

CAE NEWS

The Center for Academic Excellence | Volume 8, Issue 1

Watch for Back-to-School Workshops in January

As the semester comes to a close, keep an eye out for our **Spring Back-to-School workshops**. During the week of January 8th, we'll host a variety of pedagogy workshops, from active learning to digital grading tools. We'll also provide a variety of sessions on using technological tools to support teaching and learning.

Fall FDEC Day: Celebrating Faculty Success with Online and Hybrid Courses

Have you ever thought about designing an online or hybrid course? It's not that difficult to do. Come and hear your faculty colleagues' stories of developing and teaching online and hybrid courses and problem-solving some of the challenges of teaching in this innovative format. **Tuesday, December 12th, 12:15 - 2:00, Kelley Presentation Center. Lunch provided.**

[Register at this link.](#)

A Fall Harvest: Learning from Each Other at the Center

We at the CAE have spent the fall engaged in a bounty of activities centered on collaborative learning and building community. As we continued our essential programs mentoring new faculty, providing guidance and support to new leaders, and assisting faculty with teaching and learning goals, we also began Faculty Learning Communities focused on Writing Across the Curriculum and Social Justice funded by the Davis Educational Foundation. Meanwhile, five faculty cohorts did work to develop online and hybrid courses (consider attending Fall FDEC Day to learn more about *that*), and the Center initiated its first-ever Part-Time Faculty Professional Development Cohort to better support the needs of affiliate faculty. We also welcomed a record number--~~six~~--Faculty Liaisons to the Center. Inside each of these communities of practice and at workshops and activities co-sponsored by the Center, we were continually reminded that collaboration with you is at the heart of what makes the Center the Center. We hope you enjoy all we have to share in these pages. Thank you for the ways you continue to build and enhance our learning community so we may all enjoy the fruits (and veggies) of our common labor! Warmly,



Carol Ann Davis, Jay Rozgonyi, Kris Sealey & Emily Smith

Directors, Center for Academic Excellence

Check Out these Teaching and Learning Materials

This short sample of materials considered by our Faculty Learning Communities is a way that you can learn more about our shared, ongoing work on these topics. Also consider asking a colleague in an FLC to chat with you about their work or emailing the CAE for more information.

Social Justice:

Love, Barbara J. "Developing a Liberatory Consciousness." *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice*. Routledge, 3rd edition, 2013.

Bell, Lee Ann, Barbara J. Love, and Rosemarie A. Roberts. "Racism and White Privilege Curriculum Design." *Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice*. Routledge, 3rd edition, 2013.

Writing Across the Curriculum:

Warner, Fara. "Improving Communication is Everyone's Responsibility." *Change*. Nov/Dec 2008.

Farewell to Chris Vescovi!

We are sorry to lose Chris Vescovi, CAE's Curriculum & Technology Specialist, to an exciting move to San Francisco. Chris has been a crucial member of our staff at CAE and has demystified and enhanced faculty experience with technology for several years. Thanks, Chris, for all you have done for Fairfield!

Faculty Learning Communities

Social Justice (Sj) FLC

CAE Directors of Curriculum Development Kris Sealey and Carol Ann Davis were joined by seven colleagues to convene the inaugural Faculty Learning Cohort centered on teaching and learning about Social Justice.

Faculty Participating in the Social Justice Learning Cohort: Jennifer Adair, History • Liz Hernandez, Modern Languages & Literatures • Jennifer Hillgen-Santa, Dolan School of Business • Liz Hohl, History • Johanna Garvey, English • Jessica Planas, Nursing • Martha LoMonaco, Visual and Performing Arts • Martin Nguyen, Religious Studies

The work of the cohort is ongoing throughout the academic year and will culminate in material that will assist us in designing Course Design Institutes that will allow more faculty to design or adapt existing courses to meet Social Justice Learning Goals articulated by the 2016 Faculty Working Groups and currently under consideration in the Core Revision.

Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)

Core Writing Director Kimberly Gunter and CAE Director Carol Ann Davis were joined by a group of colleagues which mixed faculty in the Core Writing Program with those across disciplines to convene the inaugural Faculty Learning Cohort centered on teaching and learning about Writing Across the Curriculum.

Faculty Participating in the Writing Across the Curriculum Learning Cohort: Elizabeth Hilts, Core Writing • Steven LeMay, Mathematics • Mary Linder, Core Writing • Christopher Madden, Core Writing • Jeremiah Mercurio, Library • Laura Nash, Visual and Performing Arts • Belinda Quartey, Sociology • Sue Rakowitz, Psychology • Brian Torff, Visual and Performing Arts • Marion White, Core Writing

The work of the cohort is ongoing throughout the academic year and will culminate in material that will assist us in designing Course Design Institutes that will allow more faculty to design or adapt existing courses to meet Writing Across the Curriculum Learning Goals articulated by the 2016 Faculty Working Groups and currently under consideration in the Core Revision.

FLCs are sponsored by a grant from the Davis Educational Foundation and support work done in preparation for implementation of the proposed Core Revision.

Enduring CAE Programs:**New Faculty Cohort**

The **New Faculty Cohort** meets monthly to address and discuss issues of particular concern to new faculty. Topics include faculty service, the IDEA course evaluation system, developing a mentoring network, navigating the rank and tenure process, and managing advising.

Leadership Cohort

The **Leadership Cohort** brings together faculty and staff across the University to address issues and concerns unique to new academic leaders. In addition to addressing participants' immediate needs, we focus on topics such as conflict management and difficult conversations, delegation and time management, and leading from your vision.

Mid-Semester Assessment of Teaching

Thirty faculty participated in our Fall **Mid-Semester Assessment of Teaching (MAT)** program. Faculty who participate receive 'real-time' feedback on their teaching mid-semester and have the opportunity to discuss this feedback with a CAE liaison. Keep your eye out for our Spring call for MATs in February.

Experiencing a teaching quandary? A CAE confidential consult can help.
cae@fairfield.edu

A New CAE Initiative:**Part-Time Faculty Professional Development Cohort**

The CAE is committed to providing support and professional development to all Fairfield University faculty, and in that spirit we recently launched for the first time a Part-Time Faculty Professional Development Cohort. The group has already begun to share ideas and challenges unique to affiliate faculty everywhere, and is helping the CAE Directors determine how our Center can offer a wider and more useful range of services to these important members of our academic community. If you're a part-time instructor and are interested in joining our cohort, please email Jay Rozgonyi at jrozgonyi@fairfield.edu

Ongoing Programs at the CAE:**Online Course Design Institutes**

As the fall semester winds down, the CAE has started up its fifth Online Course Design Institute of 2017 with a new set of full-time and part-time faculty members. The group is predominantly comprised of Arts & Sciences faculty, with additional representation from the schools of Business and Nursing & Health Sciences. Working collaboratively as well as with CAE and Academic Computing staff, the nine instructors will craft online courses that feature Fairfield's characteristic elements of small class size, high levels of student engagement, and attention to Jesuit values and social justice. All nine classes will run between the 2018 Winter Intersession and the 2018 Fall semester. If you're interested in applying for an Online Course Development Grant, visit <http://faculty.fairfield.edu/online> for more information or email us at cae@fairfield.edu.

Lunch Money for Writing Groups

This popular program is back for its second year, with nine faculty writing groups across all schools of the college taking advantage of the chance to meet together to discuss their writing and research goals. Support of \$300 per year (or \$150 per semester) is available for this important aspect of professional development.

Watch for a deadline in the early weeks of the Spring semester to apply for Lunch Money for Writing Groups.



Liaison Valeria Martinez to Host Teaching Circle

During Spring 2018, CAE Liaison Valeria Martinez will facilitate a **teaching circle**. Teaching circles provide a space for faculty to come together on a regular basis to discuss questions and concerns related to their teaching. Faculty interested in joining the Spring teaching circle should contact Valeria Martinez at vmartinez@fairfield.edu.

CAE Liaison Hosts Worskop on Failure

In November, CAE Liaison Mike Cavanaugh facilitated a discussion on the fears, benefits, and implications of **failure in the classroom**. During this brown bag discussion, we discussed several vexing questions, including: How do our fears of failing students shape our assessment and grading practices?

Welcome CAE Faculty Liaisons

During this Academic Year, six full-time faculty are working the with Center as Faculty Liaisons. Three will serve during each semester, allowing us to double the number of faculty to serve this important role.

Fall 2017 Liaisons

Michael Cavanaugh (SOB) is an Associate Professor of Management at the Dolan School of Business. His research interests delve into how students learn (learning from failure, for example) and how and what we teach both intentionally and incidentally. When not so preoccupied, you can find him on his road bike. (mcavanaugh@fairfield.edu)

Laura McSweeney (CAS) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics. Her research interests include time series analysis, mathematics and statistics education, and using technology in the classroom. She is a Zumba enthusiast and enjoys documenting the antics of her 2 mischievous young cats. (LMcSweeney@fairfield.edu)

Mehdi Safari (SOE) is an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering where he teaches courses in the thermal-fluid area. His research interests focus on computational fluid dynamics (CFD), high performance computing, and propulsion energy efficiency. In his spare time, he enjoys running and hiking. (msafariqariq@fairfield.edu)

Spring 2018 Liaisons

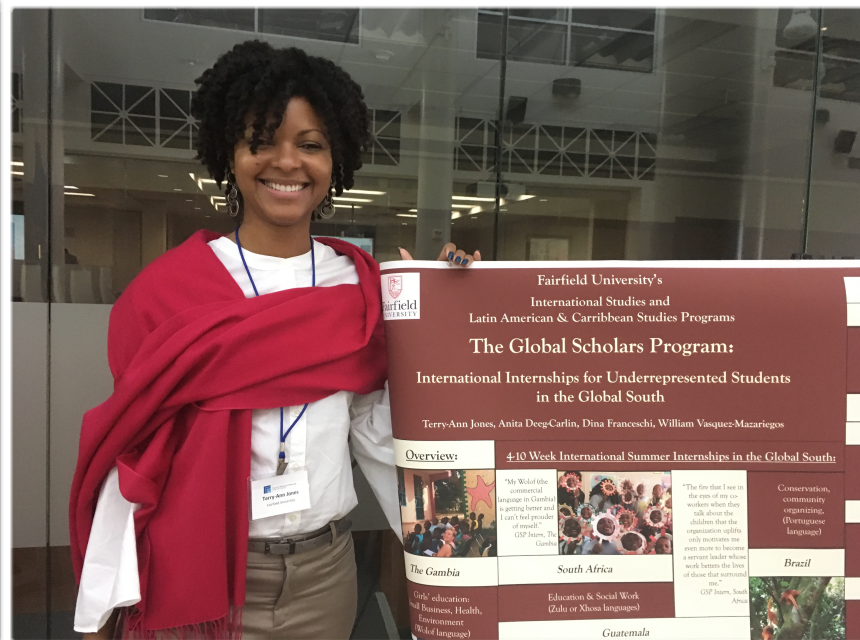
Michael Andreychik (CAS) is an Associate Professor of Psychology and an experimental social psychologist. His professional life is focused on better understanding and nurturing the psychological Bases of positive interpersonal and intergroup relations. His home life is focused on better understanding the psychology of his two children. (mandreychik@fairfield.edu)

Shannon Kelley (CAS) is an Associate Professor in the English Department, where her research & teaching fields include early modern lyric, critical plant studies, Shakespeare, and Women's Studies. She is passionate about undergraduate research, especially in digital humanities, and she just spent four weeks at the University of Chicago studying King Lear as an NEH Summer Seminar Fellow. (skelley@fairfiled.edu)

Valeria Martinez (DSB) is an Associate Professor of Finance. Her research is centered in international finance and pedagogy in finance. She is the recipient of the 2010 Dolan School of Business Teaching Excellence Award. (vmartinez@fairfield.edu)

Faculty Resource Network (FRN) Annual Symposium

In November, Terry-Ann Jones, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of International Studies, attended the **Faculty Resource Network's 2017 Annual Symposium** in New Orleans and presented her work on the Global Scholars program, a grant-funded program that provides international internships for underrepresented students in the Global South. This was one of numerous involvements with the Faculty Resource Network for Dr. Jones, and the FRN (of which Fairfield is a member and which is coordinated out of NYU) is a tremendous opportunity for all faculty. Watch for announcements of additional opportunities, including the **FRN's Summer Scholars program and Summer Seminars**, or visit <https://facultyresourcenetwork.org>.



Terry-Ann Jones presenting her poster on The Global Scholars Program at the Faculty Resource Network's Annual Symposium *Engaging Students with Diversity in the College Classroom*

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.

Supporting faculty and professional staff since 2003

Dreamforce Conference



CAE's Jay Rozgonyi with a fellow trailblazer at the Dreamforce Conference

In early November, CAE's Jay Rozgonyi and Chris Vescovi appeared as invited presenters at the annual Dreamforce conference in San Francisco to talk about how Fairfield University has adopted the software program Quip for teaching & learning. As the only school in the country using Quip for collaborative learning and dynamic online discussions, they demonstrated how our faculty are incorporating active learning concepts and leading-edge technology to face-to-face, hybrid, and online courses.

We are here to help. Email cae@fairfield.edu with the nature of your question and the right person will be back in touch with you.