

**PIE Associate Mid -Year Report (summary)
Department of Oceanography
Florida State University**

By

**Benjamin Mwashote
(PIE-Associate 2008 – 2009)**

Fall 2008

1. Evidence of my participation as a PIE Associate for my Department and for PIE/CTL/APPS

For the Department:

- Helped organize the Department first meeting with the Chair, September 8
- Successfully developed, organized and ran a mandatory first TA-departmental workshop, October 17
- Proposed Office setting office hours for PIE associate
- Proposed setting a departmental-PIE website to be accessed by TA's for dissemination of important information on PIE/CTL/APPS
- Proposed brown bag TA-PIE occasional meetings
- Rescheduled Departmental PIE Steering Committee meeting to January 8, 2009, to thrush out final details on the TA Manual outline

For PIE/CTL/APPS:

- Helped in serving as Room-Monitor during the PIE Fall Conference
- Helped set up for lunch during the PIE Fall Conference

For myself:

- Attended PIE Associate Training Workshop, August 12-15
- Signed up for at least two workshops through PIE/CTL
- Attended Group 2 scheduled general Associate Meeting, November 18 (UCC4502)
- Helping in putting together departmental activities enhanced my organizational skills and also with my people skills
- Certainly, the opportunity to interact with people from other departments who shared my love for teaching was very healthy

2. Presentation of data and analysis of my program plan and effectiveness

Pre-Fall Workshop and PIE Conference

- Since the PIE program is virtually new in my department, in consultation with the departmental Chair and Graduate Coordinator and the able assistance of PIE/CTL/APPS (Connie - Teaching Enhancement Associate), I have been working toward introducing and establishing the Program in the department. So far this is working pretty well.
- However, due to its newness to the department, I was the only participant in the Fall PIE Conference

TA Supervision/Coaching

- For starters, immediately following the Fall PIE conference, I sent out an email to TA's to solicit for "TA-needs assessment." However, the response was minimal due to the fact that many TA's were away due to research engagements or holidays
- Initially, the main aim is to develop a TA manual that would act as a blueprint for TA activities in the department

TA -PIE Departmental Workshop

- This was a great success! The TA participation was very enthusiastic as judged by their response in "workshop assessment survey"
- The outcome of the workshop is to form the basis for the envisaged TA Manual outline which is expected to be finalized in Spring 2009
- Those who attended this 1st Department of Oceanography, TA-PIE Workshop which took place on October 17, 2008 are: Christine Chien (TA), Andy Canion (TA), Rachel Wilson (TA), Dilojan Senanayake (TA), Michaela Lupiani (Grad Coordinator) and Benjamin Mwashote (PIE – Associate).

On an overall basis, I strongly believe that the program was very effective as it is poised to provide considerable support to graduate students in the department. It will also act as an "eye opener" to many of them especially with regard to the numerous educational and training opportunities available to them on campus, especially through the PIE/CTL/APPS.

3. Recommendations

More work will continue in the Spring 2009 semester. Of urgent attention is the finalization of the TA Manual outline and modalities to the possibility of applying TABS to our TA's since at the moment they are not involved in any direct classroom teaching.