating the way they teach.

According to Dr. Christy Price, professor of psychology, "Learning-centered teaching means subjecting every teaching activity, method, assignment, or assessment to the test of this single question: given the context of my students, course, and classroom, will this teaching action optimize my students' opportunity to learn?"

Answers to that question "will be different for different disciplines, different courses," Price said. Optimizing learning in a 1000-level class with 50 students will be markedly different than doing so in a 4000-level class with 15 students.

Whatever the class or its size, the goal of course redesign is helping students achieve rather than just

receive an education. Students will become more self-directed, will essentially learn to learn, instead of just regurgitating memorized facts for a test.

"Traditionally," said Dr. Barbara Murray, chair of the Humanities Department, "professors are considered the font of all knowledge in the classroom and basically pour that knowledge into the receptacles that are the students. And that lends itself to the traditional lecture as opposed

**"Learning-centered teaching means subjecting every teaching activity, method, assignment, or assessment to the test of this single question: given the context of my students, course, and classroom, will this teaching action optimize my students' opportunity to learn?"**

to different kinds of activities that allow students to actually be engaged in their learning."

Price clarified, though, that learning-centered teaching is not necessarily opposed to lecturing. "You can still be learning-centered and lecture," she said. Professors just won't lecture as much, and class meetings will probably incorporate technology and class discussion, not just monologue.

To optimize learning across campus, several changes are in the works. One is the enhanced use of technology, including classroom responders, handheld devices that allow professors to gauge students' comprehension of subject matter by obtaining anonymous feedback during class.

Responders, often called clickers, are "very educa-

tionally sound," Price said. Professors are now able to stop during class and ask questions to make sure students understand what they should.

"Even those who are not typically responsive in class can anonymously click in and give feedback," she added.

While many professors frown on the use of cell phones in class, new applications for some phones allow interaction similar to that of clickers.

Other changes may include more group discussion or a move away from the long-standing row-by-row layout of most classrooms.

Tables in Liberal Arts 201 have been rearranged this semester to

--Dr. Christy Price

facilitate closer classroom interaction between professors and students.

Textbook publishers are also supporting the trend toward learning-centered teaching. Many now offer enhanced, interactive online content in an effort to help students learn via a variety of methods. One book, for instance, provides crossword puzzles and memory games to improve retention of subject material.

DSC Sophomore Heather Atchley, a nursing major, is pleased with the array of learning materials and methods in Dr. Marina Smitherman's Biology 2212K this semester.

"I like the variety," said Atchley, who appreciates

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staff photo by Ashley Elkins

**Freshman Sara Keplinger enjoys the temperate weather as she studies outside the Derrell C. Roberts Library.**

## Wanted: DSC athletics director

by **Justin Stover**  
staff writer

The search for someone to oversee DSC intercollegiate sports is now underway and has attracted more than 60 applications from all over the country.

Dr. Jodi Johnson, vice president for Student and Enrollment Services, said that she is "pleased" with the number and the applicants' level of experience.

"Some of them look particularly good," she said.

According to the announcement for the position, posted Sept. 13 on [higheredjobs.com](http://higheredjobs.com), the director of intercollegiate athletics will chiefly be responsible for building and overseeing a "competitive intercollegiate athletics program" at DSC.

Among the director's more specific responsibilities will be entering the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Conference, securing local playing venues, recruiting and training staff, ensuring the academic success of student athletes, and establishing the program's financial self-sufficiency.

DSC President John O. Schwenn said that another responsibility will be deciding exactly which sports will be most viable.

"We've had many recommendations," Schwenn said, among them baseball, basketball, softball, soccer, golf, and tennis.

"That's one reason I want to hire an athletic director—so I can sit down and talk with him or her and decide what's best for Dalton State. Together we need to decide where we are going, how we are going to pay for it, and what kind of coaches we need."

The administration plans for that conversation to start soon. Johnson said that the hiring committee, now in the first round of reviewing applications, plans to bring finalists to campus in November and hopes to forward to Schwenn a list of the best candidates by the end of the semester.

## Misconceptions put to rest

# Double-majoring at DSC

by Rayah Henderson  
staff writer

Rumor around campus lately has had it that DSC doesn't allow students to major in two courses of study simultaneously. Lucky for DSC students, that is not entirely true.

Amy Schmidt, director of the Academic Advising Center, however, explained that that's not the case. DSC students can double-major.

But what most students don't know, Schmidt said, is that there are two different ways to graduate with two degrees.

Students must be enrolled in one certificate or degree program to request another major.

They must then complete an additional 36 hours for a second bachelor's degree if they are currently in a bachelor's degree program—or complete an additional 18 hours for an associate's or a certificate if they are currently pursuing an associate degree or a certificate.

"Either is considered a double major," Schmidt clarified.

Dalton State is also more lenient with their double-majoring than some other colleges. DSC students are al-

lowed to exempt prerequisite courses for their second degree.

Schmidt said, "Most of the core classes are already taken by students, so, if they are pursuing a subsequent bachelor's degree, they would only need to focus on section F [of the course catalog] and upper-division courses."

This exemption applies only to students who have two majors that relate to one another—like marketing and management.

The exemption doesn't work if an upper-division course requires a prerequisite not completed as part of the first major.

Dr. Donna Mayo, dean of the School of Business, said some students don't realize how long it will take to complete two degrees.

"We get students to understand why they want to double-major," Mayo said.

In Mayo's experience, most students want to double-major because they want to be more marketable, but she tells them that this method doesn't always work.

Sometimes, she said, students are better off getting a master's degree instead of two undergraduate degrees.



staff photo by Courtney Harris

Associate Professor of English Kelley Mahoney breaks her class down into smaller groups to engage her students in Liberal Arts 201. Hillary and Heather Griggs (left) and Leanna Gable (right) use this opportunity to discuss the material in depth.

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Time is another hurdle, so change is likely to be incremental. Over the long term, though, patience will be rewarded with teaching methods that will optimize student learning and create graduates better prepared for a lifetime of critical thinking.

This renovation, like all remodeling projects, is not without its obstacles. Budget restrictions may limit what professors can change in the short term.

## Post-hardcore at its finest: Tir Asleen "Running Strong"

by Courtney Harris  
staff writer

When Calhoun post-hardcore band Tir Asleen arrives on stage, the audience knows what to expect: a killer live performance, thought-provoking lyrics, and a sound unlike any other.

Their post-hardcore sound is often compared to hardcore punk, but to Dalton State senior and guitarist/vocalist Micheal Floyd, it means more than that.

"We don't try to play music that everyone's listening to," Floyd says. "We just play what we love and put all our emotions into our music and performances."

Tir Asleen boasts what Floyd describes as a do-it-yourself attitude. "We do everything on our own," he says. "We book our own tours, fund our own recordings, and even screen-print our own t-shirts."

"It's a lot of work, but I believe it's definitely more rewarding that way."

Tir Asleen is influenced not only by bigger names such as Kane Hodder, Glassjaw, and At the Drive-In but by local groups such as Some Mistakes, Antpile, and At This Hour.

With influences such as these, Tir Asleen's melodies and lyrics are sure to be remembered. Even the band's name is memorable. Tir Asleen is the name of a

castle in Willow, one of Floyd's favorite movies, and Tir Asleen was also referenced in a song by Kane Hodder.

playing; we 'love.'"

The ritual must work, for a Washington, D.C., record label recently signed Tir

as "exhilarating," and releasing the EP was "amazing."

"It felt even greater when we got to

release the Oregon Trail 7-inch on vinyl back in June."

Other budding Motherland Collective artists include Stillglow, Comrades, Vinny Vegas, and Shekinah.

When asked what it's like to be a DSC student and tour with his band at the same time, Floyd confesses, "it takes a lot of dedication, but it is an amazing feeling . . . to be able to juggle touring, school, and work."

"Time management is definitely something I constantly have to practice."

To prove his point, Floyd cites his fall break plans. While many DSC students were relaxing, Floyd was getting ready for the Tir Asleen tour that began October 13.

The band is also planning another tour, for mid-December. And they're currently writing a full-length CD, set to be recorded next spring.

Floyd admits that as Tir Asleen takes on more and more projects, it will be even more difficult to manage everything, but the results are well worth the struggle.

"I'm always up for a good challenge," he says.

**If you have a band that you would like featured in the next edition of The Roadrunner, email us at**

[roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu](mailto:roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu)



photo by Cameron Flaisch

**Tir Asleen in all of their post-hardcore glory, from left to right: Bret Williams (bassist), Cameron Flaisch, (drummer), Jesse Hicks (vocalist), Dallas Gallimore (guitarist), Michael**

Before each show, the members engage in a ritual that includes joining hands and saying the word "love." Although the origin of the ritual is unclear, Floyd admits that "there have been one or two shows where we forgot to 'love' before the show and we didn't perform as well as usual, so we make it a point to do it every time now."

The brotherly bond between band mates helps "bring all our energy together and set everything up for the show."

Floyd says, "some bands pray before

Asleen.

"Getting signed to The Motherland Collective is probably the single most amazing thing that has happened to us as a band," Floyd says. "The guys that run the label are like family and we still get to run everything 'DIY,' but with a lot more resources to help along the way."

In November 2010, The Motherland Collective released Tir Asleen's EP *Running Strong*, showcasing their diverse and intricate talents.

Floyd describes the recording process

# Meet chief DSC groundskeeper, Mr. Tools

by Carol L. Jackson  
staff writer

In the Age of YouTube, all of us have heard the phrase “You have to see this video!”

And, inevitably, it’s because someone wants us to watch a cat play the piano or a dog do backflips.

We at DSC, though, can see something similar without having to get online.

Meet Mr. Tools, the campus cat.

Found six years ago by Grounds Supervisor Lynn Morse outside Derrell C. Roberts Library, Mr. Tools now calls DSC’s Maintenance Building, west of George Rice Drive, his home.

Plant Operations Administrative Assistant Arlene Hooker says that her boss, Director of Plant Operations Jack Reynolds, initially wasn’t thrilled to have a cat underfoot, but he’s since warmed to the idea. It did not take much of Mr. Tools’ charm to win him over, either.

“Mr. Tools was only about 5 or 6 weeks old and a small kitten when we got him” Arlene says. “He has always been very playful and gets attention from

everyone up here.”

It did not take long for the homeless kitten to take up permanent residence and employment at DSC.

The unofficial mascot begins his day by welcoming each and every member of what seems his crew to work, walking each into the Maintenance Building from the parking lot. Sometimes he chases them around on their way in to get a bit more attention and dispense more encouragement for the upcoming workday. Such is the life of our charismatic mascot.

When all employees are accounted for, he begins his busy day of playing, sleeping, eating, napping, and taking animals—both live and dead—to Hooker.

Hooker must adhere to a strict schedule with Mr. Tools. “Mr. Tools is a very punctual manager...” she jokes. “He always has dinner at 10 minutes to 4 p.m.”

As office manager, he takes care of all business by lying on the fax or copy machines and swatting at pages as they print. Sometimes the team is put out by his micro-managing, but he graciously finds another place where he’s needed to



photo by Plant Operations Administrative Assistant Arlene Hooker

keep everything running in perfect order. It’s a tough job but someone’s got to do it.

No other four-legged creature has ever enjoyed the holidays more than Mr. Tools. Hooker prepares a special costume for each holiday.

She has dressed him as Santa Claus, a pumpkin, a witch, and a cowboy. Pho-

tos—sent campuswide to adorn holiday e-mails—show a photogenic Mr. Tools enjoying the attention and posing for posterity.

His cool demeanor makes him the perfect model when he is not playing with the props or trying to eat them, which he has done only on occasion.

Mr. Tools bares the responsibilities of



photo by Plant Operations Administrative Assistant Arlene Hooker

## A call to the creative: Do you want to get published?

by Paul J. Barry  
editor-in-chief

As you may notice on the following page, the staff box is a little meager in terms of the number of people involved.

I think this is largely due to the fact that many people simply do not know about the fantastic opportunity available at Dalton State.

If you need a creative outlet or just something extra to put on a résumé then look no further.

Dalton State College offers a Newspaper Practicum class (ENGL 1111) that counts as college credit. This class regularly publishes editions of the campus newspaper *The Roadrunner*.

Not only is this a fantastic opportunity to practice journalistic writing skills but also to build a foundation if you have future plans in journalism.

If journalism interests you then it would be a good idea to begin developing a portfolio with samples of your work.

What better way to develop a port-

folio than to work for *The Roadrunner*?

It is customary to write two articles per issue. One article is news specifically relevant to Dalton State. The second article, however, can be about almost anything you wish.

Movie reviews, sports reports, editorial opinions, and even local bands are all appropriate and encouraged subjects for newspaper articles.

The paper is not just for English majors either. We are also in desperate need of photographers. If you enjoy taking pictures or have some knowledge of photo editing then *The Roadrunner* would be happy to have you.

If any of this appeals to you feel free to contact Dr. Keith Perry at [kperry@daltonstate.edu](mailto:kperry@daltonstate.edu) or email us at [roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu](mailto:roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu) for more information.

We are even fortunate enough to have access to the superb drafting lab equipped with Adobe’s Creative Suite at Dalton State thanks to the generosity of Technical Graphics instructor Rebecca Lowery. We have the resources.



photo by Plant Operations Administrative Assistant Arlene Hooker

We have the sponsors. All we need is you.

The deadline has not yet been reached for class registration. ENGL 1111 and *The Roadrunner* would love to have you!

manager, pest control, greeter, and model well. The Plant Operations staff asks that you be on the lookout for a gold-striped feline casually promenading across the George Rice Drive. DSC just wouldn’t be the same without him.

# WARNING: wearing the Superman outfit does not enable wearer to fly or stop bullets

by Paul J. Barry  
editor-in-chief

Unfortunately, the toes of the United States and the world have gotten far too sensitive lately. The onslaught of political correctness not only dilutes language and vocabulary, but is frighteningly similar to George Orwell's newspeak which is "double plus ungood."

Many people are so concerned about not hurting anyone's feelings, but, in doing so, have lost sight of the things that have allowed humanity to develop and grow.

Conflict, argument, compromise and critical thinking are all things that have been bubble-wrapped by political correctness.

I have an acquaintance; we'll call

him John, who worked as a dishwasher at a local restaurant. However, his official title was "sanitation engineer." It does sound fancier, but what goal is it truly achieving other than adding pretentiousness to a mundane day job?

A far worse crime is that many schools have eliminated "failure" from their vocabulary. In some of these schools, students do not "fail." They instead "achieve a deficiency." If students do not pass a test or a class, they have achieved nothing. They have earned nothing.

Kind words and inoffensive language are well and good, but there will come a time when almost every person will come in contact with someone who could care less about feelings or sensitivity.

College is an excellent example of one such environment. Many profes-

sors will put a big fat "F" on a stupid or poorly written paper and go home and sleep like a baby. Professors rightly do not coddle their students and do not fear the "emotional trauma" that is inherent in failing a student who needs to be failed and not for "achieving a deficiency."

Political correctness is crippling the emotional fortitude of the population and is encouraging an acceptance of mediocrity and fear of speaking succinctly and accurately.

I think that this inoffensive jargon has facilitated a disgusting sense of entitlement in many students which can only be shattered in college or in the business world.

The saddest side effect of this nonsensical destruction of language is the decay of basic intelligence.

Next time you go to the store, take a

look at some of the warning labels on everyday items. Microwaved dinners claim that "product will be hot after heating." How about the windshield sunshade that warns "do not operate vehicle with shade in place?" Then there is my personal favorite that I noticed around Halloween. Many Superman costumes have the all-important caveat "WARNING: wearing the Superman outfit does not enable wearer to fly or stop bullets." Really?

If anyone over the age of five even considers flight through the magic of dollar store outfits then I say that person should be banned from procreation.

It is time to terminate the normal rest schedule and waft the bitter percolating morning beverage. This practice is ridiculous and it does nothing but further inadvertently wound the intellect of our already deficient youth.

## ROADKILL

"We need to get rid of the speed 'Everests' on campus."

"I think it would be cool to have a DSC radio station."

"Will the Financial Aid Office ever get my financial aid right the first time?"

"Why have my drafting classes been renamed so many times?"

"I hope my increased fees I am paying will do something. If I pay more for student activities, shouldn't there be more student activities?"

"I don't believe 'rate-my-professor' most of the time. I think some of my classmates are just lazy or stupid."

"Advisement should be optional after sophomore year."

"I wish there were more campus plays."

"The new cafeteria has pretty good food. Too bad I had to take out another student loan to eat there."

"Textbooks are getting ridiculous. I say that professors and students unite and boycott these travesties. When books are more than tuition it has gotten out of hand."

"I will never buy from the bookstore again. I only buy from a company whose name is shared by one of the largest rivers in the world."

"Parking is still a problem...shocking I know"

"Why does construction take so long at DSC? That staircase in Pope took two months!"

"Headphones should be required. No one wants to listen to your lame music."

Do you have something to gripe about? Email us at [roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu](mailto:roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu)

## Upcoming events

**November 3**  
--Chancellor Huckaby makes 1st visit to Dalton State

**November 7-8**  
--10 am: Blood drive

**November 9**  
--12:30 p.m.: Student Body meeting

**November 10**  
--7:30 p.m.: Concert pianist Joe Chapman

**November 13**  
--3 p.m.: Concert: The Bleuel Duo

**November 14**  
--International photo contest: 11/14-11/18

**November 15**  
--Study abroad info session 1

**November 17**  
--Last day to drop C session classes without penalty  
--12:30 p.m.: Study abroad info session 2  
--7 p.m.: International Film night

**November 23-27**  
--Thanksgiving Holidays

**December 2**  
--Dash 4 Cash application deadline

**December 4**  
--3 p.m.: Chattanooga Clarinet Choir

**December 5**  
--Last day of A and C session classes  
--10 p.m.: Late night study party

**December 6**  
--Final exams begin for A and C session classes

**December 7-9**  
--Final exams for A and C session classes

**December 12**  
--Final day for early registration for spring semester 2012

**December 13**  
--Web registration for spring 2012 closed  
--Spring classes purged for non-payment  
--Fall semester grades due by 12 noon

Have an announcement or upcoming event? Email us at [roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu](mailto:roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu)

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**Paul J. Barry --editor-in-chief**

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**Rayah Henderson --writer**

**Carol Jackson --writer**

**Justin Stover --writer**

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