

What is TOAST?

There is a strong core of scholars from diverse academic fields at OSU who first met during the 2004-2005 academic year to form a group that would both support their own SoTL (Scholarship of Teaching and Learning) efforts and advocate for SoTL with their colleagues. The acronym of this group is *TOAST*, which stands for The Ohio State University Association for the Scholarship of Teaching.

Founding faculty came to this group through their positive experiences as members of faculty development efforts sponsored by Ohio State's Office of Faculty and TA Development (FTAD). Other *TOAST* founders attended the Research University Consortium for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (RUCASTL) meetings sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation and presented papers at the first two annual meetings of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL) in 2004 and 2005. Ultimately, however, the real bonding element for *TOAST* members old and new is their strong love of teaching and the desire to do it better through the application of rigorous scholarship in the same way and at the same high standards as are applied to research and peer-reviewed publishing here at OSU.

TOAST now meets on a regular basis (twice each quarter) discussing various issues and initiating special projects related to the scholarship of teaching and learning at OSU. During the 2005-2006 academic year, with the support of FTAD and the Office for Academic Affairs, *TOAST* applied to be a member of the Carnegie Foundation's CASTL Institutional Leadership Program. Not only was *TOAST*'s application accepted, but it was designated as one of the twelve coordinating institutions. Specifically, it is the coordinating institution for a 7 university consortium on "Building Scholarly Campus Communities." Other members of the Building Scholarly Campus Communities group include: 1. Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, USA; 2. Kwantlen University College, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada; 3. Queen's College, Kingston, Ontario, Canada; 4. Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; 5. Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, USA; and 6. University of Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom. Over the next four years, faculty members from these institutions will meet jointly to develop collaborative strategies, techniques and related support materials for sustaining and expanding campus communities of scholars devoted to the very goals on which *TOAST* was founded.

For a schedule of *TOAST* events please go to <http://ftad.osu.edu>.

All are welcome!!!!!! Bring a friend/colleague.