A Message from CET’s Director:

“Teaching Nuggets” is intended for all who teach at USC, including faculty and teaching assistants. It is particularly relevant today given the university’s recent shift of emphasis toward a “learner-centered” form of teaching. The skills you have acquired as a teacher shall prove invaluable: presenting effectively a body of knowledge; providing constructive feedback; fielding questions astutely; evaluating student performance; communicating in a diverse environment. Teaching is a multifaceted activity. It is ever-changing and full of intrinsic rewards:

• collaborating with master teachers;
• meeting and resolving challenges; advancing students’ learning;
• finding joy both from your work and from learning about your students’ aspirations;
• motivating peers to advance the forefront of knowledge.

This list of rewards grows to include the many other rewards acknowledged by dedicated, successful teachers. Very likely, you will experience this phenomenon yourself, and the list will continue to grow.

Although effective teaching can always be challenging, the many teaching tips and procedures found in the modules included in this book should provide you with a guide to the many aspects of teaching.

Best wishes for a successful experience,

J. Lawford Anderson
Director, Center for Excellence in Teaching