Workshops 1. Mini-Course: Creating

- **Transparent** <u>Assignments</u>
- 2. Workshop: How to Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Build an Online Course 3. Webinar: Exploring
- 4. Workshop: Designing **High Impact Writing** <u>Assignments</u>
- 5. Webinar: Basic Questions about Accessibility and
- <u>Usability in Online</u> Courses **Hybrid Learning**
- 6. Workshop: Engaging Students in Inclusive
- **Environments** 7. Webinar: Small
- Teaching in the Writingenriched Classroom 8. Workshop: How to Use Courses
- Grade Center in Online 9. Events Calendar 10. VoiceThread & <u>Harmonize</u>
- **Writing Across the**
- Curriculum 1. FLC on Teaching with Writing 2. Our Friday Writing Sprints have returned!
- 3. New Resources for
- **Teaching with Writing**
- **Stearns Center News**
- 1. Stearns Center is hiring! | Educational Developer
- 2. Quality Assurance Courses 3. Subscribe to Spring
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<u>Writing</u>

Workshop for

Teaching and

- Coaching Newsletter: **Teaching Show Quality?**
- <u>Mentoring</u> **Statements** 2. <u>University Libraries:</u> <u>Faculty</u> Workshop Series: Faculty Fridays with the **Libraries**
- 3. Women & Gender
- <u>Libraries</u> <u>Celebrates Love</u> Data Week 2022
- 1. Sojourner Truth Faculty <u>Award</u> <u>Nominations</u> 4. **OSCAR**:

Studies:

- <u>OSCAR</u> Student and <u>Faculty</u> **Excellence** <u>Awards</u> <u>Student</u> Research
- - **Teaching Squares Return this Spring** Application Deadline: February 11, 2022
- - **Opportunities**
- his future endeavors. (A search for a new Director of outcome.)
- As a final note, we want to let you know that Faisal Mahmud is moving on from his position as the Director
- - for Digital Learning. We appreciate Faisal's work with the University these past two years and wish him the best in Digital Learning will get underway later this semester, and we'll keep you informed about the process and the
 - 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

Information Technology Services) we look forward to supporting you and hearing about how you support your students in Spring 2022! Shelley

Education, GradLife, University Libraries, and

Director for Teaching Excellence Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning Associate Professor, English Department ereid1@gmu.edu

opportunities, engaging their students, providing feedback, managing their time, and supporting long-term learning? If you joined a Teaching Square--an informal group of cross-disciplinary Mason colleagues--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

Mason's award that honors an individual for their career contributions to the overall educational excellence of the university. Nominations of faculty who have served at least 20 years at Mason are due Friday, February 18, 2022: Send a 1-paragraph nomination to <u>stearns@gmu.edu</u>. For more information, please <u>visit the awards page</u>.

Faculty Development Workshops

Showers

course shell. Register here.

Mini-Course: Creating Transparent Assignments February 7 - 25 | Online | Facilitator: Crystal Anderson In this six-to-ten-hour mini-course, faculty will create/redesign an assignment that positions all students for their best learning. Studies have shown that increasing transparency in just any two assignments can enhance the performance of all students,

with historically underserved students showing the greatest gains. Using the

Open Educational Resources (OER) are becoming an increasingly popular option to use for your course materials. This webinar is an introductory webinar for those who are interested in learning the basics of OER. In this webinar, we will be exploring what OER are, why you might elect to use OER, and how you can implement them for your course. Register here.

February 7 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | Zoom | Facilitator: Jade Geary

Webinar: Exploring Open Educational Resources (OER)

Workshop: Designing High Impact Writing Assignments

Participants in this workshop will learn the design principles that contribute to engaging and meaningful writing experiences for their students. The workshop will begin with a discussion of the research that informs these principles and will quickly move into some strategies for implementing them into courses across the curriculum. The workshop will close by offering faculty some time to implement one of the strategies into their courses. Register here.

Webinar: Basic Questions about Accessibility and Usability in Online Courses

February 11 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm | Zoom | Facilitator: Catesby Porfirenko

Participants in this webinar will learn more about accessibility – what it is; why it's important; and how they can be sure their online course materials are accessible. Our webinar also highlights resources and services for accessibility available to Mason faculty from **Assistive Technology Initiative**. We will demonstrate how to use Blackboard Ally, an accessibility tool available in all Mason Blackboard courses. Participants will develop a plan to incorporate accessibility as they design, build, and

February 9 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Online | Facilitator: Thomas Polk

Do you want to increase the sense of community and build rapport with all students in your course? Do you want students to engage your diverse course material and each other? Do you want to learn to leverage technology to increase student engagement? In this workshop, you will learn how to apply the principles of inclusive teaching across teaching modalities, deploy three modes of student engagement and practice incorporating inclusive engagement strategies in your course. Register here.

Inspired by James Lang's popular book, Small Teaching, this workshop will introduce participants to some quick writing activities that can take as few as five minutes to effectively foster student learning in classrooms across the curriculum. The workshop will include a brief introduction to the writing-to-learn scholarship that informs these activities and will provide a sampling of model designs that participants can implement

Webinar: Small Teaching in the Writing-enriched Classroom

March 2 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Online Facilitator: Tom Polk

and build into their own teaching. Register here.

Joe Balducci

Workshop: How to Use Grade Center in Online Courses

· March 11, Using Multimedia for Mini-Lectures

would like to use either tool in the upcoming year.

 March 23, Inclusive Assignment Design using TILT March 30, Providing Feedback to Support Revision

the participants will have an opportunity to practice building their own grade center. Register here. **Stearns Center Events Calendar** Never miss an event! See our Events Calendar for full descriptions, to check out our March workshops, and generally to stay up to date on all Stearns Center trainings, workshops, webinars, and deadlines. March 9, Inclusive Course Design

New Applications Help Students Engage Online: VoiceThread and Harmonize

In an effort to continuously improve opportunities for engagement and collaboration in Mason's online and hybrid courses, we are introducing two new tools within Blackboard: VoiceThread and Harmonize. Learn more about these tools, and watch the recorded demonstrations on the Stearns Center's Webinar & Training page. To receive access to either application for your Spring 2022 course(s), please complete the License Request Form. Licenses are limited during this pilot year and will be distributed on a first-come-first-served basis. Faculty are encouraged to describe a plan as to how they

By the end of the community, participants will have a scaffolded sequence of writing tasks to support the learning outcomes for writing in their course and a drafted WI course application (if applicable). Interested in this FLC opportunity? Please complete this survey to let us know. Have any questions about the FLC? Please visit our website or email us at wac@gmu.edu. Our Friday Writing Sprints have returned!

Our Friday Writing Sprints are in full swing. All faculty members with any kind of writing project are invited to participate. Add them to your calendar, tell your friends, and prepare to marvel at just how much you can accomplish in two-hours alongside your

fellow Mason writers. Visit our website for more information and to register.

The WAC Program continues to add new resources for teaching with writing to our website. As the semester continues, you might find our brief guides on assignment design, low-stakes writing assignments, and feedback helpful. You might also want to consider joining us for one of our <u>upcoming workshops</u>. Finally, WAC staff are available to talk with individuals, groups, or departments about writing instruction and curriculum design. To arrange a consultation, please email us at wac@gmu.edu.

Stearns Center News

Stearns Center is hiring! | Educational Developer with Inclusion & Equity focus

We invite applications for an Educational Developer with a specialization in inclusive and

professional position; applicants should have a PhD/EdD, experience leading inclusion and equity programming, and at least two years' college-level teaching experience. For more information, see the **GMU Jobs Board**, and please share this information with

> Check out our **Quality Assurance** resources for online courses!

> > our infographic on Online Course Quality: Essential Elements to get the most out

 Want to learn even more? Our **Quality Assurance Checklist**

of your course.

Instructor Role &

Course Management

Interaction &

Community

equitable pedagogies and faculty development. This is a full-time, administrative

Every Friday of the semester | 9:00 - 11:00 am | MS Teams

Resources for Teaching with Writing

Review begins January 28, 2022

colleagues who may be interested.

team when submitting the form.

Does Your Online

Teaching Show

Quality?

Review and check the essential quality indicators

for these 4 major areas of online teaching & facilitation, as presented in the Stearns Center

Teaching Show Quality?

contact: qateam@gmu.edu

and Guidelines contains both a faculty self-checklist and essential quality indicators for each domain with examples of how they can be demonstrated in an online course.

This is an extensive document, and we encourage you to schedule an appointment with our QA team if you have any questions regarding it. Click here to request a copy of the full guidelines. You can indicate whether you would like a brief consultation with our QA

Contact QA Team: For any questions regarding Online Quality Assurance, please

online teaching and facilitation using the Stearns Center Quality Assurance Checklist & Guidelines for Online Courses. Our Checklist will introduce you to the indicators, and help guide your online teaching to foster student engagement and active learning. We'll share practical tips and examples to enhance your students' learning experience. Throughout the semester, our newsletter will highlight specific quality indicators for online teaching. You'll explore how to incorporate quality indicators for the teaching & facilitation areas from the Stearns Center Quality Checklist. You will receive an Online Teaching Coaching Newsletter issue about every two weeks during the Spring 2022 semester. The Newsletter will be available to you as a downloadable PDF, so that you may save and refer to these teaching strategies just when you need them. Subscribe today

Stearns Center staff will be glad to assist you with any questions related to teaching, managing, and developing your face-to-face, hybrid or online courses; we can respond via email or Zoom. Please submit your questions by clicking here. We work to answer

From Our Partners

your questions as quickly as possible; however, response times may vary.

Questions? Contact the Stearns Center at stearns@gmu.edu.

Stearns Center Consultations

Faculty Affairs

register here. Women and Gender Studies Sojourner Truth Faculty Award Nominations

Nominations are due February 14th and the award will be given out at the Sojourner

Sojourner Truth

Faculty Award

The award honors an instructional faculty member (adjunct, term, or tenure-line) whose scholarship, teaching, and activism are at the intersections of race and gender.

> Here is the link for nominations: https://bit.ly/3H3DNKH

Nominations are due by February 14th and the award will be given out March 1st at the Sojourner Truth Lecture.

African and African

American Studies

Students, faculty, and

taff are welcome to

nominate qualified

candidates.

Data is for everyone! Wait ... data are for everyone? Either way, Love Data Week 2022 is about how different folks use data. Love Data Week is sponsored by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). This year's theme focuses on the

disciplines?" and "How about biases in data... who is 'in' the data and who is invisible?" In celebration of Love Data Week, the Libraries' Digital Scholarship Center (DiSC) will be

people side of data and asks questions like "What does data look like in different

offering three short 30-minute workshops focusing on data tools. Learn more and

OSCAR OSCAR Student and Faculty Excellence Awards OSCAR sponsors two awards each academic year - one that recognizes student

excellence in undergraduate scholarship, creative activities, and research and another

undergraduates on their projects. Check the OSCAR website for more information once applications are open. Nominations open February 7 and close February 28, 2022.

OSCAR is expanding opportunities for students to learn research, creative, or scholarly

that recognizes the outstanding contributions of the faculty and staff who mentor

Women and Gender

Studies Program

URSP supports undergraduate students collaborating on a research, creative, or scholarly project with a faculty mentor. Find more information on our website.

Share something for next month's newsletter Add someone to our mailing list

Subscribe to our email list.

E Shelley Reid, Ph.D. **Events & Deadlines**

What do other faculty actually do in their courses? How are they adapting to new

teaching. For Spring 2022, we will match interested faculty with a Square of colleagues from across the university (usually four people, but sometimes a little larger or smaller)

Each member of the Square shares some element of a course they're currently

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 provides reflective feedback to the others The whole Square meets for a conversation about what they've learned and how they can support one another further See additional information on our website. To indicate your interest for Spring 2022, please **complete our two-minute form** by Friday, February 11, 2022. Nominate a Colleague for the David J. King Award **Deadline: February 18**

We are currently accepting nominations for the 2022 David J. King Teaching Award,

of transparent assignment design, compare assignments before and after "tilting," and design an assignment for one of their courses. Register here. Workshop: How to Build an Online Course

February 4 | 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Zoom | Facilitators: Larisa Olesova and Ala

This workshop will guide the faculty through the online course-building process. The participants will get access to the online course template, review the examples from real online courses, and will get help to create their own online course shells. By the end of this workshop, the participants will be able to modify and adjust items in their own online

Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TILT) framework, faculty will learn the elements

- teach their courses at Mason. Register here. Workshop: Engaging Students in Inclusive Hybrid Learning Environments February 23 | 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Online | Facilitator: Crystal Anderson
- organization process. They will get basic understanding of how grade center works and how to align the grade book to the course grading schema. By the end of this workshop,

March 4, 2022 | Zoom | 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Facilitators: Larisa Olesova and

During the workshop, the participants will walk through the Blackboard grade center

FLC on Teaching with Writing: Registration now open! Every Tuesday | February 1 - March 8 | 2:00 - 3:30 pm | Facilitator: Emily Staudt Are you revising your writing-intensive course or looking for new ways to strengthen your assignments and incorporate more active learning into your writing-enriched course? In spring 2022, the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Program will be leading an online faculty learning community (FLC) focused on teaching with writing. This FLC is designed to help faculty align learning tasks with course outcomes and incorporate more active learning opportunities for students.

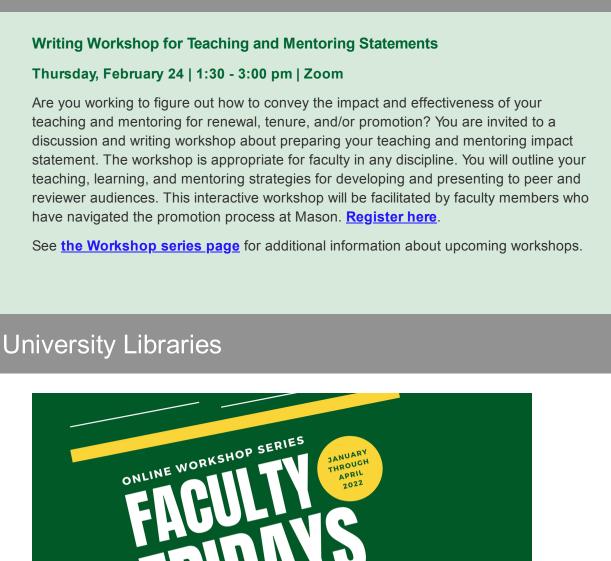
Writing Across the Curriculum

QUALITY <u>Faculty Self-Checklist</u>: Use **ASSURANCE** the Faculty Self-Checklist to CHECKLIST AND review your online course and online teaching. **GUIDELINES** Online Course Quality: For Online Courses **Essential Elements**: Review

Quality Assurance Checklist and Guidelines for Communication, Online Courses. **Grading & Feedback** Using our Guidelines, you can identify and incorporate quality online teaching elements to foster student engagement and active learning. Continuous **Improvements**

Subscribe to Spring 2022 Online Teaching Coaching Newsletter: Does Your Online

In the Spring 2022 Online Teaching Coaching Newsletter series, we will focus on tips for quality



GO.GMU.EDU/FACULTYFRIDAYS

Ever wondered about how to organize your research? Curious about how Mason Libraries can support you in your instruction? For answers to these and many more questions, join us this semester for Faculty Fridays with the Libraries, a workshop series catered to all your research and library-related instruction needs. In these workshops, we will introduce you to the tools, services, and people that will help you be a more efficient and organized researcher and instructor! Visit our website for more

Faculty Workshop Series: Faculty Fridays with the Libraries

January - April 2022 | Zoom

February 14-18

information about the workshops in this series.

Libraries Celebrates Love Data Week 2022

Deadline: February 14, 2022 Attached is our call for our 2nd annual Sojourner Truth Faculty Award. This award is given to an instructional (adjunct, term, or tenure-line) faculty member whose scholarship, teaching, and activism are at the intersections of race and gender. All members of the Mason community are welcome to nominate folks via this link.

Truth Lecture on March 1st.

Research Assistant Positions

Deadline: March 16

event. Learn more here.

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Undergraduate Student Travel Fund

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** Applications for the Summer 2022 Cycle are open now

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

From Our Director Greetings, Friends, for Mason faculty to strengthen their teaching and a strong line-up of information-packed webinars and

Welcome back, and welcome to spring semester! Your

colleagues at the Stearns Center are excited to connect connect with colleagues. We're kicking off February with interactive workshops to help you enhance your current courses.

with you this spring and continue to provide opportunities If you have an hour free, we invite you to join us via Zoom: • Feb. 4, noon: Build or improve your online course with support from our instructional designers • Feb. 7, 11am: Explore open educational

resources you can bring to your students Feb. 9, 11am: Refine an upcoming writing assignment with support from the Writing Across the Curriculum program • Feb. 11, 11am: Create more accessible courses by exploring universal design and new technologies Feb. 23, noon: Design inclusive and engaging student activities to strengthen community and learning in your course March 2, 11am: Create quick writing activities to foster student learning and engagement across disciplines If you have a little more time and are hoping to build out your network of faculty colleagues, we invite you to participate in some of our community-building opportunities: It's still not too late to join WAC's faculty learning community on Teaching with Writing, which kicks off this week! • Feb. 7-25: Sign up for our **new** 6-hour mini-course on Designing Transparent Assignments • Feb. 11: Sign up to be matched with a Stearns Center Teaching Square to meet new colleagues Coming soon: ITL Proposals! Watch your inbox

for Teaching and Learning Digital Learning | Teaching Excellence

for our invitation to submit your ideas to present at our September in-person-and-online Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference And don't forget to nominate a colleague for the David J. King Award, recognizing exceptional service by faculty over 20+ years at Mason (deadline February 18). See more details and registration links below or on our **Events Calendar**.