

CAE NEWS

The Center for Academic Excellence | Volume 9, Issue 2



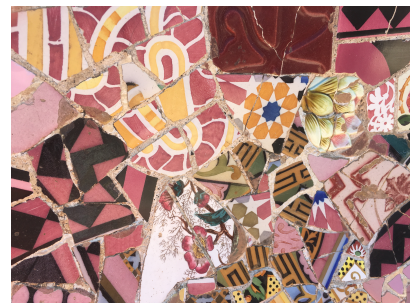
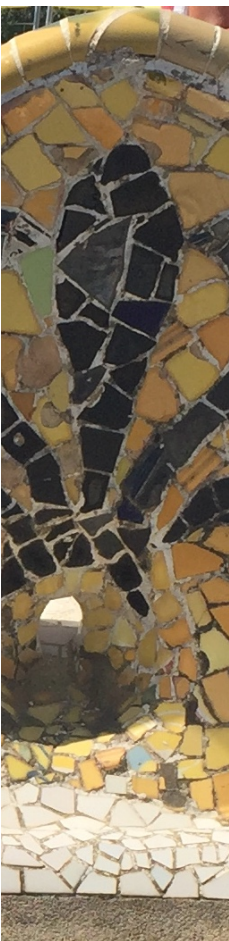
Piecing It All Together, or Seeing the Forest for the Trees

So often in our institutional lives we are deep down in the details: of our disciplines, where research can require an immersive dive accompanied by narrow focus; in our teaching, where the quality of attention to the progress of a project or assessment might determine the arc of a given semester; and in service, where we are tasked with a segment of governance accompanied by a specific charge. While there is no denying the beauty of each of those activities or the care that their execution requires, it's the interdependence of each of these that creates the flourishing whole and yields its unforgettable and unique design.

There are even times in University life when seeing that bigger picture is essential to finding the shape of the smaller one. Two University-wide initiatives—the gear up for the implementation of the Magis Core in the Fall of 2019 and the ongoing effort to craft our pedagogical approaches to changing learners in a fast-transforming educational landscape—seem to call us to see both large and small at once.

We at the Center are continually impressed by the various parts of the overall mosaic that create our community of practice, and we are here to assist with the growth required from each of us to fit those shining (at first tight-fitting) bits together into a cohesive whole!

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



Magis Core Course Design Institutes

We at the Center are pleased to collaborate with the Magis Core leadership to offer summer **Course Design Institutes (CDIs)** to support faculty developing courses to meet Signature Element designations. Each participant will receive \$500 for completing the CDI and \$500 when their course is developed and submitted to the Magis Core Committee. **The Writing Across the Curriculum/Writing in the Disciplines (WAC/WID)** institute will take place **Monday, May 20 and Wednesday, May 22**, the **Social Justice** institute will take place **Wednesday, May 29 and Friday, May 31**, and the **Interdisciplinary** institute will take place **Monday, June 3 and Wednesday, June 5**. Find more information about how to apply at Today@Fairfield or email us at cae@fairfield.edu.

FDEC Day on Writing

Join the Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee for **FDEC Day on May 1 from noon - 2 p.m.** (directly following the General Faculty meeting) to explore the teaching of writing across disciplines. Director of Core Writing Kimberly Gunter, Writing Center Director Beth Boquet, Core Writing faculty, and faculty from across the University will present strategies for designing courses that support writing development. **Lunch served.** [Register here.](#)

Magis Core Director Shannon Harding Receives Award

Associate Professor of Psychology and Magis Core Director Shannon Harding received the Distinguished Faculty/Administrator Award at the Fairfield Awards Dinner for her work shepherding the Magis Core revision to passage and leading the ongoing implementation process. In her speech she acknowledged the collective work of many faculty and administrators in making the implementation, in Fall 2019, a reality. In May and June, Dr. Harding will work with the Center and the Coordinators of the three Signature Elements to offer two-day Course Design Institutes (CDIs) to prepare courses for inclusion in the Magis Core Curriculum. See more information about those course design opportunities in the sidebar at left, and watch for more information about Faculty Learning Cohorts to be offered in the Fall for faculty teaching in the Magis Core. Congratulations, Shannon!



Magis Core Director Shannon Harding is congratulated by President Mark Nemec and Dean Richard Greenwald at the Fairfield Awards Dinner.

Enduring CAE Programs:**New Faculty Cohort**

The 2018 - 2019 **New Faculty Cohort** includes an engaging group of new faculty who bring great energy and ideas to the University. This year, the cohort has focused on many issues, including advising, understanding Fairfield University students, goal-setting, service, and the promotion process. Please get to know the new faculty in your school -- they are a great group!

Leadership Cohort

We have an enthusiastic and hardworking group of faculty and staff from across the University in the 2018 - 2019 **Leadership Cohort**. The Leadership Cohort meets monthly, addressing topics such as negotiating conflict, decision-making, time management, and delegation. Faculty and staff who are interested in joining the 2019 - 2020 Leadership Cohort should contact Emily Smith at esmith@fairfield.edu.

MATs

In mid-March, our Spring faculty liaisons (Joan Weiss, Liz Hernandez, John Jagtiani) conducted close to 25 **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 Fall 2019.

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

Upcoming May CDI: In addition to the CDIs the Center is offering in support of the Magis Core (see page 2), we will offer a CDI open to all faculty **Tuesday, May 21 and Thursday, May 23**. Whether you are teaching a new course or substantially reimagining an old one, join us for this Course Design Institute that will help you scaffold your course and diversify your pedagogical approach. Each participant will receive \$500 for completing the CDI.

Ongoing Online CDIs: Throughout this year, more than 20 faculty have completed our six week Online Course Design Institutes. These highly engaging, completely asynchronous workshops place instructors in the role of online students as they're guided, step-by-step, through the process of designing a class, developing goals and outcomes, and building out authentic assessments and activities, all as they experience new kinds of tech tools that bring Fairfield's unique brand of teaching to the online environment. If you're interested in finding out more about the CAE's Online Course Design Institute, contact Jay Rozgonyi at jrozgonyi@fairfield.edu. The Center wishes to extend a great big "Thanks!" to Academic Computing's Debbie Whalley and Heather Flinn for their efforts in helping to lead these CDIs.

Recently Concluded CDIs: In January, more than 25 faculty members participated in course design institutes focused on developing courses for the Social Justice (SJ) and Interdisciplinary components of the Magis Core. Faculty are working hard to finish developing their syllabi and submit their courses for approval on the revised Core, and the Center is here to help with the ongoing work of course design.

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.

Writers' Corner:**Consultations and
More: Supporting
WAC/WID**

Core Writing Director Kimberly Gunter and four Professors of the Practice (POPs) are here 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. Each POP is dedicated to a particular school or discipline and can be contacted for individual consultations. Come meet them at FDEC Day, apply for the WAC/WID CDI, or email Dr. Tiffany Wilgar, Assistant Director of Core Writing, at twilgar@fairfield.edu to learn who your consultant is!

**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 participated this year. Watch for a faculty announcement in the Fall of 2019 to apply for these rolling grants.

Save the Date!

We will hold our next Writers Retreat on Tuesday, May 28 from 10 - 3. The retreat is a place to kick off your summer with renewed dedication to your writing.

Support for Research*From Faculty Research Liaison Michael Andreychik:*

In the past year, I've worked with colleagues in CAS, DSB, GSEAP, and the Egan School of Nursing on a wide range of projects. The majority of people have been interested in discussing scholarly projects, but there have also been quite a few faculty who've come in to discuss ways of taking evidence-based approaches to evaluate their own teaching practices. I've also been able to work with a number of advanced graduate students with designing studies for independent projects and/or theses.

There have been a lot of rewarding aspects to the work. First, it's just so interesting to see the wide range of interesting projects going on across the university. I continue to be amazed at the great things that we do as a university community. It's also been very rewarding to see people who come in to consult at multiple stages of a project. There have been a few cases where I've been able to work with faculty all the way from developing preliminary ideas into testable questions, through selecting a research approach that can provide meaningful data, to analyzing and interpreting findings and thinking about next steps. Seeing the life cycle of a project like that up close is always really enjoyable for me. It's certainly been enjoyable and enlightening work for me, and I hope the faculty and students with whom I've consulted can say the same!

We at the Center are excited to have added a liaison dedicated to faculty research this year and thank Mike for his contribution!

**CAS Program Review and Assessment Support
through CAE**

At the direction of Dean Richard Greenwald, Director of Curriculum Development Carol Ann Davis worked with College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean Elizabeth Petrino to design a process to include faculty in the articulation of a **College of Arts and Sciences Strategic Plan**. Five working groups were formed, one for each of four draft goals and one "big-picture" group. These working groups include **faculty from all fourteen departments** and began with a visioning exercise at a College faculty meeting. This spring the process will yield a draft strategic plan, to be further fleshed out by faculty in an inclusive process that encourages faculty participation and ownership. The results will be widely shared with the College and throughout the University. If you are interested in developing a plan for program review, large or small, please contact Carol Ann Davis at cdavis13@fairfield.edu to brainstorm your next assessment or program-review collaboration!

Congratulations Jay Rozgonyi

Congratulations to Jay Rozgonyi, the CAE's Director of Learning Technologies, on his **appointment to the Board of Trustees of NERCOMP**, the Northeast Regional Computing Program and an affiliate of EDUCAUSE. The organizations are dedicated to advancing higher education through the use of information technology, with a particular emphasis on instructional design and curricular development. Jay will also serve as **Chair of NERCOMP's Annual Conference** in 2020, to be held in Providence, RI. He should be well prepared, as Jay has been a presenter at these conferences going back more than 15 years.

Congratulations to Faculty Chosen by NYU's Faculty Resource Network

Adam Rugg, Silvia Marsans-Sakly, Marcie Patton, Michelle Farrell, and Shridharsha Sundarram were chosen to participate in NYU's FRN Summer Seminars. Each will spend a week exploring their chosen topic with colleagues from throughout the nation. Faculty can find out more about opportunities offered by Fairfield's partnership with FRN by contacting us at the Center or faculty participants about their rich experiences!

Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the Simulation Lab: A Promising Pedagogical Tool

CAE liaisons Susan Bartos and Liz Hernandez collaborated this semester to showcase one way the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies' Simulation Center can be used as a pedagogical tool across disciplines. While the simulation lab is used regularly in the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies for education and preparation, it can also be used by faculty in other disciplines whose work intersects with the health field. Below, Bartos (EGAN faculty member) and Hernandez (faculty member in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures) describe an **interdisciplinary project** that integrates the key role of language interpreter in medical settings.

Simulation is a **modern educational pedagogy**, providing a safe and standardized learning environment for students and educators. Using the simulation center in the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies, faculty from Nursing and Modern Languages departments collaborated to create an interdisciplinary simulation depicting a medical interpreter scenario. Two brief simulations were recorded: one representing incorrect communication techniques and one representing therapeutic communication and the correct use of a medical interpreter. These scenarios can be used to **enhance student learning in a variety of courses** and can be used as a teaching tool throughout multiple disciplines. This is one representation of how multiple disciplines may use simulation to meet objectives and to creatively incorporate multimedia into the classroom.

Click here to watch the two videos:

[Simulation Lab Medical Interpreter Scenario \(incorrect\)](#)

[Lab Medical interpreter Scenario \(therapeutic\)](#)

This interdisciplinary project follows on the pedagogical work of **Dr. Michelle Farrell (DMLL)**, who also used the Simulation Lab for her Spanish class students to create films on how to properly work with an interpreter.

We'd like to acknowledge the individuals who were instrumental in carrying out this project: Susan Reynolds, EGAN Simulation Center Director; Elizabeth Denby-Callahan, EGAN Simulation Instructor; and modern language students Rebecca Vives, Zaira Ramirez and Karen Maizincho.

Faculty interested in pursuing use of the lab for their coursework can contact Bartos (sbartos@fairfield.edu) or Hernandez (ihernandez@fairfield.edu). Keep your eye out for an informational brown bag in the fall to learn more about using the simulation lab in your course.