

Annual report to CAPS & Graduate Studies, 2017-18

Critical & Creative Thinking Graduate Program

(including Science in a Changing World graduate track)

by Peter Taylor, Program Director, 29 May 2018

Overarching Goals for '17-18

- A. Support the intellectual, professional, and personal development of CCT and other students, through teaching, advising, mentoring, a coherent program of study, and community building that extends to include alums.
- B. Attract applicants to CCT and advise them through to matriculation.
- C. Establish sustainable, non-exploitative operations and planning.

Numbers

Since the last annual report (i.e., from June '17 – May '18):

- The Program has served 46 matriculated students (42 M.A., 4 Certificate), including 19 new M.A. matriculants and 2 new Certificate matriculants.
- 12 M.A. students and 1 Certificate student graduated. 1 student lapsed as an active student.
- Through regular, online, other CAPS, and cross-listed sections, CCT instructors served 185 course registrations in CCT and SICW courses, including cross-listings (=similar to previous year).

Notable changes, successes, and opportunities

- A. 12 M.A. graduates with 3 more likely in the summer.
Continued effective mode of delivery of courses that combines students in the classroom with students attending class from a distance.
Settled into the Program's 2-year cycle for course offerings (to address budget constraints, reduce the chance of courses getting cancelled at the last moment, but ensure that each course is available at least once during that cycle. Only two required core courses and three final research and engagement courses are now offered every year.)
Organized a sequence of month-long online "Collaborative explorations" that paralleled the units of the "Scientific and Political Change" course in the spring.
- B. Number of matriculants was 21, which is the highest since at least 1998.
- C. Completed all but the last meeting of the AQUAD review process (documents: <http://cct.wikispaces.umb.edu/aquad18documents>).
Began to explore collaboration with Global Inclusion and Social Development graduate programs, with a view to cultivating and sustaining registration-enhancing partnerships with other programs.

Challenges (aka Impediments)

- A. Advising students and program administration (including AQUAD review process) leaves little time for planned program promotion initiatives since given the loss of the 50% faculty member.
- B. Promotion for a new BA-MA (accelerated Masters) program still needs more time than we had to spare.

- C. Planning entails actions and goals matched to resources and conditions, so many actions in the AQUAD action plan took the form of requests for specific decisions by the Administration, but these are not yet answered,
<http://cct.wikispaces.umb.edu/file/view/CCTResponseAndPlans.pdf/627949929/CCTResponseAndPlans.pdf> .

Other Program Highlights

1. Bobby Ricketts, was the graduate student speaker at Graduation, <https://youtu.be/5UqtIQ8Uk5o?t=1h41m30s>
2. Bobby Ricketts, translated a CCT course paper into a book chapter, Ricketts, B. (2018). *Deep Listening At The Eye Of The Needle: Music Improvisation & Co-creation In The Social Field Of Presencing*. Gunnlaugson, O. (Ed.), *Presencing Theory U, Book 3: Collective Perspectives on Presencing*.
3. Peter Taylor and Jeremy Szteiter continued to prepare entries for a new edition of the book *Taking Yourself Seriously*, which includes tools and processes for “Connecting, Puzzling, and Reflecting” workshops and collaborative explorations as well as a series of thought-pieces on critical, creative, and reflective practices.
4. The New England Workshop on Science and Social Change held a 1-day pre-conference workshop in August, organized by the GPD, on “Impossible to Simply Continue Along Previous Lines: Changing Life in Times of Crisis,” with participation of international visitors.