

Arlene A. Russell Editor

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this inaugural issue of a newsletter that we hope will bring the large and growing body of CPR users (over 600) into a community of scholars. Our goal is to provide both a quarterly update of the developments occurring within the CPR program and a forum for sharing user's experience and activities with CPR. The instructional uses that faculty have created with CPR far exceed anything we envisioned when we started the program in 1997.

Lots of things are happening in the programming arena thanks to a new NSF CCLI grant. A brief description of this project occurs later in the newsletter. We will be asking for input from you as we restructure the program to accommodate the exponential growth the program is experiencing.

We hope that a valuable feature of the newsletter will be the section devoted to abstracts, posters and presentations that highlight evaluation studies of CPR. We continually receive requests for references to CPR use and impact; we know anecdotally that many of you have evaluation data and that you are using CPR to meet a wide range of instructional goals. We will be asking for your input for this section.

As the community of CPR users enlarges, we will also want to identify discipline groups and connect you so that you can begin to collaborate on assignments and resources. The geologists have established a model of this process for us.

Finally, we will use the newsletter to announce conferences and meetings where CPR studies are being discussed and workshops are being held.

NEW NSF GRANT

What makes this all possible is new funding from NSF for CPR. In June we received university and college confirmation that our NSF proposal (submitted a year earlier) for a 2\_-year CCLI-EMD project had been funded. The project has ambitious goals. We plan to restructure and augment CPR in a way that will

- (1) allow institutions to maintain their own students' work and records on local servers behind firewalls,***
- (2) have faculty share and be able to edit the 1,600+ (and growing) assignments in their personal libraries, and***

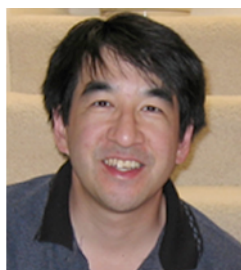
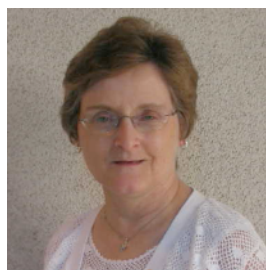
***(3) provide a tangible documentation of authors' scholarship of teaching through a CPR citation index, which will automatically record the use of a shared assignment.***

While we have a broad idea on how we will meet these goals, there are many details that we will be deciding on as the project progresses. This is the time for your input to help shape what the new CPR program will look like and do. At the end of this newsletter you will find a link to a Web-based survey. Please take a few minutes to complete it. The more insights we have

from those of you using the program, the better.

Who are “We?”

The NSF proposal has a lead team of four (Arlene Russell, Tim Su, John Wise, and Stephen Michael Schimpf) and an advisory panel of thirteen. Since many of you have found the program on the Web or heard about it from colleagues, we think it is appropriate to let you know who is behind the familiar CPR web pages that you use.



**Arlene Russell** and **Tim Su** are PI's. The nature of our collaborative grant locates some responsibilities at UCLA and others at City College of San Francisco.

**Arlene** is at UCLA, where CPR was developed and is still housed. As a co-PI on the earlier Molecular Science Project Arlene was instrumental in the original design, development, and evaluation of the Calibrated Peer Review program. She has had responsibility for the testing and dissemination the program nationally, and has given more than 80 presentations and workshops on its use. Many of you have met her at these workshops. Her background in both Chemistry and Higher Education brings to the project an interplay of understanding of science teaching, instructional design, assessment, and faculty reward issues.

**Tim** is a professor of Chemistry at CCSF. He began developing instructional programs as a graduate student at UCLA and a chapter

of his thesis (1996) involved the development and evaluation of an interactive tutorial on crystal structures. Since 1998 he has been a part of the CPR project. He has authored many CPR assignments, used the program in his classes, and led over 40 faculty development workshops and seminars. In 2000, he began providing the technical support for the project and piloting revisions and updates before they were released. Lots of you know Tim from workshops; virtually everyone of you have corresponded with him when you sent messages to [cpr@nslc.ucla.edu](mailto:cpr@nslc.ucla.edu) or he gave your school library server access.

**John Wise** joins this project as the co-PI in charge of evaluation. John is Director of Engineering Instructional Services in the College of Engineering at Pennsylvania State University and has worked with the PI's for three years as he has established CPR in the College. His doctoral training is in Instructional Systems and Educational Psychology (measurement). He brings to this project an understanding of the dynamics of faculty development in a research institution, knowledge of the pressing issues in Engineering Education, and experience in the development and evaluation of instructional technology.

The senior programmer, **Stephen Michael Schimpf**, has been developing educational science instructional materials for 18 years. His astronomy program *Cybersky*, (<http://www.cybersky.com>) has received numerous awards and is sold in North America, Europe, Africa, Australia and Asia. Stephen has served as the lead programmer for CPR for the past five years.

Each member of the **advisory panel** brings special expertise to the project. They are all pioneers in the use of CPR and represent a

discipline that has a growing body of assignments. These are the individuals who will shape the collection of assignments in each discipline to meet your needs. While we do not expect you to know all of the team, we hope you know some of them. We are aware that the advisory team does not include all of the disciplines that have

embraced CPR. We hope that some of you from the Humanities and Social Sciences will step up to the bar and join the advisory committee and shepherd the assignments in your disciplines. Volunteers are welcome.

Biology	Fred Eiserling José Quintans Nancy Pelaez	UCLA University of Chicago California State University, Fullerton
Chemistry	Chris Bauer	University of New Hampshire
Earth Science	Cinzia Cervato	Iowa State University
Engineering	Fred Berry Pat Carlson	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, IN
Faculty Development	Spencer Benson	Director, Center for Teaching Excellence University of Maryland
Mathematics	Mary Kaye Abbey Nancy Simpson	Montgomery Community College, MD Texas A & M University
Microbiology	Amy Chang	Director, Education Department, American Society for Microbiology, DC
Physics	Lewis Ford	Texas A & M University
Psychology	Joe Melcher	St. Cloud State University- MN

Advisory Panel

### CPR CONFERENCES and WORKSHOPS

#### **CPR Visions and Impact June 22-23, 2006**

Communities enrich their members. The whole is larger than the sum of the parts. During this project we hope to establish lasting communities of CPR users who can and do build on others' experiences and research. To foster this development we have begun to plan our first CPR Users Conference for next June. The two-day conference will be held at UCLA and co-sponsored by Texas A&M, which has an NSF ASA grant to use CPR in Biology,

Mathematics and Physics. We are planning a day that highlights innovative and creative CPR practices, and a day that focuses on evaluation of student learning that has come from using CPR. We hope you will save the dates and plan to attend. There will be more information and a call for papers in subsequent newsletters. We welcome your ideas on what you would find most beneficial from such a conference.

### ON-LINE SURVEY

Please take another a few minutes to complete the Web-survey that John has prepared. We need your opinions and perceptions about CPR and the role it can play at your institution and your input into the conference next June.

[http://www.engr.psu.edu/surveys/cpr\\_feedback05.asp](http://www.engr.psu.edu/surveys/cpr_feedback05.asp)