

# Inquiry: The Journal of the Virginia Community Colleges

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Volume 18 | Number 1

Article 1

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2013

## Front Matter

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### Recommended Citation

(2013). Front Matter. *Inquiry: The Journal of the Virginia Community Colleges*, 18 (1). Retrieved from <http://commons.vccs.edu/inquiry/vol18/iss1/1>

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# INQUIRY

Volume 18  
Number 1  
Spring 2013



THE JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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Volume 18  
Number 1  
Spring 2013

Published by the Virginia Community College System

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Printed in the United States of America

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Design                        Office of Graphic Communications  
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Cover Art                    Ana Maria Mendoza Ritchie

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Volume 18  
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**Librarians in Your Midst: The Embedded Librarian Program at PVCC..... 5**

*By Laura C. Skinner*

The easy availability of Internet information has caused many to question the future of libraries. However, librarians, as experts of information science, are even more necessary to help students navigate the Internet. An embedded librarian provides assistance at the most critical point – exactly when it is needed.

**Discussing Gender and Sexuality in the Community College Classroom .....13**

*By Jason Barr*

This author’s reading selection for his class provoked an unexpected response: when one of the main characters in the reading “came out of the closet,” the students divided themselves into those who were willing to discuss the issues, and those who weren’t.

**First Day of Public Speaking Class and Student Expectations.....21**

*By Oli Mohammadi, PhD, and Crystal Lane Swift, PhD.*

On the first day of class, what should an instructor do? What do the students expect? What might ruin the first day of class? The author asked 270 students these questions, and their answers apply to any class’s first day.

**Shutting Up in Class: The Zen of Silence ..... 35**

*By Doug Thiele*

This author discovered that his most powerful tool in the classroom was not to lecture, but to stop speaking at all. The effect of the resulting silence was even more positive than he could have imagined.

**Putting Theatre Arts to the Test: ..... 39  
Student Performance that Goes Beyond STEM and STEAM**

*By Lisa Nanni-Messegee and Teresa Burns Murphy*

President Obama’s “Educate to Innovate” initiative emphasizes training in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). More recently, arts have been added to STEM, resulting in the acronym STEAM: Science and Technology interpreted through Engineering and the Arts, based in the Mathematical elements. However, should the arts be used only to cultivate better scientists? Or might the arts be valued apart from of their service to math and science?

**Personalizing the Material Leads to College Students' Better Understanding of Concepts ..... 45**

*By Charles J. Huffman, PhD*

In this study, students completed two different projects about personality. The results showed that while the students learned more about themselves, personalizing the material also increased their ability to understand core concepts.

**Why We Write the Way We Do: A Study of Composition Teaching through Writing Style Translation ..... 51**

*By Yuemin He, PhD*

This author used translation in the classroom to increase student awareness of audience. However, this translation was not between different languages; it was translation from an informal to a formal writing style, and vice versa.

**A Cross-Cultural Teaching Model for Community College Teachers: Considerations for Service-Delivery and Implications for the Teaching-Learning Process ..... 59**

*By Christopher T. Arra*

Community college classes are increasingly diverse, both culturally and ethnically, but how can teachers best educate students concerning cross-cultural issues? This author proposes a cross-cultural teaching model that focuses on a personalized approach.

**Partnership for Math Success: Development of a Mathematics Readiness Class for High School Students ..... 75**

*By Yvonne Jessee*

To implement the developmental mathematics redesign, this author's College partnered with two public school systems to establish early placement testing and a capstone readiness course, to be administered in the high school students' senior year.