GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

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

# From Our Director

Greetings, Friends,

In April, we celebrated our award-winning teachers—including our David J. King Award winner, Dr. Peggy Brouse—who shine brightly at Mason to help all of us see our pathways a little more clearly.

In May, Stearns Center celebrates **you**—and all of our teaching colleagues.

We celebrate

- your early mornings and late nights

- your innovations, your patience, and your adaptability

- your thoughtful policies, careful flexibilities, and inclusive actions

- your searches for *just one more* case or example or activity that will bring your field to life for your students

- your deep knowledge, carefully constructed assignments, and generous feedback

- and your support for each other as colleagues and fellow travelers.

We see you, and we're grateful for all that you bring to teaching and learning at Mason!

Before heading out to summer projects, we'd like to invite you to check out our summer and fall opportunities and participate in our **Registration Raffles**! Each raffle includes a **$50 Amazon Gift Card** and other prizes to be given out in June. (All current registrants are already entered.)

- ***Register by May 15 for any of our early summer*** workshops or bootcamps: Build a classroom research

(SoTL) project, level-up your use of classroom technology, or expand your inclusive teaching.

- ***Register by June 5 for any of our August or September*** workshops, bootcamps, mini-courses, or communities: Boost your lecturing skills, amplify your teaching in Mason Core, explore ChatGPT, prepare for crucial classroom conversations, and much more!

Finally, just a few reminders about other opportunities coming up this summer and early fall:

- Kick off your summer writing projects at the Writing Retreat, May 15-17

- Watch for invitations in August to register for the Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference (October 6)
- Connect with Stearns Center opportunities at the expanded Adjunct Faculty Success Workshop August 12 (all adjunct faculty invited!)
- Consider joining a Teaching Square or Teaching Circle (coming in Fall: squares that focus on inclusive teaching, teaching with writing, community-engaged teaching, and more!)

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 hope you find time to recuperate, revive, reenergize, reflect, and perhaps even rejoice over the summer months. Our newsletter will be on hiatus, but we'll look forward to seeing you in summer workshops and be back in your inbox in August!

Shelley

E Shelley Reid, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Engaged Teaching
Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning
Associate Professor, English Department
ereid1@gmu.edu

# Events & Deadlines

### Peggy Brouse Wins David J. King Award!

At the April 17 Celebration of Teaching Excellence, Stearns Center announced Peggy Brouse as the 2023 David J. King Award winner. This award is given annually to a faculty member who has made significant, long-term contributions (across at least 20 years) to the overall educational excellence of the university. Peggy's contributions to the creation and development of two departments, Systems Engineering and Operations Research, and Cyber Security Engineering, are among the many ways she has improved teaching and learning at Mason since joining the university in the 1990s. For a full list of honorees, see our website.

### Registration Raffles

**Invest in yourself, and have a chance to win a $50 gift card!** Faculty who *register by May 15* for a June Stearns Center Workshop* or Bootcamp* will be eligible for our early June "Pay Yourself First" Raffle. Faculty who *register by June 2* for an August or September Workshop** or Bootcamp** will be eligible for our second raffle in mid-June.

# Faculty Development Workshops

### 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 Abbot.

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.

**Active Learning Classroom Bootcamp**
June 8-18 | Active Learning Classroom Bootcamp | Hybrid: Blackboard + Zoom + Horizon Hall Classroom Training | **CPD Level 2** | 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.

**Syllabi That Support Learners and Instructors Workshop**
Wednesday, June 14 | 10:00-11:00 a.m. | Zoom | Designing and Redesigning Syllabi for Inclusive Classrooms | **CPD Level 1 Design** | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho.  Register here.

**Important Conversations in the Classroom: Preparing Your Course and Yourself Workshop**
Thursday, June 15 | 12:00-1:00 p.m. | Zoom |  Facilitator:  Rachel Yoho.  Register here.

**Important Conversations in the Classroom: Handling Situations in the Moment Workshop**
Friday, June 16 | 12:00-1:00 p.m. | Zoom | Facilitator:  Rachel Yoho. Register here.

**Dynamic Lectures Bootcamp**
August 3-13 | Zoom and MyHubs | **CPD Level 2** | Facilitator: Crystal Anderson. Register here.

**Teaching Essentials - Mason Core Exploratory Courses**
August 7 & 9 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Zoom | **Accelerated CPD Level 1 Teaching Essentials** | Facilitator: Crystal Anderson | Click here to see more information about the workshop series and to register.

**Introduction to Artificial Intelligence Inspired Pedagogies**

August 7-10 | 9:00-11:30am | Zoom | **CPD Level 2, FLC Express** | Facilitator: Laina Lockett

**Anti-Racism and Inclusive Teaching: An Introduction to Developing More**

**Inclusive Educational Spaces Workshop**
August 9 | 10:00 -11:00 am | Zoom | **CPD Level 1, Engage** | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho | Register here.

**Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Project Implementation Workshop**
August 10 | 1:00-2:30 p.m. | Zoom  | Facilitator: Breana Bayraktar. Register here.

**Mason Core ARIT Academy**
August 10-11 | 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Hybrid  | Facilitators: Laura Poms, Shelley Reid, and Rachel Yoho. Register here.

**Introduction to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Workshop**
August 16 | 9:00-10:00 a.m. | Zoom | Facilitator: Breana Bayraktar. Register here.

**Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Project Planning Workshop**
August 16 | 10:15am-12:15 p.m.| Zoom | Facilitator: Breana Bayraktar. Register here.

**Syllabi That Support Learners and Instructors: Designing and Redesigning**

**Syllabi for Inclusive Classrooms Workshop**
August 16 | 10:00 -11:00 a.m. | Zoom | **CPD Level 1 Design** | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho | Register here.

**Course Proposal Workshop**
August 16 | 2:00-4:00 p.m. | Zoom | Facilitators: Laura Poms, Shelley Reid, Rachel Yoho | Register here.

**Exploring Positionality and Intersectionality in the Mason Core Context Workshop**
August 17 | 10:00 -11:00 a.m. | Zoom | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho | Register here.

**Faculty Learning Community: Teaching Future Professionals in the Era of Artificial Intelligence**

Fridays, August 18-April 26 (Every 4 weeks) | 9:00-11:00am | Zoom | **CPD Level 3, FLC** | Facilitator: Laina Lockett

Check our Event Calendar for more Fall Workshops!

# Online Teaching Opportunities and Resources



**Please Join Us for LMS Vendor Presentations May 8, 9, 10**

We need your help in choosing a new Learning Management System (LMS) for Mason! Please join us May 8, 9, and 10 for a showcase of options. Demos will be provided for Canvas, Blackboard Ultra, and Brightspace. This is your chance to ask questions directly to the vendors and provide your feedback. Join in person or by Zoom. Recordings and survey will be available for review.

Canvas – May 8, Merten 1201

Brightspace – May 9, Merten 1201

Blackboard Ultra – May 10, Merten 1202

Find out more about the project, how to participate and join by Zoom.



**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/



**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: qateam@gmu.edu.

# Writing Across the Curriculum

**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.

# From Our Partners

## Office of Faculty Affairs & Development

**Adjunct Faculty Success Workshop for All Adjunct Faculty in August**

The Office of Faculty Affairs & Development is excited to announce that our Adjunct Faculty Success Workshop is open for registration for all adjunct faculty, both returning and incoming. The workshop offers a refresher course for returning faculty and an introduction to the various resources available for incoming faculty. 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 workshop will be held virtually on Saturday, August 12th, 2023. Registration is required. For any questions, please reach out to facaffs@gmu.edu.

### 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.

### 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.
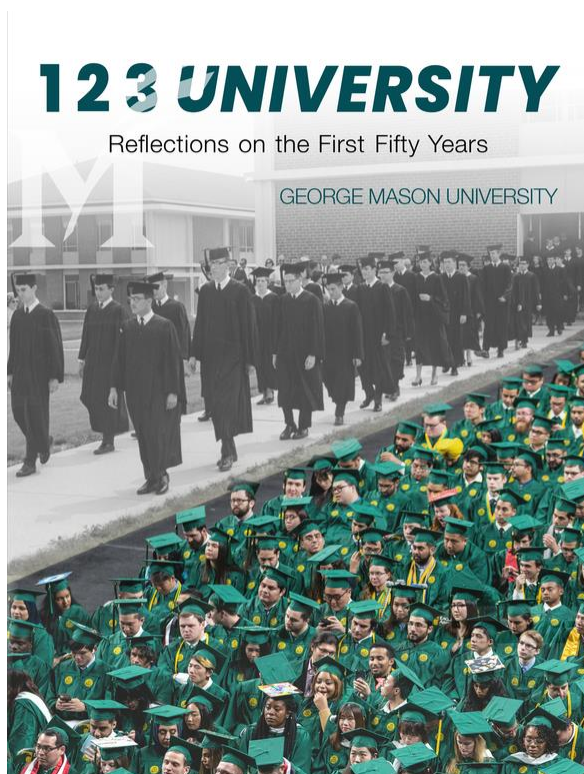
### LGBTQ+ Faculty/Staff Alliance

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.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY | University Libraries

JOIN US FOR

## An Evening in the Archives

Featuring the Appalachian Trail
Conservancy Collection

Tuesday, May 23
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Fenwick Library, Room 2001

Go behind the scenes and get up close and personal
with selected highlights of the ATC Collection in the
Special Collections Research Center

PRESENTATION BY

Brian B. King
Former Publisher, Appalachian Trail Conservancy

with pre-recorded remarks from Mills Kelly, PhD
Director, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media

RSVP BY MAY 12, 2023
Shelley Locke
slocke2@gmu.edu

LIBRARY.GMU.EDU

## OSCAR

**OSCAR Excellence Awards to be Presented May 9**
The Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research will hold
its *Celebration of Student Scholarship and Impact* from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday,
May 9, in the Center for the Arts. The event will showcase OSCAR undergraduate
research across disciplines and announce the OSCAR Excellence Awards. The virtual
celebration will take place between May 8–12

**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.

Share something for next month's newsletter

Add someone to our mailing list