

Notes from the Life Sciences Carl Wieman Science Education Initiative

Vol. 1 No. 6

October 10 2008

Special Seminar Notices

Dr. David Caprette (Rice University)

Assessing an Undergraduate Laboratory Program

Thursday, October 16. 11:30am

Wesbrook 201

Local Contact: Leah Billas (604-822-3199)

Dr. Bill Wood (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Changing the Way Undergraduates Are Taught in a Research-Oriented Biology

Department

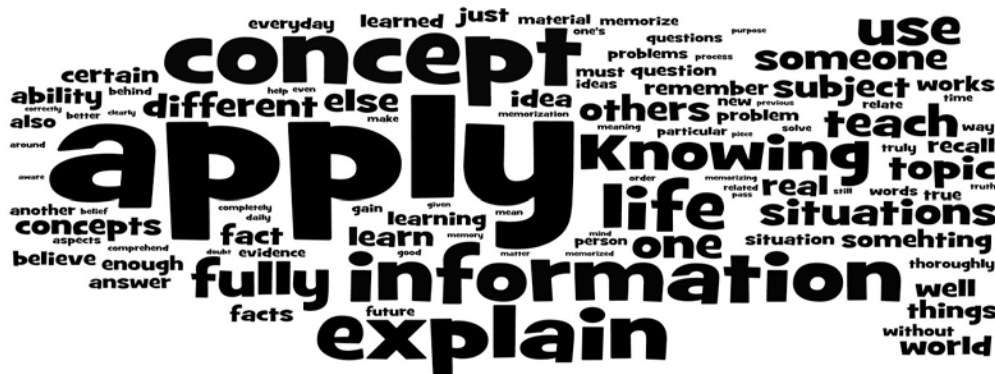
Thursday, October 23. 10:00 am

Michael Smith Laboratory 102

Local contact: George Spiegelman (604-822-2036)

How do students respond to the question "What does it mean to know something?"

We asked 700 first year students in BIOL 112 this question. As a first way to analyze what we got back, we used a word frequency analysis to create this picture:



Concept Inventory for Natural Selection

With the help of instructors of Biol 303 Harald Yurk is currently testing an assessment tool for students' understanding of the concept of Natural Selection. The Concept Inventory for Natural Selection consists of 20 multiple choice questions about scenarios in which evolution takes place (Anderson et al. 2002, Journal of Research in Science Teaching, Vol. 39, No 10, 952-978). It seems to us that it would be useful for 1st year courses as a pre and post test for the introduction to natural selection and in 4th year courses to test the effectiveness of the program. If you like to know more about the tool, and/or use it in your course, please contact Harald directly.

We're around.

If you're interested in talking to us about your course(s), or teaching /learning, feel free to contact anyone of your LS-CWSEI team: Jared Taylor <jtaylor@zoology.ubc.ca, Harald Yurk <yurk@zoology.ubc.ca>, Gulnur Birol <Birol@science.ubc.ca>, George Spiegelman <spie@interchange.ubc.ca>. You might also check out the CWSEI website for information and resources about teaching/learning: <http://www.cwsei.ubc.ca>.