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**Stearns Center
for Teaching and Learning**
Digital Learning | Teaching Excellence

From Our Director

Greetings, Friends,

I think of April in academia as a month of contrasts. The outside weather can change suddenly, and I find that's also true of my own "inside weather," especially regarding teaching. Some students are blooming, predictably or surprisingly, while others struggle beneath accumulated stressors, and it's not always clear how I can focus my own efforts to support them in either case. My joy at the end-of-year celebrations and recognitions of colleagues and students has to share mental space with my dismay at the state of my own teaching to-do list; I'm also trying to wrap up a semester with grace and impact (or at least most of the grading done), while already making plans for all of my next opportunities.

If any of that sounds familiar, I hope you'll see yourself in good company, and not just mine—I can tell you that all of the honorees in our upcoming **Celebration of Teaching Excellence** have told us similar stories of struggle and self-doubt mixed in with days of sunny weather and optimism.

I hope you will consider joining us, Monday April 17, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Dewberry Hall. You don't have to personally know an award winner: this is our day to celebrate you as well, and to celebrate the challenging, engaging, unforecastable profession of teaching. We'd love to share with you a little teaching cheer, the company of a roomful of engaged teachers, and some mid-afternoon music, snacks, and drinks. Whatever the outside weather, the teaching weather at the Celebration is always sunny, breezy, and just the right temperature!

Depending on your personal weather, Stearns Center would like to support your work this spring and your planning for next fall. We think there are opportunities for rejuvenation and restoration in connecting with colleagues who share your values and goals.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Writing Across the Curriculum

1. [Linguistic diversity and WAC in the classroom](#)
2. [Summer Writing Retreat](#)

From Our Partners

Faculty Affairs

1. [Join an Affinity Group](#)

University Libraries

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OSCAR

1. [OSCAR Excellence Awards](#)
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3. [Research Assistant Positions](#)
4. [Undergraduate Student Travel Fund](#)

Undergraduate Education

1. [Curriculum Impact Grants](#)

Connect with your faculty peers

- **April 12:** join one of our new discussions on preparing a classroom-research (SoTL) project or design a writing intensive course.
- **May 15-17:** kick off your summer writing projects in-person or online at the Writing Retreat!

Propose: On April 24 & May 9, join one of our Mason Core Course Proposal Workshops, with specific support for new/revised Global Contexts and Just Societies courses

Plan: Consider opportunities for further learning:

- **April 17: Course ReDesign Academy** applications due for June 6-7 meetings (stipended)
- **April 28: AY24 ARIE Grants** applications due (Curriculum or Course Impact Grants, or Faculty Capacity Building Grants)
- **June 9-10: Mason Core ARIT Academy:** Save the date for our two-day, stipended Anti-Racist and Inclusive Teaching Academy (with specific support for new Mason Core JS classes)
- **June 8-18: Join our new “Active Learning Classroom Bootcamp”** (hybrid) to prepare for summer or fall teaching that blends pedagogical strategies to engage students

See more details and registration links below or on our [Events Calendar](#).

Along with our partners (including the Office of the Provost, Faculty Affairs and Development, Writing Across the Curriculum, Undergraduate Education/Mason Impact/OSCAR/CECiL, Graduate Education, GradLife, University Libraries, and Information Technology Services) we celebrate all of your teaching accomplishments, sympathize with your cloudy days, and hope you give yourself grace and recognition even—perhaps especially—for the small sunny moments that nobody knows about but you. And if you can find time to schedule yourself for a quiet coffee with a friend, a walk in the sunshine, or a refreshing nap, we fervently hope you will: you deserve it.

Shelley

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Events & Deadlines



2023 Celebration of Teaching Excellence

Monday April 17, 2023 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm |
Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall

All members of the Mason community are invited to join us for our formal awards ceremony (1:00-2:00) with remarks from Provost Mark Ginsberg, and to stay for delightful treats, drinks, music, and conversation at our reception to follow after the program!

See our [website](#) for more information about our University Teaching Excellence Award honorees.

TEA Winners:

Sanja Avramovic, Health Administration and Policy, CPH
Carrie Bonilla, Modern and Classical Languages, CHSS
David Lattanzi, Mechanical Engineering, CEC
Shayna Maskell, School of Integrative Studies, CHSS
Alison Melley, Psychology, CHSS

Adjunct TEA Winners

Larry Guerin, Criminology, Law, and Society, CHSS, and Accounting, BUS
Maoria Kirker, Honors College and University Libraries
Victor Provost, Music, CVPA

Online TEA Winners

Gregory Grimsby, Game Design, CVPA
April Mattix Foster, TCLDEL and International Education, CEHD
Aoi Yamanaka, School of Integrative Studies, CHSS

Teachers of Distinction

Joseph DiPietro (ATEA), Educational Instructional Technology, CEHD
John Cantiello (OTEA), Health Administration and Policy, CPH
Carlos Chism (OTEA), English, CHSS
Ariel M. Goldenthal (OTEA), English, CHSS
Cindy Parker (OTEA), Management, BUS
Catherine M. Wright (OTEA), Communication, CHSS

Congratulations also to these colleagues who will be recognized at the April 17 Celebration:

Kimberley Edwards: Distinguished Library Faculty Award

Maoria Kirker: Distinguished Library Faculty Award

Still To Be Announced: David J. King Award Winner

ARIE Inclusive Curriculum and Pedagogy Grants

Apply by April 28, 2023

Stearns Center is again partnering with the Anti-Racist and Inclusive Excellence Task Force (ARIE) to support faculty who are developing materials for their own and their colleagues' use of pedagogical strategies designed to include and uplift all of Mason's diverse students. See [our website](#) for information about applying for **Faculty Capacity Building** projects and also for **Course/Curriculum Impact** projects for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The call for proposals is available [on the Stearns Center website](#).

Please reach out to stearns@gmu.edu or Rachel Yoho (ryoho@gmu.edu) with any questions.

Strategies for Implementing SETs this spring

The Effective Teaching Committee of the GMU Faculty Senate is providing recommendations for faculty to successfully implement the new evaluations. [See our website](#) for more information, or contact Tom Wood, chair of the ETC, with questions (twood@gmu.edu).

Summer Course ReDesign Academy, June 6-7, 2023: April 17 application deadline

Are you already dreaming about your Fall 2023 courses? Maybe you're looking ahead to teaching in an active learning classroom, or thinking about how to combine online and in-person modalities in a productive blend? Consider bringing a current course syllabus—or a plan for a new course—to June's Course ReDesign Academy. For more information or to submit an application, [see our website](#).

SoTL Turn your teaching into research with Stearns Center!

The Stearns Center is excited to offer a cohort opportunity designed to support faculty, staff, and graduate students in developing and carrying out a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning project. View the slides from our [January Intro to SoTL workshop](#) here.

Opportunities this spring will include:

- **April 12:** Q&A session with Mason's IRB to help you think about proposing human subjects research

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

finalize your project plan and IRB application.

For more information, please respond to this short [survey](#). Questions? Email Breana Bayraktar, bbayrakt@gmu.edu .

Faculty Development Workshops

Discussion: Scholarship of Teaching & Learning - Conducting Human Subjects Research

April 12 | 12-1 pm | Zoom | Workshop: Motivating Students in STEM Courses |SoTL | Facilitator: Breana Bayraktar and Sophia Abbot | [Register here](#)

Workshop: Intentional Design Practices for Writing-intensive Courses

April 12 | 12-1:30pm | Zoom | WAC | Facilitator: Thomas Polk | [Register here](#)

Workshop: Syllabi That Support Learners and Instructors: Designing and Redesigning Syllabi for Inclusive Classrooms

April 14 | 1-2pm | Zoom | CPD Level 1 Design | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho | [Register here](#)

Course Proposal Workshop

April 24 | 12pm-2pm | Zoom | Facilitators: Laura Poms, Shelley Reid, Rachel Yoho
Facilitators: Laura Poms, Shelley Reid, Rachel Yoho | See more about [Mason Core courses](#) or contact Mason Core for more information (masoncor@gmu.edu). [Register here](#).

Course Proposal Workshop

May 9 | 12pm-2pm | Zoom | Facilitators: Laura Poms, Shelley Reid, Rachel Yoho | See more about [Mason Core courses](#) or contact Mason Core for more information (masoncor@gmu.edu). [Register here](#).

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Project Planning Workshop

May 31 | 12-3pm | Zoom & In-person option | Facilitators: Breana Bayraktar, Sophia

Join us for a 3-hour virtual working session to plan an AY 2023-2024 SoTL study and draft an IRB application for your research! Following a brief introduction to SoTL and review of IRB expectations, attendees will brainstorm potential research questions and methods, draft plans, get feedback from fellow participants, and potentially find collaborators interested in the same topic. Participants are strongly encouraged to come with a partner or team (faculty and instructors, graduate students, and/or undergraduate students) to collaborate with on their study, but faculty may also come as solo scholars looking for individual support or to meet possible research collaborators. Register here.

Mason Core ARIT Academy

June 9-10, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Mason Core ARIT Academy
In-person and/or On Zoom | For more information, see our [website](#).

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. Participants will receive a \$560 stipend for the Academy. For more information, see our website. Space is limited: [register here](#).

Active Learning Classroom Bootcamp

June 8-18 | Active Learning Classroom Bootcamp | Hybrid: Blackboard + Zoom + Horizon Hall Classroom Training | Facilitator: Crystal Anderson

Will you be teaching in Horizon Hall or another Active Learning Classroom soon? Have you taught in Horizon Hall, but want to use the features of its classrooms more effectively? Join us for this short-term faculty development opportunity that includes a face-to-face session, several online modules and a Zoom workshopping session. By the end of the bootcamp, you will have an activity plan for a week of instruction ready to implement in your course and earn the CPD Level 2 Teaching Competencies Credential. See the bootcamp schedule and [register here](#).

Online Teaching Opportunities and Resources



ONLINE TEACHING COACHING NEWSLETTER

Want to Enhance Your Online Teaching? Subscribe to our Online Teaching Newsletter!

Enhance your online teaching with tips from our Online Teaching Coaching Newsletter!

This Spring we are focusing on **Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI)**, and how you may incorporate RSI in your online courses. Learn more by subscribing to the Online Teaching Newsletter at: <https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/subscribe-to-our-online-teaching-newsletter/>

You also may view past issues of our Online Teaching Newsletter archived here (by year): <https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/knowledge-center/from-our-newsroom/>

QUALITY

Do Your Online Course Design and Online Teaching Show Quality?

To check quality elements of your online course design and teaching, please make use of our Stearns Center resources for [Online Quality!](#)

Our resources for online quality include:

- **Faculty Self-Checklist**: An inventory of quality standards you may use to review your online course and teaching;
- **Online Course Quality: Essential Elements**: infographic which highlights the “must-have” essentials for your online course and teaching.

For your questions regarding Online Quality Assurance, please contact Stearns Center Digital Learning’s Quality Assurance Team at: gateam@gmu.edu.

New projects from WAC on linguistic diversity and WAC in the classroom!

Want to learn more about the writing experiences of Mason multilingual students? Check out our [blog series on linguistic super diversity](#) at Mason.

We also invite faculty looking to learn more about teaching with writing to view our [video series on WAC in classroom](#).

Both of these projects and a [new profile of Writing-intensive faculty](#) using role playing to support their students' writing development can be found on our [program blog](#).

Summer Writing Retreat: registration is now open!

Hoping to start the summer with some new writing momentum? Sign up for the Summer Faculty Writing Retreat running May 15-17 with space for both in-person and online attendance. This two-and-a-half day event 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. Participants work on a variety of research and creative projects at all stages of completion.

[Register here](#). To learn more, [visit our website](#) or email questions to retreat facilitators at wac@gmu.edu.

Friday Faculty Writing Sprints

Starting January 27 | MS Teams | Every Friday 9:00-11:00am

Our Faculty Writing Sprints are underway, and all faculty invited to participate. Every Friday morning, you can join colleagues from across campus to build some community around your writing and to set the pace for a productive academic year. After a few minutes of check-ins and goal-setting, we spend our time quietly working together.

To participate in the sprints, register here for updates and reminders, then simply connect to our [Faculty Writers Community workspace](#) in MS Teams (make sure to sign in with your Mason credentials) and look for the meeting in the General channel.

Questions? Visit our [website](#) or email us at wac@gmu.edu.

From Our Partners

Office of Faculty Affairs & Development

Next Faculty Matters Workshop Series on April 20th

The Faculty Matters Workshop Series is designed to address key issues central to faculty development and success. This yearlong series is a collaboration between Faculty Affairs and Research Development Service. The next workshop in the series is called *Planning for a Productive Summer*. The workshop is for faculty who are struggling to be productive in the summer with writing, research, and scholarship. This Zoom workshop is on April 20th, from 1:30-3:00pm. [Registration is required.](#)

Opportunity to Join an Affinity Group

As part of Mason's commitment to inclusive excellence, the Office of Faculty Affairs and Development supports faculty and doctoral students' affinity groups. These groups provide our diverse faculty and doctoral students with a sense of community, inclusion and belonging. The groups also serve as safe spaces for discussion of issues that impact the success and well-being of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Multiracial, Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islanders and First-Generation faculty members and historically underserved doctoral students. [Learn more about Affinity Groups here.](#)

AAPI—Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander Faculty

April 18, 12 noon - K-Pop and Cultural Influences (Guest: Dr. Crystal Anderson) For the Zoom link to join the meeting, contact [Ms. Amy Ayres](#) or [Dr. Millie Rivera](#)

Aging Parents Employee Support Group

The group will meet monthly over Zoom on Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. If you are interested in joining or have questions, please contact Laura Winkler at lwinkler@gmu.edu.

Black Male Faculty and Staff Group

For the meeting schedule, to be included on the listserv and the Microsoft Teams Group, or if you have any questions, please contact Philip Wilkerson at pwilkers@gmu.edu.

BLIM—Black, Latine, Indigenous, Multiracial Faculty

April 11 at noon - Theme: Celebrating our Diversity—Bring your own Culture. (For the Zoom link to join the meeting, contact [Ms. Amy Ayres](#) or [Dr. Millie Rivera](#))

Juntos—Mason Hispanic/Latine Alliance

Pan-American Day (Cultural Lunch)*- April 14 from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Fairfax Campus (JC Bistro)

*This will be a potluck lunch, representing the many Hispanic cultures of the Americas. Attendees are encouraged to wear cultural clothing. A sign-up list for the various

LGBTQ+ Faculty/Staff Alliance

Please visit the [LGBTQ+ Faculty/Staff Alliance webpage](#) to learn more and become a member.

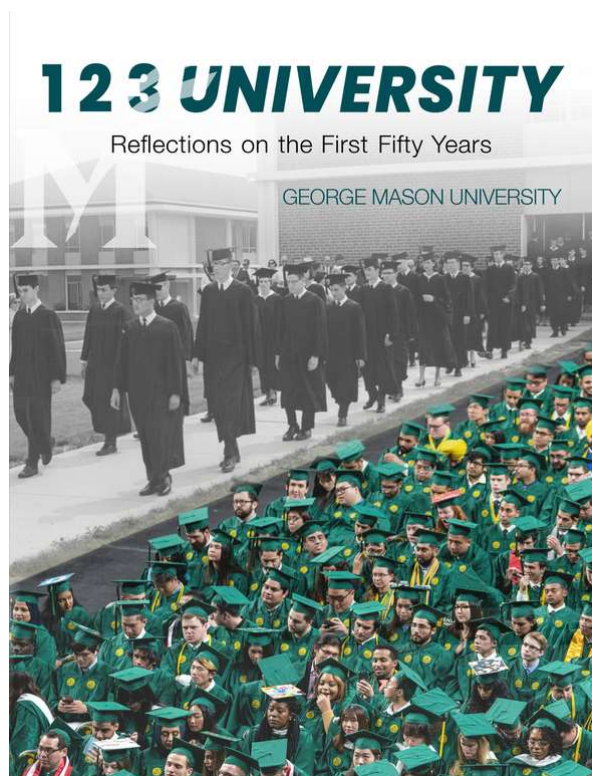
Working Mothers Support Group

Please visit the [Working Moms Support Group website](#) for more information.

University Libraries

1 2 3 University: Reflections on the First Fifty Years - George Mason University

As George Mason University concludes its 50th Anniversary year, the University Libraries and Mason Publishing are pleased to announce the publication of 1 2 3 University: Reflections on the First Fifty Years - George Mason University. The content of the book was drawn from the “George Mason University: A History” online exhibit of university archival material, re-arranged, edited and updated for the print book. One unique feature of the book is the reflections distributed throughout the book, including from former Provost Peter Stearns reflecting on his leadership during an important time of transition. See the Mason Publishing site at <https://publishing.gmu.edu> for details.



OSCAR



The poster features the George Mason University logo at the top center. Below it is the logo for the Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research, which includes a lightbulb icon with 'OSCAR' inside. The text 'Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research' is to the right of the lightbulb. Below this, the word 'Presents' is written in a smaller, italicized font. The main title 'The OSCAR Celebration of Student Scholarship and Impact' is in a bold, black font. The poster is divided into two columns by a vertical line. The left column lists 'Student Videos' and the dates 'May 8th-12th, 2023'. The right column lists 'Student Posters, Musical Performances, Food Trucks' and the date and time 'May 9th, 2023 | 12:30pm-3:30pm'. Below the columns is the website 'celebration.oscar.gmu.edu'. At the bottom, there is a 'MASON IMPACT' logo with an exclamation mark, and the text 'Any questions please contact oscar@gmu.edu'.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Office of Student Scholarship,
Creative Activities, and Research

Presents

The OSCAR Celebration of Student Scholarship and Impact

Student Videos
May 8th-12th, 2023

Student Posters, Musical Performances, Food Trucks
Center for the Arts
May 9th, 2023 | 12:30pm-3:30pm

celebration.oscar.gmu.edu

MASON IMPACT Any questions please contact
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 Research Scholars Program

URSP supports undergraduate students collaborating on a research, creative, or scholarly project with a faculty mentor. The spring applications are closed. Applications for summer will open after winter break. Fall applications will open in late April. [Find more information on our website.](#)

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.](#)

Undergraduate Education

Curriculum Impact Grants

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The Office of the Provost, the Office of Community Engagement and Civic Learning (CECIL), and the Anti-Racist and Inclusive Excellence Task Force (ARIE) are pleased to announce that the 2023-2024 cycle of Impact Grant proposals is open. This year, we will be accepting proposals for both Curriculum Impact Grants and Course-based Impact Grants. We encourage proposals that develop anti-racist and inclusive curriculum, specifically those engaging with the [Quality Enhancement Plan](#), Transformative Education through Anti-Racist Community Engagement, or the [curriculum and pedagogy goals](#) set by the [ARIE Task Force's Instructional Support Working Group](#).

Curriculum Impact Grants must involve a programmatic curriculum change (at least three courses) at any degree level, while Course-based Impact Grants can be limited to a single course, at any degree level.

Proposals will be due on April 21, 2023. Please see go.gmu.edu/CIG for details.

Information Session

The Office of Undergraduate Education and Stearns Center will offer Impact Grant Information Sessions March 21-24, 2023. Pre-developed teams or individuals interested in curriculum or course development relevant to this year's foci and beyond are welcome to sign up for a time. Please register for a time slot at go.gmu.edu/CIG-Info.

We look forward to seeing how you will have an impact on our students, and help your students have an impact on our world.

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