



FORTNIGHT

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A Communiqué focusing on topics related to Outcomes Assessment, Institutional Effectiveness, and Institutional Research produced jointly by the Office of the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) at the College of Staten Island/The City University of New York

WHAT IS FORTNIGHT?

A **fortnight** is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. According to the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, the term is derived from the Old English *feorwertyne niht*, meaning "fourteen nights."

Inspired by the opportunities and challenges of Middle States Standard 14 and the desire to share information and best practices, **FORTNIGHT** is a communication vehicle which is distributed online to the campus community. As we revise the College web presence devoted to assessment topics and develop our graphics, **FORTNIGHT** will be archived on the website now under construction.

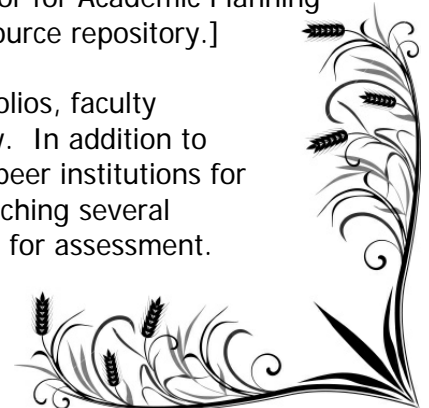
In the meantime, we keep expanding our distribution list as we receive more requests and recommendations from our readers. If you missed earlier issues, we would be happy to forward copies to you.

IUPUI ASSESSMENT INSTITUTE: A RECAP

The 13th Annual IUPUI Assessment Institute was held in Indianapolis on October 26-28. For the first time (to our knowledge), CSI sent representatives to this event. It is the oldest and largest gathering focused on outcomes assessment, drawing upwards of 1,200 higher education faculty, administrators, and other professionals from all parts of the United States, Canada, and as far away as Japan and Australia. CUNY was well represented by Susan Holak and Warrick Bell from our campus, and our colleague Michael Anderson, Brooklyn College's Director of Assessment.

Among the pre-institute workshops was a full-day session featuring Dr. Barbara Walvoord, Professor *Emerita* of Notre Dame University. Susan and Warrick opted to register for "Assessment Clear and Simple: Practical Steps for Institutions, Departments, and General Education," and found the discussion of assessing General Education, the importance of faculty buy-in, and ways to include program- and department-level assessment outcomes in planning to be very useful and relevant to the CSI environment. [Please note that resources by Dr. Walvoord and her colleagues, particularly Dr. Trudy Banta, Professor of Higher Education and Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Academic Planning and Evaluation at IUPUI and an institute founder, are now available in our resource repository.]

Regular institute sessions focused on assessment of civic engagement, e-portfolios, faculty development, the first-year experience, and student development and diversity. In addition to attending sessions on topics like setting benchmarks and standards, selecting peer institutions for analysis, and e-portfolios, CSI's representatives spent considerable time researching several web-based tools designed for generating, storing, and organizing campus data for assessment. More information will be forthcoming about our continued research on these products in future issues of **FORTNIGHT**.



COLLEGE UPDATES

Susan Holak, Interim Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and Warrick Bell, Coordinator of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, were invited by Department Chair Nan Sussman to discuss assessment at the November 6th meeting of the Psychology Department. President Morales, who happened to be in attendance for another agenda item, actively joined the discussion. Following a conversation about Psychology's mission statement, program goals, and participation in General Education, Professor Ed Meehan presented some preliminary data analysis of several years' worth of data from the department's student experience survey. These indirect measures of learning outcomes will be a valuable complement to the direct measurement planned by the Psychology faculty. Professors Florette Cohen and Dan McCloskey were added to the existing Department Assessment Committee consisting of Professors Katie Cumiskey, Darryl Hill, and Ed Meehan.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

In our efforts to share information and resources, we have been reporting on the growing list of archived materials in the outcomes assessment/institutional effectiveness repository housed in the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (1A-304). Our library has just expanded to include several timely books and manuals on assessment topics. Everyone is invited and encouraged to visit the office or request to use these materials. Please contact Warrick Bell at ext. 2086 or via email (bell@mail.csi.cuny.edu) for more details about the library. Our new titles are as follows:

- Allen, Mary J., *Assessing Academic Programs in Higher Education*, 2003.
- Banta, Trudy W. (ed.), *Assessing Student Achievement in General Education*, 2007.
- Banta, Trudy W. (ed.), *Assessing Student Learning in the Disciplines*, 2007.
- Banta, Trudy W. (ed.), *Hallmarks of Effective Outcomes Assessment*, 2004.
- Banta, Trudy W. (ed.), *Portfolio Assessment: Uses, Cases, Scoring and Impact*, 2004.
- Brown, Sallie & Knight, Peter, *Assessing Learners in Higher Education*, 2005.
- Maki, Peggy L., *Assessing for Learning: Building a Sustainable Commitment Across the Institution*, 2004.
- Palomba, Catherine A. & Banta, Trudy W., *Assessment Essentials: Planning, Implementing, and Improving Assessment in Higher Education*, 1999.
- Stevens, Dannelle D., *Introduction to Rubrics: An Assessment Tool to Save Grading Time, Convey Effective Feedback and Promote Student Learning*, 2004.
- Suskie, Linda, *Assessing Student Learning*, 2007.
- Walvoord, Barbara E., *Assessment Clear and Simple: A Practical Guide for Institutions, Departments, and General Education*, 2004.

FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

November 5th marked Guy Fawkes Day, commemorating the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605 that sought to blow up the British Houses of Parliament and assassinate King James I. We invite you to read about the [fortnight](http://tinyurl.com/66knjp) of fireworks celebrations now ongoing in London, at <http://tinyurl.com/66knjp>.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by **November 21, 2008**, for consideration to appear in the next communiqué.

