Teaching Practicum: A New Perspective of Psychology

Collette: Being a TI is significantly more work than most classes, but it's not an impossible amount as long as you manage time and prepare efficiently.

Martin: It really pushes your boundaries more than any other class I've had at CSB/SJU. Also, instead of just absorbing information in a lecture style, you are now interacting with students and trying to present information in your own way. This experience made me appreciate the field of psychology so much more.

People always say that you learn the most when you have to teach something. I would definitely recommend it. It was easily one of the most fulfilling experiences of my college career. I have a few points of advice for future TIs:

1. Prepare your information well. It's much easier for students to learn from you when you are confident and knowledgeable about the material.
2. Communicate clearly with students. Be open to feedback and willing to adjust your teaching style to better meet their needs.
3. Treat students with respect and professionalism. They will learn more and be more engaged when they feel valued and appreciated.

Yes, it was challenging, but it was a good learning experience. The most important thing I learned from the Teaching Practicum was that I have a passion for teaching and helping others understand the subject matter. I also gained valuable experience that will be useful in my future career.

Definitely positive. It really explored a new path for me. I've always had a fascination with being involved in the teaching side of the academic world.

Most of the stuff that I taught in the Lab was stuff I really liked. I was interested in this course, so it was easier for me to keep the material engaging and interesting for the students.

The Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference (MUPC) is now taking applications for Teaching Practicum. The application deadline for the Fall 2009 practicum is Monday, August 17th. Applications are due on the CSB/SJU website. The conference will be held at CSB/SJU this year. It is very fulfilling to receive an oral presentation and a poster session. Presenters have a choice between an oral presentation and a poster presentation. Students can apply by listing the courses that are offered and approved.

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Collette: We talked to two students, both of whom were TIs in Fall 2008, to see what they thought about being a Teaching Intern. They were Collette Martin and People always say that you learn the most when you have to teach something. I would definitely recommend it. It was easily one of the most fulfilling experiences of my college career. I have a few points of advice for future TIs:

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