From our Director

Greetings, Friends,

A faculty member said recently, "Oh, it's Week 11 of the semester: The Hardest Week!" If you and your students are feeling the November challenges of catching up, maintaining energy and engagement, and/or making plans for upcoming projects and assessments, you're not alone. We see you out there planning, grading, readjusting, showing up with the best energy you have on any given day, and answering That Question one more time, as you continue to provide valuable support your students and colleagues.

We still have some opportunities for you to connect with us this fall: Perhaps we can inject some light, connection, and inspiration into one of those "hardest weeks."

- **Thurs. Nov. 10**: Catch our final workshop of the semester on Designing and Redesigning Syllabi for Inclusive Classrooms (presented in collaboration with the CEC Diversity Office)
- **Thurs. Nov. 10**: Attend our Honorlock webinar to learn about proctoring online exams
- **Fri. Nov. 2:** Nominate a colleague for a 2023 teaching award: Adjunct TEA and Online TEA nominations are still open

And we're starting to look ahead to spring events and opportunities:

- Apply to participate in **Course ReDesign Academy** for January (we'll still be mostly virtual, but there may be cookies)
- Mark your calendar to join our January virtual **Writing Retreat**
- ...and keep an eye out for some **NEW pre-semester workshops** to help you nudge your spring syllabi, make plans for more inclusive classrooms, and propose courses for new Mason Core categories & new QEP/Community Engaged Learning designations

You can always find out more about our offerings on our **full Events Calendar** page.

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 wish you and your students enough moments of imagination, humor, grace, insight, gratitude, and joy to sustain you in the closing weeks of the term.

Shelley

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Director for Teaching Excellence

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Events & Deadlines

December 2 | Deadline for Online Teaching (OTEA) and Adjunct (ATEA) Excellence Award Nominations

The 2023 George Mason University Teaching Excellence Awards are open to faculty with significant teaching experience at George Mason. See our website for more information about **OTEA** or **ATEA**, or **click here to submit your nomination**.

Course ReDesign Academy is (Mostly) Virtual again in January!

Tuesday, January 10 and Wednesday, January 11, 2023
Application Deadline: Friday December 9, 2022

Course ReDesign Academy will be mostly online again in January! We'll use a blend of synchronous meetings and workgroups 8:30-5:00 on the two key days, plus some asynchronous pre-course learning, to support your course project. We will also offer options to complete some of the sessions *on campus, with colleagues & cookies!* Use our academy as a just-in-time consultation about teaching in a new modality or with new assignments in your Spring 2023 course—or get a jump on a course you want to build or redesign for Summer or Fall terms.

It's also not too early to think a little further ahead: new course proposals for Mason Core's "Just Societies" and "Global Contexts" categories will be sought in late Spring and Fall 2023, so that courses can launch in Fall 2024. The CECiL office is also starting to designate courses for Community Engaged Learning. Is your course ready for new outcomes and teaching approaches? We can help you think through the opportunities!

Course ReDesign Academy provides a stipend to support faculty from all ranks, levels, disciplines, and modalities as they build or revise engaging, relevant, manageable courses. **See our site for deadlines, dates, details, and FAQs** .

Faculty Development Workshops

November 10 | 2-3pm | Online | Workshop: Syllabi That Support Learners and Instructors: Designing and Redesigning Syllabi for Inclusive Classrooms | Facilitator: Rachel Yoho

Are you ready to align your courses with university commitments to inclusive teaching? 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.**

November 10 | Online | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Webinar: Proctoring with Honorlock |Facilitator: Honorlock

Learn more about proctoring exams online with Honorlock. Proctored testing software monitors the exam session for potential academic dishonesty and alerts a live proctor to join the student's session in real-time if it detects any issues. This blend of AI and human review delivers a less intimidating and non-invasive proctored testing experience. When done right, proctored testing creates a non-invasive and equitable environment for testing, holding everyone accountable to do their best work. Honorlock can be found in Blackboard and is available to all Mason faculty. **Register here.**

Other Stearns Center Resources

Subscribe to Fall 2022 Online Teaching Coaching Newsletter: How to Ensure Regular and Substantive Interaction in Your Online Course Design and Teaching?

In the Fall 2022 Online Teaching Coaching Newsletter series, we will focus on tips for quality online course design and teaching practices that supportRegular and Substantive Interaction (RSI)between online instructors and students. RSI complies with Department of Education regulations and provides a hallmark of effective online teaching! Throughout the semester, our newsletter will highlight practices for how you may implement Regular and Substantive Interaction in your online courses. Starting in mid-September, you will receive an Online Teaching Coaching Newsletter issue about every two weeks during the Fall 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!Past issues of the Online Teaching Newsletter may be downloaded from the **Stearns Center website** (see the Online Teaching Newsletters posted on the right of the screen).

Questions? Contact**Darlene Smucny**, Assistant Director for Quality in Online Instruction, Stearns Center.

Stearns Center Consultation

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

Check out Stearns Center Quality Assurance resources for online courses!

Faculty Self-Checklist: Use the Faculty Self-Checklist to review your online course and online teaching.

Online Course Quality: Essential Elements : Review our infographic on Online Course Quality: Essential Elements to get the most out of your course.

Want to learn even more? Our Quality Assurance Checklist 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. Email**QATeam@gmu.edu**to request a copy of the full guidelines. You can

indicate whether you would like a brief consultation with our QA team in your email.

Contact QA Team: For any questions regarding Online Quality Assurance, please contact:**qateam@gmu.edu.**

Writing Across the Curriculum

Friday Faculty Writing Sprints

Every Friday 9:00-11:00am | MS Teams | August 26-December 16

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**.

Winter Faculty Writing Retreat

Registration now open (with limited on-campus spaces)!

Hoping to start the new year off with some new writing momentum? Then you should register for the Winter Faculty Writing Retreat running January 11-13, 2023.

This two-and-a-half-day event 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.

Registration is open through Sunday, December 11 th, but there's no time like the present. **Click here**for more information, and send questions toretreatfacilitators at **wac@gmu.edu**.

From Our Partners

Office of Faculty Affairs & Development

Opportunity to Join an Affinity Group

As part of Mason's commitment to inclusive excellence, the Office of Faculty Affairs and Development supportsfacultyand doctoral students' affinity groups. These groupsprovideour diverse facultyand doctoral studentswitha sense of community, inclusionand belonging.The groupsalsoserve as safe spaces for discussion of issuesthat impact the success and well-beingofBlack, Indigenous, Latinx, Multiracial, Asian, Asian American, Pacific IslandersandFirst-Generationfaculty members and historically underserved doctoral students. **Learn more about Affinity Groups here.**

Faculty Affairs Upcoming Events

BLIM—Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Multiracial Faculty Online Only, Friday, November 11,

from noon-1:00pm | **Register here!**

AAPI—Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander Faculty Online Only, Tuesday Nov. 15, noon-1:00 p.m. | **Register here!**

College of Visual and Performing Arts

Compassionate Communication in Times of Societal Crisis:
Practices and Tools for Inclusive Excellence
Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 3–4:15 p.m.

Societal crisis affects every student and aspect of the classroom. External occurrences permeate classroom communities and disrupt the daily functions and structures of learning. During this panel, experts will discuss what being trauma-informed means, share guidance on practical interventions, and outline how compassionate communication is the best tool for cultivating feelings of psychological safety and assisting in reducing anxiety and stress for a supportive learning experience for all students. This panel discussion is open to ALL Mason faculty and staff.

Click here to register, or for more information email Shá Norman at **snorman5@gmu.edu**.

OSCAR

Summer Team Impact Projects

The Office of the Provost is excited to offer grants for Summer Team Impact Projects (STIP) for Summer 2023. The Offices of Undergraduate Education, OSCAR, and CECiL will fund multidisciplinary summer projects of undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty members. These projects will explore a central theme, a research question, or a community identified problem. Proposals focusing on the UN Global Goals or Anti-Racist Community Engagement are encouraged. The deadline for proposals is November 18, 2022. For more information, please go to **https://go.gmu.edu/stip**.