

# Panel discusses new teaching styles learned at conference

BY MATT WILLS  
ONLINE EDITOR

Karla Kennedy-Hagan's plans to have her family and consumer sciences students rebuild parts of the body with Legos as a learning tool.

Kennedy-Hagan was speaking as part of a panel of professors who met Wednesday to discuss the conference they attended on Faculty Development titled "The Teaching Professor."

"I'm planning to take Legos to class, and I am going to have them reconstruct the GI system," Kennedy-Hagan said.

She is hoping this helps students learn and memorize the parts of the body and be as creative as possible.

The conference was held in Schaumburg, with new faculty members from each college and one chair attending the conference on teaching.

The panel discussed their experiences at the

conference and things they learned.

"Everyone came back extremely energized," said William Weber, vice president for academic affairs.

The first professor to discuss her experience was Melinda Mueller, a professor of political science.

Mueller said one of the speakers she attended discussed academic advising. The speaker said that academic advising should be one of a professor's top priorities.

Mueller said Eastern "does pretty well" compared to a lot of private universities.

Rose Gong, a professor of secondary education, said that there were many strategies to get through to students in a better way.

One way that all of the professors discussed was using intense imagery.

Using bright colors in the syllabus or power points will grab a student's attention and keep them informed.

"A professor would start the lecture from the back of the room instead of the front of the room," Gong said. This method of incongruity is used to make students wonder what's going on and keep them interested in what is going on.

Michael Hoadley an audience member, discussed technology in the classrooms.

Hoadley said there are around 240 classrooms on campus and 140 of them are "technology-enhanced."

At the conference, Power Point was discussed a lot and how to use it, the panelists said.

Mueller said some speakers at the conference had different views.

William Addison, chair of the psychology department, also spoke of his experiences at the conference. He said he learned a lot about service learning and how to adapt that into various classes.



SETH MILLER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

**Melinda Mueller, a political science professor, and Rose Gong, a secondary education professor, discuss what they learned at a recent teaching conference on Wednesday afternoon in the Paris Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.**

DEN, Thursday, 21-Oct-05