

CAE NEWS

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Cultivating Double Vision

One of the challenges of being one person inside the landscape of higher education is the need to achieve both the larger and the smaller view, to be able to see both the concrete and the abstract from a single seat in the institutional framework. Often, the themes guiding the institutional

context--the vision or broader goal--can blur next to the immediacy--the bright need--of the present. Of course, both are important, necessary, and operate (as in the figure below) in relation to one another.

Yet one person may be inclined to see up close, and another from a distance. Because both ways of seeing are so crucial to our shared work, **communities of practice** are increasingly necessary to do the long-term planning of the University while making sure to meet its emerging and immediate needs. At the Center we support communities of practice--working with our New Faculty and Leadership Cohorts, as well as with Liaison Nick Kapoor as he facilitates a Faculty Learning Community (FLC) for Adjunct Faculty. We also collaborate with University partners, such as the Magis Core leadership team, to provide clinics, Course Design Institutes, and FLCs to sustain faculty in their work in the signature elements, and with the Center for Faith and Public Life on programming like that which brought scholar Tania Mitchell this summer to speak about community engaged teaching.

Those are some formal communities of practice, but writ small, communities of practice exist in writing groups, peer review of teaching, in the work we do to consult and support one another for the preparation of materials for annual review, tenure, and promotion, and in ongoing program reviews, assessment projects, and strategic planning. Large and small, micro and macro, **we simply see more** when we look together. The Center is here to facilitate all of our ways of seeing. And to support the variety of work you are doing, be it bright, immediate, or broad.

*Carol Ann Davis, Jay Rozgonyi & Emily Smith
Directors, Center for Academic Excellence*



Leadership Cohort

This year, the Center for Academic Excellence welcomes ten new members into the Leadership Cohort. Now in its 5th year, the **Leadership Cohort** meets monthly for an entire academic year to support new or newish leaders in their development as leaders. The Leadership Cohort includes faculty and staff from across the University, including department chairs, assistant and associate deans, and program directors. Watch for the next call in summer 2020.

Adjunct Faculty Orientation

The Center collaborated with the General Faculty Secretary, the Library, the Non-Tenure Track Committee, and the Office of the Provost to host an **Adjunct Faculty Orientation** in August. More than 60 adjunct faculty attended, and based on expressed interest, workshops were offered on teaching with tech tools, syllabus design, and utilizing Blackboard. We look forward to more events of this kind as we seek to include this crucial cohort of teaching faculty into our learning community.

Save the Date!
Our next Writing Retreat will be Thursday, January 9 from 10 - 3. It's a place to sustain your writing into the busy new year.

New Faculty Cohort Welcomes Nearly 40 Faculty



New Faculty Discuss Magis Core Advising with Vice Provost Mark Ligas

The **New Faculty Cohort** meets monthly to discuss issues and topics of importance to new faculty. Given the size of the entering cohort of new faculty, we offer two meetings a month to accommodate scheduling pressures. In this learning community we share problems of practice and **co-mentor** each other as we navigate common experiences and new practices essential for success as beginning faculty. As a community of practice, we take turns mentoring and being mentored as we lean on each other's varied experiences and expertise as teachers, scholars and community members. Given the varied experiences of such a large cohort of new faculty, the co-mentoring model is especially appropriate. We also take advantage of the expertise of our faculty and administrators; above, Vice Provost Mark Ligas meets with new faculty to discuss opportunities to teach in the Magis Core, and tips for advising students entering the first Magis Core class, ahead of spring registration.

We are here to talk it through

Cohorts and consultation are not just for new faculty! If you are experiencing an immediate challenge in your classes or your professional duties, CAE directors are available for consultations throughout the year. Write to us at cae@fairfield.edu, and a director will get back to you promptly with a time to meet.

*Fall work underway at the Center:***MATs**

Throughout October, our Fall faculty liaisons (Elizabeth Hohl, Nicholas Kapoor, and Matt Kubasik) conducted over 30 **Mid-Semester Assessments of Teaching (MATs)** for faculty. MATs are a great way for students to give feedback on their learning--and our teaching--through a mid-term check in. Keep an eye out for our next MAT round in Spring 2020.

Lunch Money for Writing Groups

The **Lunch Money for Writing Groups** grants allow faculty to meet in small groups over a meal to discuss their ongoing writing projects. Over 30 faculty are participating this year. Watch for a faculty announcement in the Spring of 2020 to apply for these rolling grants if you missed them this fall.

Program Review & Planning Support

Director of Curriculum Development Carol Ann Davis works with programs large and small to help with review, strategic planning, and assessment. Ongoing work of this kind includes work with the **College of Arts and Sciences Strategic Plan** and curriculum development within the Egan School. Email Carol Ann at cdavis13@fairfield.edu for information or assistance.

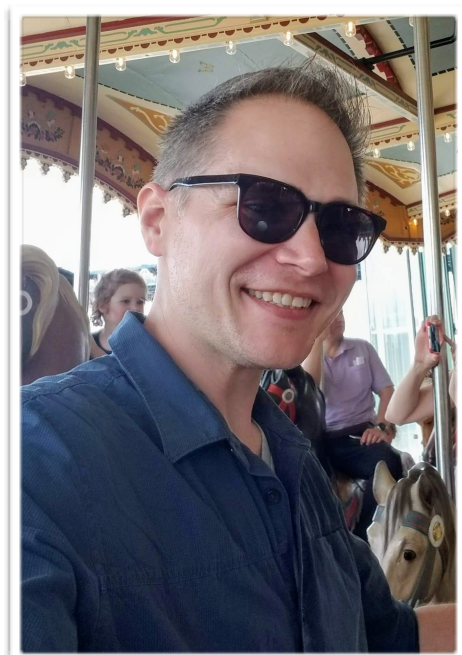
Course Design at the Center*Upcoming, Ongoing, and Recently Concluded CDIs*

Upcoming January CDI and Core Clinics: In addition to our usual back to school workshops, the Center is offering workshops in support of the Magis Core. First, a social justice course design institute will take place from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 8** and **Friday, January 10**. Each CDI participant will receive \$500 for completing the CDI, and another \$500 when their course is submitted for approval to the relevant Magis Core Curriculum Subcommittee. Second, the Center will offer a syllabus clinic in support of all three signature elements **Thursday, January 9** from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. This clinic will allow those who have an existing course that meets a signature element to fill out the relevant approval application with support from members of the Magis Core Curriculum Subcommittees.

Ongoing Online CDIs: As we all march through another semester, the Center is once again taking a cohort of faculty through our six-week Online Course Design Institute. This highly engaging, completely asynchronous workshop places instructors in the role of online students as they're guided, step-by-step, through the process of designing a class by developing goals and outcomes, building out assessments and activities, and choosing the most appropriate tech tools. If you're interested in finding out more about our Online CDI, or getting your name on the list for our next offering in January, contact Jay Rozgonyi at jrozgonyi@fairfield.edu.

Recently Concluded CDIs: This summer, more than 25 faculty members participated in course design institutes focused on developing courses for the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) and Interdisciplinary (ID) components of the Magis Core. Subsequently, the Center continued their collaboration with Magis Core Leadership to assist with the ongoing work of course development through clinics and consultations. Additionally, 12 faculty attended a general Course Design Institute in support of the development of syllabi for courses outside the core.

And looking toward Summer 2020: Planning at the Center is under way for summer CDIs (in late May) in support of the WAC and ID elements of the Magis Core, and a general CDI in August.



Support for Research *Liaison Michael Andreychik*

During the 2019-2020 academic year (September - May) CAE Faculty Liaison Michael Andreychik will again support faculty in the design and conduct of research projects. In the past Dr. Andreychik has worked with faculty both during the design phase of research projects as well as during data analysis and interpretation; assistance is available for any stage of the research process. He has also worked to support faculty both in the design and conduct of their own disciplinary research and in the evidence-based evaluation of their pedagogy. Because faculty projects differ greatly in scope, population of interest, and aims, much of the work of the consultant will occur one-on-one or small group consultation with faculty. However, if there are common areas of interest related to research design, a group workshop could be designed and offered. Interested faculty should contact Dr. Andreychik directly at mandreychik@fairfield.edu

Introducing the Fall 2019 CAE Liaisons Faculty Learning Community for Adjunct Faculty

CAE Fall 2019 Faculty Liaison Nicholas Kapoor, who also played an instrumental role in August's Adjunct Faculty Orientation, is hosting a **Faculty Learning Community for Adjunct Faculty**. The first meeting was October 2 at the Center and focused on community-building and active learning pedagogy. Future meeting topics will draw on the feedback of the adjunct faculty

participating in the FLC.



What I Wish I Knew

CAE Fall 2019 Faculty Liaison Elizabeth Hohl hosted a panel discussion for two meetings of the **New Faculty Cohort** facilitating a discussion among veteran faculty around the question of "what do I wish I knew" going in to teach at Fairfield. At this event, a broad

variety of teaching challenges were discussed, some of which will be the subject of future cohort discussions.

Facilitating Effective Meetings

This Spring, CAE Fall 2019 Liaison Matthew Kubasik will host a workshop with the **Leadership Cohort** on the topic of facilitating effective meetings. In particular, he'll share ways in which he's used Quip to support participants' access to materials for meetings.



The CAE is thrilled with the work of our faculty liaisons! We rely on them for their expertise, energy, and insights, and thank them for their leadership.

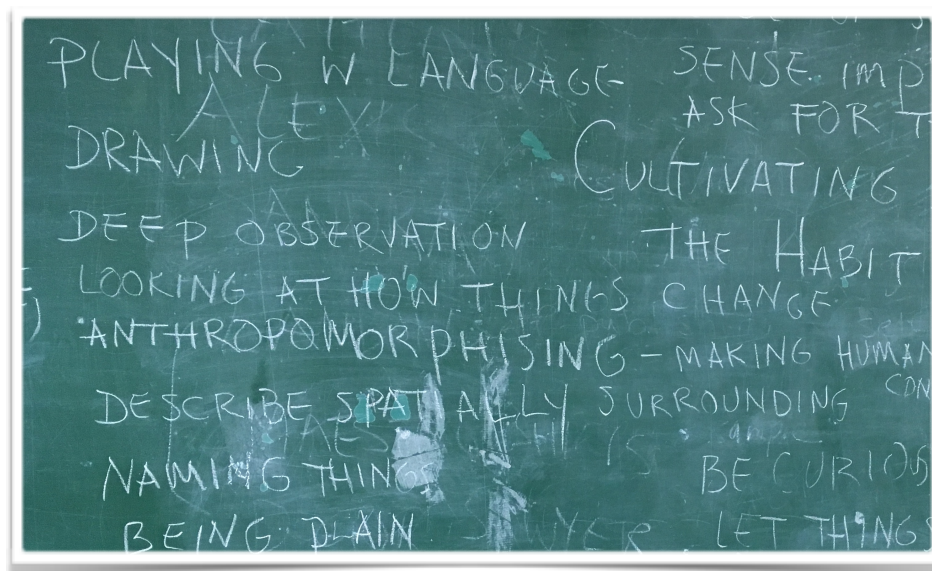
CAE to Co-Sponsor White Racial Equity Workshop Attendees

The CAE, in coordination with the President's Working Group on Inclusive Excellence, the Office of the Provost, the Center for Faith and Public Life, and the Social Justice Signature Element of the Magis Core, will be working to help selected faculty and staff apply for and **attend a White Racial Equity Workshop** offered by Diane Goodman, Ed.D., a consultant on social justice training. The workshop, entitled **"Doing Our Own Work: White People Learning, Healing, and Acting for Racial Equity,"** will take place December 7 and 8, 2019, in New York City. Day One will establish a foundational language for issues and conversation, and while Day Two will discuss positive practice and action. Watch for a Faculty Announcement with more information soon!

Faculty Chosen by NYU's Faculty Resource Network

Michelle Farrell, and Magdala Degranges were chosen to participate in NYU's FRN Network Winter program seminar entitled **Identities in Motion: The Lived Experience and Theoretical Journeys of Caribbean Diasporas.** Find out more about Fairfield's partnership with FRN by contacting us at the Center, or by asking participating faculty about their rich experiences!

Composing: From the (real) blackboard to Quip



The classroom experience has changes a lot in the days since many of us were in grade school, and while the dedication of our teaching professionals remains just as high, the tools and approaches available to us have changed dramatically. Fairfield has long been a leader among higher education institutions in the way we thoughtfully integrate new technologies into our teaching, and nowhere is this more apparent than with the variety of ways our faculty have expanded the notion of “writing” in recent years. Through the use of new, easy-to-use, and mobile-friendly tools such as **Adobe Spark** (for creating highly polished multi-modal “digital publications”) and **Quip** (for group projects, online discussions, and peer editing), instructors are now able to bring a wide range of “content creation” assignments to their courses. From micro-writing and online reflective journals to narrated presentations and full-blown multimedia productions, these new tools can help students explore and perfect new ways to express themselves in words and images—and to be more engaged in their learning along the way. To learn more about these tech tools or to consider those that might be most appropriate for your specific classes, contact Jay Rozgonyi at jrozgonyi@fairfield.edu.

With Gratitude

The variety of CAE offerings are made possible with the assistance of CAE staff and campus collaborators including: the Office of the Provost, Academic Computing, DiMenna-Nyselius Librarians, the Office of Student Learning, the FDEC, the Magis Core Leadership, and individual faculty and staff.