

CAE NEWS

The Center for Academic Excellence | Volume 8, Issue 2

Summer Course Design Institutes (CDIs): The Magis Core & More

As the semester comes to a close, keep an eye out for our **Summer Course Design Institutes (CDIs)** at the Center. Magis Core CDIs will be held in May and August. With stipends of \$1500, these institutes will support course design and revision to accommodate the new Magis Core's signature elements. A traditional CDI in June and ongoing CDIs for online teaching will support those revising or designing new courses in support of programs or departments. See page 2 for more information.

FDEC Day: Teaching Today's Reader

Have you ever felt that your students don't use the best approach to reading in your courses? This and many other questions will be explored with an expert in the field.

Wednesday, May 2th, 12:00 - 2:30, Kelley Presentation Center. Lunch provided.

[Register at this link.](#)



From the Directors: Devotion Begets Devotion

This spring as at no other time we found ourselves grateful to acknowledge that the ongoing work of the Center is shared. One example: above, colleagues from all corners of the University gather to discuss undergraduate research at a panel arranged by *CAE Liaison Shannon Kelley*. This year we completed a second year as a Center led collaboratively by four faculty directors, and doubled the number of faculty liaisons. The fruits of these changes are evident in the Center's broader reach, our many learning cohorts, increased cross-campus collaborations, and numerous liaison-led initiatives. The lesson is an important one: work that is shared enriches the community tenfold. As is clear from the collegiality of this picture, which includes in community our dear colleague *Vin Rosivach*, pictured here among colleagues participating as a panel discussant just one week prior to his passing, devotion begets devotion. We hope this newsletter offers a small view of all the CAE community has to offer—or will soon offer—precisely because of the shared and collaborative efforts of so many. Join us at the Center soon! In devotion,

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

Welcome to Kimberly Gunter, Core Writing Director



Dr. Kimberly Gunter, Associate Professor of English, joined the Fairfield University faculty in the Fall of 2017 as the Director of Core Writing. Since then she has been instrumental in preparing the Core Writing program to revise the EN11-12 sequence into a Writing-Across-the-Curriculum-focused EN 10, and has led two Faculty Learning Cohorts (FLCs), one for Core Writing faculty and one (through CAE) for faculty from throughout the University interested in exploring Writing Across the Curriculum and Writing in the Disciplines. She will lead WAC/WID faculty development, collaborating with the CAE to prepare faculty for the Magis Core implementation.

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

Early Summer Course Design Institutes (CDIs) *Writing Across the Curriculum / Writing in the Disciplines CDI*

May 21, 22, and 23

A Writing Across the Curriculum/Writing in the Disciplines Course Design Institute will take place **May 21, 22, and 23**; applications are invited for full-time faculty who are hoping to pilot writing-intensive pedagogies in a Core course in the 2018-19 academic year. The WAC/WID CDI will be led by Director of Core Writing Kimberly Gunter in collaboration with the CAE. Watch for the application link on Today at Fairfield in the coming weeks. **Stipends of \$1500** will be offered for summer work and a subsequent Faculty Learning Community to take place during the academic year.

CDI for the Revision or Design of New Courses

June 11, 13, and 14

A Course Design Institute in support of course revision or design for faculty in all disciplines will take place **June 11, 13, and 14**; watch for the application link on Today at Fairfield in the coming weeks. **Stipends of \$1000** will be offered for summer work.

Mid-Summer Course Design Institutes *Social Justice and Interdisciplinary Learning CDIs*

August dates TBD

Course Design Institutes in support of the Social Justice and Interdisciplinary Learning elements of the Magis Core Curriculum will take place in August. Applications will be invited for full-time faculty who are planning to pilot Social Justice (SJ) or Interdisciplinary Learning (ID) pedagogies in Core courses in the 2018-19 academic year. SJ and ID CDIs will be led by the coordinator in the learning area in collaboration with the CAE. Watch for the application link on Today at Fairfield in the coming weeks. **Stipends of \$1500** will be offered for summer work and a subsequent Faculty Learning Community to take place during the academic year.

Magis Core CDIs continue work done in the 2017-18 academic year by Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs) in Social Justice and Writing Across the Curriculum. FLCs and Core CDIs are sponsored by a grant from the Davis Educational Foundation.

Enduring CAE Programs:**New Faculty Cohort**

The **New Faculty Cohort** meets monthly to address and discuss issues of particular concern to new faculty. Rather than creating a top-down mentoring model, it focuses on creating a cohort for co-mentoring opportunities. This semester's topics focused on active teaching and learning, advising, and publishing.

Leadership Cohort

The **Leadership Cohort** brings together faculty and staff across the University to address issues and concerns unique to new academic leaders. This semester the cohort discussed decision-making, giving effective feedback, facilitating effective meetings and self-assessment.

MATs and Lunch Money for Writing Groups

Nearly 50 faculty participated in our **Mid-Semester Assessment of Teaching (MAT)** program this academic year, and another 30 faculty participated in **Lunch Money for Writing Groups**. Faculty who participate in MATs received 'real-time' feedback on their teaching mid-semester and have the opportunity to discuss this feedback with a CAE liaison, and the Lunch Money program allowed faculty to meet regularly in writing groups to keep their research on track during even heavy teaching times. Both programs return in the Fall.

Collaborating with the Library:**Celebrating and Supporting Faculty Publishing**

President Mark Nemec, Dean of the Library Brent Mai, and Provost Christine Siegel celebrate faculty scholarly and creative activity.

Over 70 faculty and professional staff attended the 6th Annual event to celebrate and support Fairfield faculty's publishing, creative achievements, and grants on March 20, 2018. Faculty and staff from across the University facilitated small group discussions



on topics related to publishing, including: **Getting Started with a Book**, **Stephanie Storms** (pictured at left leading

short discussion) • **Establishing a Writing Routine**, **Carol Ann Davis** • **Publishing from your Dissertation**, **Alyson Martin & Sunil Purushotham** • **Where to Publish**, **Jeremiah Mercurio** • **Securing Grants**, **Michael Prescott & Kathleen Fries**

In Celebration of the Life of Vin Rosivach



On April 13, the University lost our colleague Vin Rosivach, pictured here just one week before discussing his research into 19th-century Connecticut census data. Given his 53-year tenure at the University, there is no way to do his legacy justice in a few words, but we wanted to cherish his role at the CAE and his abiding commitment to our collegial community. Sitting near Vin are Elizabeth Petrino and Kraig Steffen. A colleague's colleague, he will be missed in the classroom, at his many independent studies in his office, and around our workshop table.

Such were his humanities, and not any study of grammar. He would have left a Greek accent slanting the wrong way, and righted up a falling man.

--Thoreau on John Brown
(as it appeared
on Vin's office door)

Faculty Liaisons in Action

Failure in the Classroom: Brown Bag Discussion

Michael Cavanaugh (DSB), Associate Professor of Management, facilitated a brown bag discussion on the fears, benefits, and implications of failure in the classroom. We had an animated discussion of several key questions, including: How do our fears of failing students shape our assessment and grading practices? How can we move failure 'out of the closet' and into the curriculum? Participants engaged with these and other questions at the brown bag discussion on November 16, 2017.

Supporting Undergraduate Research: A Panel Discussion

Shannon Kelley (CAS), Associate Professor of English, organized a panel discussion on supporting undergraduate research on April 6, 2018. Faculty and staff from across the University (**Catherine Andersen, Biology**; **Angela Biselli, Physics**; **Jocelyn Boryczka, Politics**; **Jen Claydon, Provost's Office**; **Emily Orlando, English**; **Jessica Planas, Nursing**; and **Vincent Rosivach, Classical Studies**) shared their research work with undergraduates as well as resources for supporting this work.

Faculty Research Cohort Groups

Michael Andreychik (CAS), Associate Professor of Psychology, is serving as the Center's inaugural research consultant for faculty across the University. In this role, Dr. Andreychik supports individual and small groups of faculty research by assisting with research design and statistical analysis interpretation.

Teaching Circle

Valeria Martinez (DSB), Associate Professor of Finance, continued her teaching circle. She writes, "this semester in our teaching circle the overarching theme was teaching engagement techniques. We got out of our comfort zone and taught new engagement techniques in the classroom. We also shared engagement techniques that we currently use and that require little to no preparation time. Most importantly, we shared, we learned, and we laughed!"

Active Learning Strategies

During our January back-to-school workshops, **Michael Cavanaugh (DSB)**, Associate Professor of Management, and **Mehdi Safari (SOE)**, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, led a workshop on active learning pedagogy. Participants learned about ways to engage student using active learning strategies

As this page illustrates, many of our best ideas come from faculty. If you have an idea for a workshop, please drop us a line at cae@fairfield.edu

Steelcase Classroom and Active Learning

Some universities may be just dipping their toes into **Active Learning**, but here at Fairfield the CAE has been helping our faculty re-imagine their curriculum along these lines for some time now. Back in January, Director Jay Rozgonyi represented the University at the national EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative conference in New Orleans to detail our Active Learning efforts, and in particular the Steelcase Active Learning Classroom in Canisius 9.

Built in 2015 with funding awarded as part of Steelcase's **first-ever classroom-grant program**, the room served as the refinement of design and technology ideas that the University had already been exploring. The room - a prime example of collaboration between the Provost's office, ITS, and Facilities Management - has turned into a model of design, with mobile furniture, TVs mounted in opposite corners, and no distinct front of the room. Subsequent versions of this layout can now be found in several other classroom buildings.

If you've never taught in Canisius 9 or one of our other Active Learning rooms and you'd like to find out more about how these spaces can help you create a more dynamic and engaging teaching environment, just drop us a message at cae@fairfield.edu and one of the directors will be happy to provide a tour and orientation.

Program Review and FLC Support through CAE

In an effort to provide **regular and ongoing support for assessment**, CAE Directors of Curriculum Development Carol Ann Davis and Kris Sealey have begun to work 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, Directors Davis and Sealey can **help facilitate a Faculty Learning Community (FLC)**, as they have most recently in support of preparation for the Magis Core Curriculum, with FLCs in Social Justice and Writing Across the Curriculum (the latter co-led with Kimberly Gunter, Director of Core Writing). Contact the CAE at cae@fairfield.edu to brainstorm your next collaboration.

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.

Faculty Resource Network (FRN) Summer Seminar Participants

Congratulations to Silvia Marsans-Sakly, Jacalyn Kremer, and Barbara Ghilardi, each of whom will participate in a Faculty Resource Network Summer Seminar at New York University. Fairfield participates in this network in support of faculty development. For more information write us at cae@fairfield.edu.

Jay Rozgonyi Receives Award

Jay Rozgonyi was awarded the *Friends of Nursing Award* by the Mu Chi chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society for his work in support of faculty and students of the Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies with their teaching, learning and technology integration and for his efforts leading the technological design for the School's new, state-of-the-art building. Congratulations to Jay for all his work has meant to faculty and students!

Congratulations to Kris Sealey!

Congratulations to Kris Sealey on her receipt of the Robert E. Wall award in support of her research, a book project entitled *Creolizing the Nation: An Argument for an Alternative Ontology*. Kris will be on sabbatical in the Spring of 2019, but never fear—she remains at the Center this fall to help with all things curricular.

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.