

Annual report to CAPS & Graduate Studies, 2018-19

Critical & Creative Thinking Graduate Program

(including Science in a Changing World graduate track)

by Peter Taylor, Program Director, 29 May 2019

Overarching Goals for '18-19

- 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 '18 – May '19):

- The Program has served 36 matriculated students (33 M.A., 3 Certificate), including 8 new M.A. matriculants and no new Certificate matriculants.
- 8 M.A. students and 3 Certificate students graduated. 2 students lapsed as active students.
- Through regular, online, other CAPS, and cross-listed sections, CCT instructors served 178 course registrations in CCT and SICW courses, including cross-listings (=similar to previous year).

Notable changes, successes, and opportunities

- A. 8 M.A. graduates with 6 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.
Maintained 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.)
Organized a day-long workshop, "Journeys: Changing Our Schools, Workplaces, and Lives," to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Program.
- B. Number of matriculants was 8, which is a drop since the record the previous year.
- C. Prepared a proposal for changing the name of the Program in response to the AQUAD reviewers noting that CCT education is not always well understood outside the Program.

Challenges (aka Impediments)

- A. Advising students and program administration (including moving course and Program-related materials off wikispaces and google+ community, which were unfortunately discontinued) leaves little time for planned program promotion initiatives given the loss of a discretionary budget and student assistance following on the loss of the 50% faculty member.
- B. Promotion for a new BA-MA (accelerated Masters) program was delayed while waiting for clarity about fee scales and home college for the Program.
- 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, 15 months later, these have not been answered,

<http://cct.wikispaces.umb.edu/file/view/CCTResponseAndPlans.pdf/627949929/CCTResponseAndPlans.pdf> .

Exploration of collaboration with graduate programs in the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development (with a view to cultivating and sustaining registration-enhancing partnerships with other programs) remained on hold while the home of that School was being arranged.

Proposals to reopen admissions to the LTET (non-licensure) MEd program (which had led many excellent students into CCT courses, including the capstone) were not (yet) successful.

Other Program Highlights

1. Janell Burley Hofmann, was a finalist for the graduate student speaker at Graduation. Her 2014 book, *i-Rules: What Every Tech-Healthy Family Needs to Know about Selfies, Sexting, Gaming, and Growing up* was published in a Spanish edition.
2. Peter Taylor and Jeremy Szteiter published 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.
3. CCT alums Sara Kaplan, Jeremy Szteiter, and Kevin Stevens were admitted to doctoral programs.
4. Online “collaborative explorations” for a “studio” of alums continued during the year and former faculty member, Nina Greenwald, convened another alum online discussion group.