

CAE NEWS

The Center for Academic Excellence | Volume 9, Issue 1

January Course Design Institutes: Magis Core

January Course Design

Institutes (CDIs) at the Center will focus on gearing up for the Magis Core with one-day CDIs on **Social Justice** (January 16) and **Interdisciplinary Learning** (January 17). With stipends of \$1000, these institutes will support course design in those signature elements, with follow-up and online work ongoing during the spring semester. Consider applying! See page 2 for more information on additional CDIs offered this summer.

FDEC Day: Teaching and Learning in the Signature Elements

Join the coordinators of the Social Justice and Interdisciplinary Learning Signature Elements of the Magis Core, as well as faculty who have developed courses and taught in these areas, to learn more about how to prepare your courses for inclusion. **Tuesday, December 11th, 12 - 2:00, Kelley Presentation Center. Lunch provided.**



Celebrating Change

By the time this reaches you, the beauty of the leaves all over campus will have given way to a first winter frost, perhaps even a first snow, and thoughts will be turning to semester's end, the coming months full of preparation for spring and—let's face it—survival at a busy time. But we at the Center see also how the "wintry" work of preparation, the careful habit of gathering resources, the thinking through course design, curricular planning, assessment, and review prepare the way for

transformation. Even substantial revisions—those sometimes painful once-overs of outcomes or whole curricula, acts of examination that seem to strip a tree back to roots and bare branches—prepare the way for new growth. As in nature, so in the academy: we write to you in celebration of the vibrancy of so many past collaborative achievements and excitement for those to come. And much is to come: Magis Core implementation, January back-to-school workshops, ongoing research and engagement with writing and teaching projects, the building of learning cohorts, collaboration on program review and assessment projects large and small, and always, always attention to course design. Let the trees molt, as must our own ideas about teaching, research, and teaching to allow for the new that becomes a flourishing spring.

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

Michael Andreychik, Research Consultant



As part of his work as a faculty liaison, **Dr. Michael Andreychik** is serving as the Center's first-ever CAE Research Consultant. In this role, he will assist faculty with research design and statistical analysis and interpretation, including but not limited to the design of research projects prior to data collection and assisting with data analysis, both by working with faculty to identify appropriate analytical strategies prior to data collection and/or helping faculty to analyze data that has already been collected. Much of this work will be through one-on-one consultation or in small groups, and faculty interested in seeking Dr. Andreychik's assistance in this role may contact him directly at mandreychik@fairfield.edu or through the Center at cae@fairfield.edu

Fairfield University Magis Core Kickoff



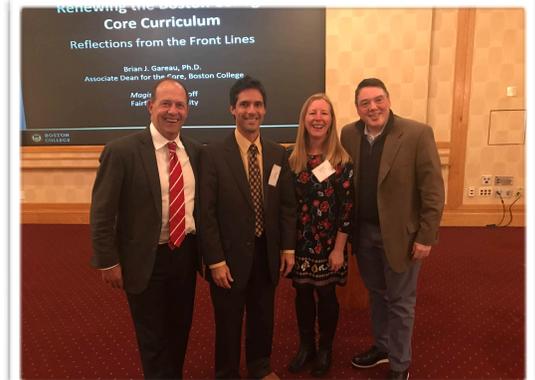
Above: Faculty gather for "more" Magis: Faculty pose for a group photo at the close of the Magis Core Kickoff Retreat. **Below:** President Nemec, Magis Core Director Harding, and Dean Greenwald pose with Keynote Speaker Dr. Brian J. Gareau of Boston College.

The Magis Core Leadership Team, with Dr. Shannon Harding, Director of the Magis Core, as the lead, held the Magis Core Kickoff with an overnight retreat at the LaKota Oaks resort center in late October.

Faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences and all professional schools worked together in large and small groups to discuss Magis Core implementation.

Friday night a welcome from Dean Richard Greenwald and opening remarks from President Mark Nemec were followed a keynote by

Dr. Brian J. Gareau, Associate Dean for the Core at Boston College. Saturday morning a panel discussion with Magis Core Director Harding, Suzanne Solensky, Academic Advisor at Quinnipiac, and Fairfield Registrar Lynn Kohnr offered a broad view of implementation, and Signature Elements Coordinators Dr. Kim Gunter, Dr. David Downie and Dr. Kris Sealey each led breakout sessions that provided crucial information to faculty interested in developing courses in their areas. The event was funded by an anonymous gift to the College of Arts and Sciences and a grant from the Davis Educational Foundation, and was co-sponsored by the Center. Thanks to all faculty who came out to work on this important initiative, and congratulations Shannon!



Enduring CAE Programs:**New Faculty Cohort**

We are thrilled to bring together many new faculty in our **New Faculty Cohort**. This cohort-based mentoring program provides ongoing support and development as faculty navigate their first year at Fairfield University. In addition to addressing emerging questions and concerns, this fall we addressed advising, understanding IDEA, assessing student learning, and understanding Fairfield University students.

Leadership Cohort

The **Leadership Cohort** brings together leaders across campus to address topics and concerns of interest to beginning leaders. The 2018-2019 Leadership Cohort is our biggest yet, with 16 faculty and staff leaders from many different departments and units across campus. This semester we explored a variety of topics, including self-assessment, developing a vision, managing difficult conversations, and delegation and time management.

MATs

Over 20 faculty participated in our **Mid-Semester Assessment of Teaching (MAT)** program this fall. Faculty who participate in MATs receive 'real-time' feedback on their teaching mid-semester. Watch faculty announcements in spring to participate.

Course Design at the Center**Online Course Design Institute Graduates First Class**

As we come upon the Thanksgiving holiday, the CAE offers its gratitude to the thirteen full-time and part-time faculty who spent six weeks this fall in our first fully online Course Design Institute. The cohort assumed the roles of students, completing assignments, joining in online discussions, and asking questions of their "professors" from the CAE and Academic Computing, as they were led through the process of designing and building a highly engaging online class. The class began by covering the CAE's standard principles of Backward Course Design, including the development of Learning Goals and Course Outcomes, and then guided everyone in defining assessments and activities, as well as thoroughly reviewing the University's comprehensive Curricular Guidelines for Online Courses, which was specifically developed to bring the unique characteristics of Fairfield's face-to-face courses to a virtual environment. In the end, the CDI participants came away with a syllabus for a new course, a knowledge of how to truly connect with students online, and a lot of new faculty friends with which they can share new ideas about teaching. If you're interested in participating in the next CAE Online Course Design Institute, beginning in late January, keep an eye on our online information site (<http://faculty.fairfield.edu/online>) and on Faculty Announcements for the invitation to apply.

May Course Design Institutes--Closer Than You Think!

It may seem like we are far away from the heady days of summer, but now is the time to think forward into what courses you might want to revise and/or design anew for next year and beyond. In addition to Magis Core Signature Elements CDIs in support of WAC/WID (Writing), SJ (Social Justice), and ID (Interdisciplinary Learning) in May, we will offer our traditional Course Design Institutes for faculty across the University who would like to take the time to design courses. Watch the Center website at cae@fairfield.edu or Faculty Announcements for information.

With Gratitude

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

Writers' Corner:**Workshops for WAC/
WID**

This semester, **Core Writing Director** Kimberly Gunter and the English Department welcomed four new Professors of the Practice (POPs) to campus this fall to support the implementation of the writing intensive Signature Element of the Magis Core, also known as WAC/WID. Dr. Gunter and all POPs have sprung into action by offering workshops and individual consultations to faculty. Come hear Dr. Chris DiBiase lead a workshop on **Addressing Correctness in Student Writing** December 7, from 2 - 3 p.m. in The Writing Center.

**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, and encourages faculty to support each other in continuing to write throughout the academic year, rather than only on breaks. Over 30 faculty currently participate. Watch for a faculty announcement to apply for this rolling grant program.

Save the Date!

We will hold our next Writers Retreat on Monday, January 14 from 10 - 3. The retreat is a place to kick off your year with renewed dedication to your writing.

**Honoring an Original
Mary Frances Malone**

As does the hat-and-glove cake (below), which was unveiled in honor of Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Mary Frances Malone's decades of leadership at Fairfield at the CT's ACE Women's Leadership Luncheon in early November, we at the Center celebrate and honor Mary



Frances (pictured above) as a singular force for all that is good in our Fairfield teaching and learning community. She will be sorely missed after she retires in December, but she'll remain an inspiration to us as we continue work she was so instrumental in supporting. Thank you, Mary Frances!

**Program Review and FLC Support through CAE**

In an effort to provide **regular and ongoing support for assessment**, CAE Director of Curriculum Development Carol Ann Davis is available to provide support for program reviews. If you direct a program or chair a department and would like **to bring your faculty together** to review or revise curriculum, or to prepare for a self-study, accreditation, or an external review, we can help facilitate your work at the CAE. Likewise, if you have an interest or institutional objective best supported in community with others, we can help provide that forum. For instance, Director Davis has co-lead a **Faculty Learning Community (FLC)** with Magis Core Social Justice Coordinator Kris Sealey, and has also assisted College of Arts and Sciences Associate Deans Glenn Sauer and Elizabeth Petrino with the initiation of cohorts of CAS faculty who are leading program review and assessment activities. In addition to support on best practices provided by resources from our CAE library, we can promise now-legendary goodies and treats. Contact the CAE at cae@fairfield.edu to brainstorm your next collaboration.

Meet Your Faculty Liaisons!

The Center for Academic Excellence is pleased to welcome six faculty members as liaisons to for the 2018-2019 year.

Liaisons support faculty development by giving workshops, consulting with faculty, conducting mid-semester assessments of teaching (MATs), and serving as a line of communication between faculty and the Center. Please feel free to reach out to any of the liaisons (as well as the CAE Directors at cae@fairfield.edu) for consultation about your teaching or any other faculty development needs. Brief biographies (as well as their semesters of service) are included below.

Michael Andreychik is an Assistant Professor of Psychology and an experimental social psychologist. His professional life is focused on better understanding and nurturing the psychological bases of positive interperson and intergroup relations. His home life is focused on better understanding the psychology of his two children. He is serving all year as the Center's first-ever Research Consultant (see page 2). Contact him at mandreychik@fairfield.edu

Susan Bartos is an Associate Professor of Nursing and a practicing critical care nurse. Her research interests encompass the wide health and wellness continuum from self-care behaviors to the early detection of rapidly declining patients due to sepsis in the in-patient setting. She has led recent Wellness initiatives on campus and continues to look for more opportunities to promote health in the community. Susan enjoys escaping through fiction and is an avid reader. She serves as a liaison in the fall of 2018, and can be reached at sbartos@fairfield.edu

Virginia Kelly is a Professor of Counselor Education. She teaches courses across the curriculum, and her research has focused primarily on addiction, specifically how addiction impacts and affects families. Personally, Ginny enjoys time with her family and friends hiking, rock climbing, biking--anything that takes her outside to beautiful places. She serves as a liaison in the fall of 2018, and can be reached at VKelly@fairfield.edu

Imara Liz Hernandez is a Professor of the Practice in Modern Languages and Literatures. She is very passionate about teaching Spanish and brining to students the rich fabric of the cultures of Latin America. She is focused on bridging cultural differences and conveying the importance of how diverse cultures can shed light on new ideas and ways of thinking for the benefit of all peoples. In her free time she likes to travel, read, and run. She serves as a liaison in the spring of 2019, and can be reached at ihernandez@fairfield.edu

John Jagtiani is a Visiting Professor at the Dolan School of Business and a seasoned Technology Management Executive. Over the last 30 years, he has held several technical and executive positions outside of academia. John's research interests include using up-and-coming AI methods and tools to improve business outcomes and project performance. John teaches courses in business management, operations management, data analytics, information systems, project management, and organizational behavior. He serves as a liaison in the spring of 2019, and can be reached at john_jagtiani@yahoo.com

Joan Weiss is a Professor of Mathematics and a numerical analyst--a computational mathematician who numerically approximates solutions to mathematical problems. As such, she investigates the accuracy of numerical solutions and researches methods to improve the speed and precision of numerical algorithms. In addition, she explores ways to use computation to enhance students' learning and understanding of mathematics. However, she knows of no numerical algorithm that can be applied to solve the problems of training Willow, a golden retriever puppy, who recently joined her household. She serves as a liaison in the spring of 2019, and can be reached at Weiss@fairfield.edu

Faculty Liaisons actively support faculty by conducting MATs and workshops according to their interest and expertise, and faculty request. Let us know what you'd like to see!