GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning
Digital Learning | Teaching Excellence

From Our Director

Greetings, Friends,

Winter break is so close: Can you feel it starting to warm your toes and call you to your comfy chair? As you put the finishing efforts into your December tasks, your Stearns Center team offers our **congratulations** on all that you've accomplished with your Fall 2023 semester!

Before you head out, we hope you'll take at least a quick peek below -- or save a copy of this newsletter somewhere you can find it again -- to see some of the ways we'll be available in January and February to support you in your re-energized, renewed, and perhaps even revised spring teaching.

In January, you can "pay yourself first" by joining other faculty at events to get you started with good ideas and great conversations:

- Adjunct Faculty Success Workshops (open to all adjunct faculty), January 6 all day or drop-in
- Winter Faculty Writing Retreat, January 8-9
- Mason Core ARIT Academy (stipended), in person or online, January 8-9
- Our Workshops or Communities on Generative-AI, Inclusive Teaching, or Teacher Research (SoTL) Workshops

We are also taking applications now for **Spring Teaching Squares** and **LMS Faculty Mentors & Summer '24 Pilots**. (And we promise, we'll be working all spring to be ready to support all faculty as you prepare to migrate your courses to the new LMS starting in Fall 2024!)

Along with our partners (including the Office of the Provost, Faculty Affairs and Development, Writing Across the Curriculum, Mason Impact, OSCAR, CECiL, Mason Core, Graduate Education, GradLife, University Libraries, Classroom and Lab Technologies, and Information Technology Services) we wish you all the comforts you can find and hold over the winter break: joyful gatherings, peaceful evenings, special dishes, naps in the sunshine, ordinary conversations, favorite

books or music, and the pleasures of gifts both given and received.

Shelley

E Shelley Reid, Ph.D.
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Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning
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Events & Deadlines

Adjunct Faculty Success Workshop on January 6th

The office of Faculty Affairs & Development's Adjunct Faculty Success Workshop is on Saturday, January 6th for all new incoming adjunct faculty members. The workshop is designed to meet the unique needs and challenges that adjunct faculty face, to support transition to campus, and to develop practical strategies for success with students. The day's session will include a broad overview of working at Mason, introductions to important policies, and sessions to enhance teaching skills for online and in-person classes. The day-long workshop is on Zoom and is from 9:30am - 4:30pm. **Registration is required. Learn more about the workshop here**. The workshop is co-sponsored by the Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning and Human Resources and Payroll.

Apply for a Spring 2024 Inclusive Excellence in Teaching Mini-Grant from the Stearns Center!
- Final Consideration Deadline: Monday, January 10, 2024

We invite you to submit a proposal for our Spring 2024 Inclusive Excellence in Teaching Mini-Grant! These grants are intended to invest in expanding in-progress projects and aid in scaling-up student support and inclusive excellence in teaching efforts across campus to effectively increase local capacity for faculty learning, course- or curriculum-development, or pedagogy-related programming. Some examples of possible mini-grant projects include (but are not limited to) to following:

- Development of course modules or materials designed for adoption by multiple instructors teaching in a course or curricular area
- Pilot implementation and assessment of course modules or materials designed for multiple instructors teaching in a course or curricular area
- Design of faculty development/training curricula and materials to support a current course, course sequence, or curricular area
- Registration costs for an inclusive teaching-related event, local/regional/national, with a specific proposed local deliverable for the Mason program, department, school/college, or campus community
- Faculty+student learning community or affinity group regarding ARIT principles/issues, to build collaboration and resources that will support curriculum and pedagogy development for a course or area

For more information about mini-grant proposal requirements, deadlines, and the aims of mini-grants, please visit our webpage: https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/knowledge-center/student-engagement-classroom-managment/arit-programs/

Teaching Squares Updated for Spring 2024
Registration Deadline: Friday, February 9, 2024

What do other faculty actually *do* in their courses? How are they adapting to new opportunities, engaging their students, providing feedback, managing their time, and supporting long-term learning? If you joined a Teaching Square, you could find out!

Stearns Center Teaching Squares are a kind of professional "pot-luck dinner": a quick way to build your teaching network and learn strategies that will support your teaching. For Spring 2023, we will match interested faculty with a Square of colleagues from across the university (usually four people, but sometimes a little larger or smaller) and guide you through a quick four-part approach in February and March:

- Each Square meets once in February for introductions and planning
- Each member of the Square shares some element of a course they're currently teaching
- Each member provides reflective feedback to the others
- The whole Square meets in March for a conversation about what they've learned and how they can support one another further

New this spring: Teaching Square Focus Areas: We can match you with a group interested in discussing any of our key focus areas, such as **Generative-AI, Inclusive Teaching, or Exploring the New LMS**.

To indicate your interest for Spring 2024, or to find out more information, please complete our online form by Friday, February 9, 2024.

Faculty Mentors and Summer Course Pilots for the New LMS
Applications due January 10

Pending the imminent announcement of the new learning management system, the LMS Implementation Committee in collaboration with the Stearns Center is seeking 15-20 faculty members -- across all disciplines and faculty types -- to become LMS mentors starting Spring 2024. Faculty will receive advanced training in the new LMS platform (and a stipend) in return for their commitment to piloting at least one course in Summer or Fall 2024 and guiding colleagues in adopting the new LMS platform. Faculty who are available only to pilot (but not mentor) in Summer 2024 are also welcome to apply for that role. Please see full information here; to apply for either option, complete our online form by January 10, 2024.

Digital Learning

Wrapping Up Your Fall 2023 Online Course & Planning for Improvements

As you close out your online course in Fall 2023, please complete the administrative tasks found in the End of Semester Blackboard

Checklist.

You also already may be thinking ahead to when you'll be teaching online again, whether next semester or sometime in the future. Take some time to reflect on your online course design and online teaching, as part of process of continuous improvement. Each time you teach online is an opportunity to consider ways to improve the overall learning experience for your students. To guide your reflection, use our Online Quality Checklist to assess the quality of your online course. Based on your self-assessment, then consider which elements of your online course and teaching you might improve, enhance, or explore. Changes in your course don't necessarily need to involve BIG changes requiring a full course re-design. Try small meaningful changes for improvement every time you offer your course. Small changes can have a big impact on online student learning!

Please see the Stearns Center website for information about Online Course Quality and resources for Teaching Online.

Questions? Please contact Stearns Center Digital Learning Team at stearns@gmu.edu.

Faculty Development Workshops

January

Mason Core ARIT Academy

January 8, and January 9, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Hybrid | Facilitators: Laura Poms, Shelley Reid, and Rachel Yoho

In January, the Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning in collaboration with The Mason Core will be hosting a special two-day Anti-Racist and Inclusive Teaching Academy designed specifically to support faculty who are revising courses to meet new Mason Core outcomes–with particular focus on supporting faculty who are developing a course for the Just Societies flag. Helping students in Core courses explore questions of racism and other forms of discrimination, identify structural inequality and seek more just outcomes in each field and discipline, and converse with peers about difficult topics all pose challenges in both the design and implementation of a curriculum.

The workshop will have options to participate on-campus (strongly recommended) or live-remote via Zoom; like our Proposal Workshop, each day's activities will include a blend of information, guided individual work time, and collaboration and feedback from peers. We're offering a stipend for faculty (any status) who complete the two-day workshop. Coffee, snacks, and lunch will be provided for all on-campus participants. And as a special thank-you for being part of our early cohort, we will also hold a drawing for some giveaways, including books and gear to help with your teaching. Seats are limited, so please register early to reserve your space! **Register here**.

Faculty Writing Retreat and Panels (information forthcoming on the panels)

Monday, January 8 and Tuesday, January 9, 2024 | 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Hybrid | Facilitator: Partner event hosted by WAC and FA&D

This multi-day event—co-sponsored by Writing Across the Curriculum, the Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Office of Faculty Affairs and Development—offers an active approach to uninterrupted writing time, a chance to learn from our guest speakers, and a supportive and collegial community of peers to boost your writing productivity. All faculty are invited and are welcome to work on a variety of research and creative projects at all stages of completion. Register here.

Workshop: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence Inspired Pedagogies

January 8 – January 11, 2024 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Zoom | Facilitator: Laina Lockett

By now you've probably heard of ChatGPT or one of the other various new large language models (LLMs) that have taken the world by storm. But do you know how to deal with the ever-evolving artificial intelligence technology as it relates to your teaching? In this mini course you will be exposed to the basics of redesigning your course as it relates to learning outcomes and instructional activities. We will also explore how to get feedback from students regarding the changes that you make. (This is the same program as the Mini Course offered January 24-February 21.) **Register here**.

Workshop: Fostering Engagement and Belonging with Inclusive Classroom Techniques

January 10 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | via Zoom | CPD Level 1 Engage | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho *Formerly known as Anti-Racism and Inclusive Teaching: An Introduction to Developing More Inclusive Educationa Spaces

Are you ready to integrate inclusive teaching throughout your instructional spaces? Would you like to explore techniques and build tangible plans for your classes? This is where that journey begins. In this workshop, we will explore some of the definitions and terms often found in conversations about creating more inclusive classrooms. We will work together to advance our individual abilities in broadly inclusive teaching and learning to support all students. At the end of the workshop, we will have developed familiarity with concepts and terminology, explored deliberately inclusive classroom activities, and set one or two manageable goals for our classes. **Register here.**

Workshop: Preparing Your Course and Yourself for Difficult Classroom Discussions and Situations

January 10 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | via Zoom | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho *Formerly known as Important Conversations in the Classroom: Preparing Your Course and Yourself

Do you have strategies to prepare yourself and your students to handle difficult conversations? This could be when you are having difficult conversations about topics like race, sexuality, religion, politics, or similar. These situations also could result from a discussion comment that makes a student or group uncomfortable or might even be about grades. In this workshop, we will discuss how to design (or redesign) your course and prepare yourself to facilitate important or "hot topic" conversations in the classroom. Background information on how to design the course and prepare for facilitating important conversations in the classroom will be provided. This workshop is applicable to instructors across all

disciplines for facilitating important conversations, whether or not their designed course topics include socially pressing issues. This workshop is part of a two-part series for Mason faculty to engage in anti-racist and inclusive education across all disciplines. **Register here**.

Workshop: (Re-)Designing Syllabi for Inclusive Classrooms that Support Learners and Instructors

January 11 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | via Zoom | CPD Level 1 Design | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho *Formerly known as Syllabi That Support Learners and Instructors: Designing and Redesigning Syllabi for Inclusive Classrooms

Are you ready to align your courses with university commitments to inclusive teaching? Or are you developing a new course or submitting an existing one for the new university-wide tags (like Mason Core)? In this workshop, we will work to advance our understanding of inclusive course design and how to improve syllabi to be more inclusive for everyone in the space (including instructors!). During the session, we will have specific discussion time to focus on connecting these ideas with your course and your discipline. At the end of the workshop, participants will leave with a greater understanding of the potential considerations for designing and redesigning inclusive course syllabi and aligning with broader institutional initiatives and expectations. **Register here**.

Workshop: How to Handle Difficult Classroom Discussions and Situations in the Moment

January 11 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. | via Zoom | | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho *Formerly known as Important Conversations in the Classroom: Handling Situations in the Moment

Are you prepared to handle difficult discussions and charged situations in the classroom in the moment? Do you usually think of things later that you wish you would have said or done? In this workshop, we will prepare and practice how to handle important and potentially tense classroom conversations in the moment. Our focus will be on how to support everyone in the classroom – including yourself – during tense times. We will discuss and practice several teaching approaches. This workshop is applicable to instructors across all disciplines for facilitating important conversations, whether or not their designed course topics include socially pressing issues (like race, gender, religion, politics). Please note, this is the second in a two-part workshop series on important conversations. However, participants are welcome and encouraged to attend this session even if they were not able to attend part one. **Register here**.

Workshop: | Introduction to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)

January 12 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | via Zoom | Facilitator: Breana Bayraktar

You tried a new pedagogical approach or curricular innovation and it seemed to work! If you had studied the impact of that teaching change on your students' learning, you would have been engaging in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), which invites you to examine your classroom practices systematically, improve your teaching based on your findings, and then share your findings with others. In this introduction to SoTL, you will reflect on how and why you might want to design and implement a SoTL project in your class, and explore SoTL practices, methods and tools to help you get started. Attendees will be eligible for a drawing to win a copy of Nancy Chick's Book, SoTL in Action. **Register here**.

Workshop: | SoTL Project Planning Workshop

January 12 | 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | via Zoom | Facilitator: Breana Bayraktar

Already have a SoTL project idea? Join us for a 90-minute virtual working session to plan your SoTL study and draft an IRB application for your research! Following a brief review of SoTL project components, attendees will brainstorm potential research questions and methods, draft plans for collecting and analyzing data, consider challenges of human subjects research, and use an IRB application template to develop application materials. Attendees will be eligible for a drawing to win a copy of Nancy Chick's Book, SoTL in Action. **Register here**.

Workshop: Successfully (Re-)Designing and Proposing a Mason Core Course

January 23 | 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | via Zoom | Facilitators: Rachel Yoho, Shelley Reid, and Laura Poms *Formerly known as Course Proposal Workshop

Mason Core Committee is seeking course proposals for courses in the revised Global Contexts category and the new Just Societies flag. Courses planning to run in the inaugural Fall 2024 semester will need approval by Fall 2023, so it's not too early to start! Faculty interested in proposing a course for QEP-Community Engaged Learning status are also welcome!

Join us for a review of the new learning outcomes, a guide to the proposal process, and the opportunity to compose a first draft of your proposal and get some early feedback. Come on your own or bring colleagues who will help design or teach the course. And watch for announcements about upcoming course design and student engagement workshops, especially to support JS courses.

See more about Mason Core courses or contact Mason Core for more information (masoncor@gmu.edu). **Register here**.

Workshop: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence Inspired Pedagogies

January 24 – February 21, 2024 (weekly) | 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Zoom | Facilitator: Laina Lockett

By now you've probably heard of ChatGPT or one of the other various new large language models (LLMs) that have taken the world by storm. But do you know how to deal with the ever-evolving artificial intelligence technology as it relates to your teaching? In this mini course you will be exposed to the basics of redesigning your course as it relates to learning outcomes and instructional activities. We will also explore how to get feedback from students regarding the changes that you make. (This is the same program as the Mini Course offered the week of January 8th.) **Register here**.

Workshop: Teaching the Enriched Writing Intensive (WI) Course

January 24 | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Zoom | CPD Level 1 Assess | Facilitator: Tim Lilley

Are you new to teaching a WI course or want a refresher on some of the basics? This workshop will focus on writing-intensive course design and help faculty prepare for the WI enhancements process. Join us to learn more about the new learning outcomes and begin drafting of your course materials with the support of WAC staff. **Register here**.

Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Primer

Wednesdays, January 31-March 13 (weekly) | 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Zoom | Facilitator: Tim Lilley   *Formerly known as FLC

The WAC Primer is designed to help faculty learn foundational approaches for teaching with writing and align learning tasks with their course's communications focused learning outcomes, such as the new Writing-intensive course outcomes. The Primer is an excellent opportunity to reflect on your writing course design, meet and exchanges ideas with colleagues across campus, and prepare materials for the semester or WI Enhancements process. The Primer begins with an introduction to teaching with writing across disciplines and writing course design. The following sessions focus on the WI learning outcomes, supporting intentional writing-learning, and preparing course materials. By the end of the Primer, participants will have a scaffolded sequence of writing tasks to support the learning outcomes chosen for their course and a draft of WI course materials. Register here.

February

Workshop: Successfully (Re-)Designing and Proposing a Mason Core Course

February 2 | 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Zoom | Facilitators: Rachel Yoho, Shelley Reid, and Laura Poms *Formerly known as Course Proposal Workshop

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Join us for a review of the new learning outcomes, a guide to the proposal process, and the opportunity to compose a first draft of your proposal and get some early feedback. Come on your own or bring colleagues who will help design or teach the course. And watch for announcements about upcoming course design and student engagement workshops, especially to support JS courses. See more about Mason Core courses or contact Mason Core for more information (masoncor@gmu.edu). **Register here**.

Workshop: Preparing Your Course and Yourself for Difficult Classroom Discussions and Situations

February 5 | 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Zoom | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho *Formerly known as Important Conversations in the Classroom: Preparing Your Course and Yourself

Do you have strategies to prepare yourself and your students to handle difficult conversations? This could be when you are having difficult conversations about topics like race, sexuality, religion, politics, or similar. These situations also could result from a discussion comment that makes a student or group uncomfortable or might even be about grades. In this workshop, we will discuss how to design (or redesign) your course and prepare yourself to facilitate important or "hot topic" conversations in the classroom. Background information on how to design the

course and prepare for facilitating important conversations in the classroom will be provided. This workshop is applicable to instructors across all disciplines for facilitating important conversations, whether or not their designed course topics include socially pressing issues. This workshop is part of a two-part series for Mason faculty to engage in anti-racist and inclusive education across all disciplines. **Register here**.

Workshop: Relate to the Real World: How to Make Your Assignments Relevant

February 6 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | CPD Level 1 DEA | Zoom | Facilitator: Crystal Anderson

Do you want to create hands-on assignments that have relevance to students' lives? Would you like to increase student motivation and performance on your assignments? In this workshop, you will learn how to use the Transparency in Learning & Teaching (TILT) framework, a set of strategies that have been shown to boost academic confidence, sense of belonging and skills valued in the workplace for all students, particularly underserved students. This workshop counts for all CPD Level 1 categories (Design, Engage, Assess). **Register here.**

Workshop: Surviving to Thriving: Incorporating Trauma-Informed Instructional Practices

Tuesday, February 6 | 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Zoom | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho

Whether individual or collective, trauma can have a significant impact on lives and how students (and instructors) show up and are able to engage in the classroom. In this workshop, we will explore the concept of trauma and how it applies to the classroom, recognize a few common trauma responses, investigate several educational best practices, expand our thinking with resilient pedagogy, and begin to apply these concepts to our own teaching. Together we will move beyond minimum legal requirements or accommodations to design and implement evidence-based instructional strategies in university education. Register here.

Workshop: Reading as Active Learning in STEM

Thursday, February 8 | 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. | Zoom | | CPD Level 1 Design | Facilitator: Laina Lockett

 How many times have you asked your class a question only to realize that only a few (or maybe none) of your students have done the assigned reading? Working with students who are not prepared for class is a common frustration among STEM faculty especially since there is often a large amount of material to cover in any given course. In this workshop, you will learn how to turn reading assignments into opportunities for active learning. We will discuss some of the research on how students learn from reading, how to teach your students to get more out of reading, as well as how to design more engaging reading prompts, guides and classroom activities. The small changes discussed in this workshop can have large and long-lasting impacts for your students, so be sure to join the session! Register here.

Workshop: Fostering Engagement and Belonging with Inclusive Classroom Techniques

February 9 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Zoom | CPD Level 1 Engage | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho
*Formerly known as Anti-Racism and Inclusive Teaching: An Introduction to Developing More Inclusive Educational Spaces

Are you ready to integrate inclusive teaching throughout your instructional spaces? Would you like to explore techniques and build tangible plans for your classes? This is where that journey begins. In this workshop, we will explore some of the definitions and terms often found in conversations about creating more inclusive classrooms. We will work together to advance our individual abilities in broadly inclusive teaching and learning to support all students. At the end of the workshop, we will have developed familiarity with concepts and terminology, explored deliberately inclusive classroom activities, and set one or two manageable goals for our classes. **Register here**.

Workshop: Writing to Learn: Informal, Exploratory Writing

February 9 | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Zoom | CPD Level 1 Engage | Facilitator: Tim Lilley

This workshop will help faculty implement both low and high stakes writing assignments into the curriculum of content-intensive courses. Faculty will learn tools and strategies for designing student writing. Emphasis will be placed on assignments that use writing as a tool for thinking and learning.

Generally, writing-to-learn activities are short, impromptu or otherwise informal writing tasks that help students think through key concepts or ideas presented in a course. Often, these writing tasks are limited to less than five minutes of class time or are assigned as brief, out-of-class assignments.

Writing-to-learn activities can happen frequently or infrequently in your class; some can extend over the entire semester; some can be extended to include a wide variety of writing tasks in different formats and to different audiences. **Register here**.

Workshop: How to Handle Difficult Classroom Discussions and Situations in the Moment

February 12 | 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Zoom | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho *Formerly known as Important Conversations in the Classroom: Handling Situations in the Moment

Are you prepared to handle difficult discussions and charged situations in the classroom in the moment? Do you usually think of things later that you wish you would have said or done? In this workshop, we will prepare and practice how to handle important and potentially tense classroom conversations in the moment. Our focus will be on how to support everyone in the classroom – including yourself – during tense times. We will discuss and practice several teaching approaches. This workshop is applicable to instructors across all disciplines for facilitating important conversations, whether or not their designed course topics include socially pressing issues (like race, gender, religion, politics). Please note, this is the second in a two-part workshop series on important conversations. However, participants are welcome and encouraged to attend this session even if they were not able to attend part one. **Register here**.

Workshop: Supporting Student Learning through Self-Awareness and Reflection to Navigate a Complex, Global Society

February 13 | 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Zoom | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho *Formerly known as Exploring Positionality and Intersectionality in the Mason Core Context

Are you interested in incorporating techniques to help students develop their own self-awareness and navigate a complex, global society in your field, discipline, and course? Or are you (re-)developing a course for one of the new Mason Core designations of Just Societies or Global Contexts? This workshop is designed to support your teaching around helping students develop their self-awareness, particularly related to your discipline. This workshop includes the concepts of positionality and intersectionality broadly, but particularly for the new Core areas. At the end of the workshop, we will have explored the concepts and applied them to potential activities and assignments in our courses. **Register here**.

Workshop: Successfully (Re-)Designing and Proposing a Mason Core Course

February 20 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Zoom | Facilitators: Rachel Yoho, Shelley Reid, Laura Poms *Formerly known as Course Proposal Workshop

Mason Core Committee is seeking course proposals for courses in the revised Global Contexts category and the new Just Societies flag. Courses planning to run in the inaugural Fall 2024 semester will need approval by Fall 2023, so it's not too early to start! Faculty interested in proposing a course for QEP-Community Engaged Learning status are also welcome!

Join us for a review of the new learning outcomes, a guide to the proposal process, and the opportunity to compose a first draft of your proposal and get some early feedback. Come on your own or bring colleagues who will help design or teach the course. And watch for announcements about upcoming course design and student engagement workshops, especially to support JS courses. **Register here**.

Workshop: Fundamentals of Effective Teaching

February 22 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Zoom | CPD Level 1 Required | Facilitator: Crystal Anderson

Do you want to be an effective teacher? Do you want to know how to measure your teaching effectiveness? In this workshop, you will learn about elements of effective teaching, including engagement, multiple modalities, inclusive teaching and assignment design. You will also learn how to set achievable teaching goals and measure them. This workshop is required for the Level 1 Teaching Essentials Credential for the Continuing Professional Development Program. R**egister here**.

Workshop: Providing Feedback to Support Student Revision

Friday, February 23 | 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Zoom | CPD Level 1 Assess| Facilitator: Tim Lilley

Want to develop a more sustainable plan for providing feedback? This workshop will help faculty increase student engagement with and the impact of their feedback. Participants will first learn more about how students revise before exploring some strategies for providing feedback to support more substantive student revision. The workshop will close by offering faculty some time to implement one of the strategies into their courses. Register here.

Workshop: Intermediate Artificial Intelligence Inspired Pedagogies

February 29 – April 25, 2024 (bi-weekly) | 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Zoom | Facilitator: Laina Lockett

If you have completed the Introduction to Artificial Intelligence Inspired Pedagogies mini-course and are interested in exploring additional topics as you redesign your course, this is the session for you! In this second seminar you will continue to build on the material covered in the introductory course. Topics will include policies surrounding academic integrity, universal design, anti-racist teaching as they relate to access and use of artificial intelligence. Additionally, assessment, ways to use AI as a teaching tool and how to turn your course redesign into scholarship will be covered.
*Please note that it is strongly recommended that participants successfully complete the introductory mini-course before enrolling in this program. **Register here**.

From Our Partners

SCHEV and VEDC

Virginia Higher Education Faculty Learning Communities
Register by February 1, 2024

SCHEV is partnering with the Virginia Educational Development Collaborative to offer several state-wide faculty learning communities (FLCs) in Spring 2024. Faculty across Virginia are invited to join FLCs focusing on *Integrating Dialogue into Classroom Teaching, AI and Teaching, and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*. The Spring 2024 FLCs will run for one semester, starting the week of February 12, on a schedule determined by the members. See more information and register here by February 1, 2024.

Office of Faculty Affairs & Development

Adjunct Faculty Success Workshop on January 6th

The office of Faculty Affairs & Development's Adjunct Faculty Success Workshop is on Saturday, January 6th for all new incoming adjunct faculty members. The workshop is designed to meet the unique needs and challenges that adjunct faculty face, to support transition to campus, and to develop practical strategies for success with students. The day's session will include a broad overview of working at Mason, introductions to important policies, and sessions to enhance teaching skills for online and in-person classes. The day-long workshop is on Zoom and is from 9:30am - 4:30pm. **Registration is required. Learn more about the workshop here**. The workshop is co-sponsored by the Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning and Human Resources and Payroll.

Opportunity to Join an Affinity Group

As part of Mason's commitment to inclusive excellence, the Office of Faculty Affairs and Development supports several affinity groups. These groups provide our diverse faculty, doctoral students, and staff with a sense of community, inclusion , and belonging. The affinity groups facilitate connections and professional partnerships and champion strategic efforts to support the success of their members. The affinity groups are open to all faculty (tenured, tenure-track, term, adjunct, administrative, and professional), doctoral students, and staff. **Learn more about Affinity Groups here**. To join these groups, please contact **Ms. Amy Ayres** or **Dr. Millie Rivera** and we will send you the links for the meetings and add you to the listserv (if you so desire).

- **AAPI—Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander Affinity Group**
- **BLIM—Black, Latine, Indigenous, Multiracial Faculty**
- **First-Gen Affinity Group**
- **SPARK—Scholars Promoting Access, Representation, and Knowledge**
- **Juntos—Mason Hispanic/Latine Alliance**
- **Disability & Neurodivergence Alliance (DNA)**

Save the Date: Faculty Writing Retreat
January 8 and 9, 2024 | Online with limited on-campus availability | Registration required

The retreat offers a supportive and collegial community of peers to boost your writing productivity. Participants work on a variety of research, creative, and scholarly projects at all stages of completion. **For more information, click here**.

SPARK
(Scholars Promoting Access, Representation, and Knowledge)

SPARK provides a welcoming and safe space for students who don't always feel reflected or supported on campus or have faced or experienced social, economic, and historical challenges. The mission of the group is to bring doctoral and MFA students together and promote a sense of community through resource and information sharing and access to mentorship and networks that positively impact educational and career outcomes. If you face or have experienced marginalization, this group welcomes you!

Fall 2023 Meetings

- **September 13 at 3 p.m.** Zoom Hearth Gathering: Building Community Amongst Emerging Scholars
- **October 13 at 3 p.m.** Ascending Voices: A Conversation Between Diverse Faculty and Emerging Scholars
- **November 13 at 3 p.m.** Celebrating Diverse Identities: Emerging Scholars sharing their experiences at Mason

Please visit https://provost.gmu.edu/inclusive-excellence/affinity-groups for more information. Contact Ms. Amy Ayres or Dr. Millie Rivera for the meetings' links or to be added to the SPARK listserv.

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SPARK provides a welcoming and safe space for students who don't always feel reflected or supported on campus or have faced or experienced social, economic, and historical challenges. The mission of the group is to bring doctoral and MFA students together and promote a sense of community through resource and information sharing and access to mentorship and networks that positively impact educational and career outcomes. If you face or have experienced marginalization, this group welcomes you!

Contact Ms. Amy Ayres or Dr. Millie Rivera for the meetings' links or to be added to the SPARK listserv.

OSCAR

Fall Celebration

This fall the OSCAR Celebration of Student Scholarship and Impact is once again a video showcase. Videos will be available from December 5-8, 2023. Please surf by and watch videos and make comments or ask questions. Single sign on with Mason Credentials allows you

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research

Presents

The OSCAR Celebration of Student Scholarship and Impact

2023 Fall Video Showcase
December 5 - 8, 2023 (virtual)

2024 Spring Video Showcase
April 29 - May 3, 2024 (virtual)

2024 OSCAR Expo
April 29, 2024 | 12:30 - 3:30pm

Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center
(Ground Floor)

celebration.oscar.gmu.edu

MASON IMPACT Any questions please contact
oscar@gmu.edu

comment. Anybody can watch the videos.

Please help us celebrate our students' accomplishments. Spread the word! https://celebration.oscar.gmu.edu/ "

Research Assistant Positions

OSCAR is expanding opportunities for students to learn research, creative, or scholarly methods in their field and giving faculty free support on their projects at the same time. **Learn how you can hire a research assistant.**

Undergraduate Student Travel Fund

The Undergraduate Student Travel Fund (USTF) supports research and scholarly related travel for undergraduates who are presenting their projects via poster, talk, screening, round table, performance, etc. USTF can support costs associated with presentations at virtual conferences. Students must apply 30 days before the start of the event. Learn more here.

CECiL

The Office of Community Engagement and Civic Learning (CECiL) in collaboration with the Stearns Center is happy to announce faculty development opportunities for the year!

Course Proposal Workshops:

Course Proposal Workshops are opportunities to work with CECiL Staff members to enhance civic and community outcomes within your course(s). These workshops are intended to help faculty with existing CBL courses or courses with Civic Outcomes. Faculty will learn about current best practices and how to apply for a Mason Impact course designation. Faculty will receive a participation letter for their portfolio when their course has the Mason Impact designation.

CECiL Faculty Development 2023-2024

COURSE PROPOSAL WORKSHOPS - *Opportunities to work with CECiL Staff members to enhance civic and community outcomes within your course(s). These workshops are intended to help faculty with existing CBL or courses with Civic Outcomes. Faculty will learn about current best practices and how to apply for a Mason Impact course designation. Faculty will receive a participation letter for their portfolio when their course has the Mason Impact designation.*

OCT 23	1 - 2:30 PM via Zoom	FEB 7	3 - 4:30 PM via Zoom
NOV 14	3 - 4:30 PM via Zoom	MAR 5	1 - 2:30 PM via Zoom
NOV 29	12 - 1:30 PM via Zoom	MAY 21	9 -10:30 AM via Zoom
JAN 12	10 -11:30 AM via Zoom	MAY 23	12 - 1:30 PM via Zoom

COURSE DEVELOPMENT COHORTS - *In these meetings, faculty members will work with CECiL and Stearns Center staff members to develop a community based learning (CBL) course. Faculty will learn about CBL best practices, how to find and work with community partners, course design strategies and have time to develop learning outcomes. Meetings will either be 2 half days or 1 full day. Eligible faculty will receive a stipend of $250 and a participation letter for their portfolio after program completion.*

COHORT #1	JANUARY 10 - 9 AM - 3:30 PM
COHORT #2	JANUARY 11 - 9 AM - 3:30 PM via Zoom
COHORT #3	DAY 1: Feb 23 - 9AM - 12:30PM via Zoom DAY 2: Mar 1 - 9AM - 12:30PM in person
COHORT #4	MAY 16 - 9 AM - 3:30 PM
COHORT #5	JUNE 7 - 9 AM - 3:30 PM

Learn more about these programs and CECiL faculty development at cecil.gmu.edu

Course Development Cohort:

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Visit the CECiL website to learn more and register for a development opportunity!

Share something for next month's newsletter

Add someone to our mailing list