TEP will offer several “Think Small, Teach Big” events during Winter and Spring that consider strategies for bringing the interactivity, personal attention, and sense of community that, ideally, characterize small-class teaching to larger class settings. Experimenting with everything from technology to acting techniques and creative assignment design, we’ll ask, “Can we make the big class feel even more connected, exciting, and meaningful?”

The Lecture: 20 Years Later
Week 4: Fri, 1/31, 10:00-11:45am, Knight Library Browsing Room
Panelists: Senior Instructor of Human Physiology Sierra Dawson; Senior Instructor II of History Alex Dracobly; Professor of Chemistry Mark Lonergan; Professor of English Ben Saunders; and TEP Faculty Consultant and Instructor of Environmental Studies Jason Schreiner.

In 1994, TEP hosted “The Lecture,” a faculty event that featured panelists talking about tips for improving lecture technique. We’ll show a short clip of that session, then ask our 2014 faculty panelists from across the disciplines whether “the lecture” is still a relevant genre. Presenters and the full group will discuss how they’ve revised their lecture-format classes; whether lecturing teaches students about focus and following—and ultimately forming their own—extended trains of thought; how one infuses the lecture class with positive difficulty in the types of activities students undertake; and if new technology and the popularity of TED Talks and Khan Academy micro-lectures changes how we imagine what should happen in the classroom.

Performance Tips for the Lecture Hall:
A Morning with John Schmor
Week 5: Thur, 2/6, 10:30-11:50am, 111 Lillis
Can we re-claim the lecture hall as a site of energy, fascination, and belonging for our students? Through our presentation of self and material, can we communicate to students that “being there live”—as opposed to, say, looking at presentation slides or even watching a video from home—matters? How and when do we lose the script and allow for impromptu moments? How do we project interest and confidence, even to the student in the back row? How can large-class teaching work for a variety of teaching personas?

Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Theatre Arts John Schmor will offer his answers to these questions and take the group through a series of acting and voice techniques that we may want to add to our teaching toolkits. Come prepared for a playful, participatory workshop that will get us out of our seats, breaking the fourth wall, and considering the degree to which faculty and students together can re-activate the lecture hall.

Technology Platforms for... Connecting
Week 7: Fri, 2/21, 1-2:30pm, Knight Library Proctor 41
Facilitator: Robert Voelker-Morris, TEP
This hands-on workshop will introduce Google Hangouts, VoiceThread, Twitter and other relatively simple-to-use technological tools that might build a feeling of connectedness and community in a large class.

Technology Platforms for... Interacting
Week 8: Fri, 2/28, 1-2:30pm, Knight Library Proctor 41
Facilitator: Robert Voelker-Morris, TEP
This hand-on workshop will get participants playing with i-clickers, a ‘class’ twitter feed, and other technological and traditional techniques to boost peer-to-peer, student-to-professor, and students-to-material interaction in class.

Strategies for Discussion Leaders
Week 2: Tue, 1/14, 2:00-4:00pm
122 Knight Library
Facilitator: Jason Schreiner, TEP
Learn strategies for creating lively and fruitful conversations that help students enjoy class time, build critical thinking skills, and understand the fundamental questions of the course. We will identify the thinking and argumentation skills your students should be practicing, learn common questions and prompts that build these skills, review various discussion activities, and discuss strategies for addressing common problems that arise in class discussions. You’ll leave this workshop with a variety of activities that will get your students listening and talking.

And Coming in Spring...
Contemplative Pedagogy in the Large Class Technology Platforms for... Creating
Discovery! Adding Surprise and Original Research to Classes (Even Large Ones) with UO Libraries Special Collections, the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

To register for any of these events, email tep@uoregon.edu