**Academic Year 2012 - 2013**

***“Diversifying the Sciences” by Chris Himes, Education Department***
Nationally, fewer college students are choosing to major in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Of those that enter college as STEM majors, a large proportion switch to other programs. In his talk, Dr Himes discusses the barriers faced by students, especially those from underrepresented populations, in STEM education. A step to retain nontraditional students in STEM is to change the style in which it is taught. For example, enhanced learning and retention can be achieved through the introduction of materials that are culturally relevant to students, while recognizing one’s own cultural perspective and the influence on the classroom. Therefore, having increased attention on training STEM faculty on how to be educators will benefit all students in a multicultural classroom and potentially enhance retention in STEM.

***“Team Based Learning and Traditional Lecture: A Comparison” by Sharon Claffey, Psychology Department***
Team Based Learning (TBL) is a form of small group learning that involves active learning primarily through the completion of group activities. In the current study, TBL was compared to traditional lecture using two sections of a Social Psychology course taught by the same instructor during the same semester. Results indicated that the lecture-based class rated lecture as more important to understanding of course material than the TBL class - both at the beginning of the semester and at the end of the semester. Additionally, students in the TBL class tended to miss fewer classes and reported greater skill level in Social Psychology at the completion of the semester. There was no difference in mean course grade for the two sections.

***“News Literacy & the First Amendment” by Joseph Ebiware, English/Communications Department***
"Mass media landscape is currently littered with both traditional and non-traditional "journalists." This has brought about a situation where there is "news" and the "other news." Traditional journalists, known and required to be accountable, are more likely to follow guidelines that would result in accurate news content much more than "citizen journalists" who have less at stake in terms of credibility. Therefore, citizen journalists produce what I would refer to as the "other news" which is disseminated side-by-side with the "news" published or broadcast by mainstream media outlets. Both citizen journalist and traditional/professional journalists play a valuable role in a First Amendment environment and the merits of their coexistence would be greater if news consumers are also aware about the elements of news literacy to enable them distinguish accurate from inaccurate news report."

***“Listening to what our students are telling us about their learning and using it in the classroom” by Kris Bendikas, Assessment &Planning Department***
“Assessment is a way to understand our students’ learning better,” Bendikas wrote. “That understanding can come from directly examining student work, but it can also come from asking students themselves. This presentation will review current methods and introduce new ones that faculty can use to enhance student learning.”

***“Neutrinos and the MINERvA Experiment” by Emily Maher, Physics Department***
Billions of neutrinos pass through your fingernail every second. Neutrinos are one of the most abundant, yet least understood particles in the universe. In this talk, I will explain why it is important to study neutrinos and describe the methods we use to study them. MINERvA is a neutrino scattering experiment at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab). I will describe the motivation behind MINERvA and the experimental design. I will show some of our data, neutrino interactions in our detector, and explain our preliminary
results. I will also discuss our neutrino communication result, which was named one of the top 10 physics breakthroughs of 2012 by Physics World.

“NORTH AMERICAN UNITY, THE DREAMS AND REALITIES” by Bob Bence, History/PoliSci/Public Policy Department

During the last 50 years various politicians, scholars and think tanks in the United States, Mexico and Canada advocated closer economic and political integration of the three nations. The dream culminated in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). In spite of shared histories, trade agreements and cross border immigration, the vision of further tri-national links has stalled. Contrasting national values, asymmetrical power, and U.S. post 9/11 security concerns have at least temporarily made further North America unity still a dream.