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From Our Directors

Greetings, Friends,

Suddenly it's October! This happened so fast that we've extended our deadline to <u>nominate a colleague</u> for a Teaching Excellence Award to Friday October 15. We hope you'll give someone the gift of your appreciation for their fabulous teaching.

It really seems like just yesterday that we were hanging out with you in a Zoom call during our Innovations in Teaching and Learning conference. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did: learning strategies for building inclusive classrooms in all modalities, connecting with your colleagues, and maybe meeting some new friends you can trade ideas with.

If you didn't get to attend as many sessions as you'd hoped—and trust us, we know how that goes!—there's still time to give yourself the gift of a little ITL energy, to boost your mood and your teaching creativity here at midsemester:

- Watch: Take 5-10 minutes to review one of our <u>On-Demand sessions</u>: Our presenters have great advice on everything from Beyonce to nursing simulations, from interactive timelines to social annotation programs, and from asynchronous video tips to strategies for grading student writing
- Connect: This is a great week to send a twosentence email to a colleague you met or reconnected with, a presenter whose session you attended, or a friend who couldn't attend but might love to hear something you learned, just to say "thanks" or "do you want to grab [virtual] coffee sometime?"
- Act & Ask: That great idea you heard someone explain? This is a perfect time to try it out with your students (they could use a boost, too!)—and then use one of our <u>classroom assessment</u> <u>techniques</u> to find out if they liked it, and maybe ask for some additional mid-term feedback from them

And there's still plenty of time in the semester to build on what you learned at ITL through another Stearns Center resource. We're particularly excited about these events, which you can find out more about below or on our <u>full</u> <u>Fall Calendar</u> events page:

- Nominate a colleague for a teaching award <u>using</u> <u>this form</u>: full-time faculty TEA nominations are due tomorrow, October 15(nominations for adjunct and online TEAs are due December 3)
- <u>Attend an upcoming workshop or webinar</u> on teaching in Mason Impact courses, Designing Online Discussions, using Efficient Grading
- Strategies, Exploring Open Educational Resources
 Be transparent and inclusive: Our ITL Keynote Speaker, Dr. Tia Brown McNair, recommended that faculty explore the assignment-design framework sponsored by TILT (Transparency in Learning and Teaching) to better support first-generation and underserved students. We can help! Join us for our November 3 <u>special workshop on Using the TILT</u> <u>Framework!</u>

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 all the joys of autumn, from crisp mornings and pumpkin spice to student "Aha!" moments and the satisfaction of seeing final projects get underway and start to take root.

Shelley & Faisal

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Events & Deadlines

Teaching Excellence Awards

Full-time TEA Nomination Deadline: Extended to Friday, October 15 Adjunct TEA and Online TEA Nomination Deadline: Friday, December 3, 2021

The 2022 George Mason University Teaching Excellence Awards are open to

faculty with significant teaching experience at George Mason.

Our TEAs for full-time faculty (term and tenure-line) offer recognition for

- excellent teaching overall, and special recognitions for excellence in teaching General Education (Mason Core) or High Impact Learning. Faculty who have already completed three or more years teaching at Mason are eligible.
- The Adjunct Teaching Excellence Awards recognize excellence in the teaching of part-time faculty who have already completed teaching courses in at least six semesters at Mason.
- The Online Teaching Excellence Awards recognize teaching excellence in faculty members who have been teaching fully-online courses at Mason. Faculty may be full-time or part-time, and need to have taught online courses during at least four complete semesters at Mason.
- Students, faculty members, or administrators may nominate any faculty member for an award (we don't accept self-nominations). See more information <u>on our</u> website.
- **To nominate**: Please <u>use our Qualtrics survey</u> to provide the information about your nominee and a few paragraphs about your recommendation for them.

IN/OVATIONS in Teaching & Learning

Thank You for a Great 2021 Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference! In September, we had a great week of learning and community-building at the ITL Conference. In case you missed it, you can watch a recording of Dr. McNair's keynote speech, <u>"Intentionality By Design: Strengthening and Sustaining a Culture of</u> <u>Equity."</u> Password: ITL2021. (Note: Please do not share this recording. This is for GMU faculty and staff only.)

Please also be sure to check out the <u>ITL Conference Proceedings</u> for On-Demand sessions and summaries of the synchronous sessions.

Stearns Center Events Calendar

Never miss an event! Bookmark our <u>Event Calendar</u> to stay up to date on all Stearns Center trainings, workshops, webinars, and deadlines.

Faculty Development Workshops

Online Teaching and Learning (OTL) Webinar Series

Stearns Center Digital Learning team will be facilitating online teaching and learning (OTL) series webinars in the fall. Our experienced QA team and instructional designers will share examples from designed courses with tips and strategies to make an online course highly effective. These webinars are open to all faculty regardless of the teaching modalities. Previously, faculty attending these webinars found it very effective for their F2F and hybrid teaching.

November 1, 2021, 1:00 - 2:30 pm | Exploring OER

- Facilitator: Jade Geary
- <u>Register for this webinar</u>

November 17, 1:00 - 2:30 pm | Inclusive Course Design and Teaching:

- Facilitators: Laura Todd and Darlene Smucny
- <u>Register for this webinar</u>

Continuing Professional Development Workshops

The Stearns Center will offer the following workshops in October and November for new and continuing faculty as well as instructional TAs. These workshops will be offered through Zoom. Registration closes 24 hours before the workshop and will not be recorded. For additional descriptions, see Stearns Center's <u>Trainings</u> page. Please direct questions to Crystal Anderson, <u>cander8@gmu.edu</u>.

Balancing Content Coverage and Experiential Learning in Mason Impact Courses October 12, 2021 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Facilitator: Crystal Anderson

In this workshop, you will learn how to reorganize your course to include experiential learning, including undergraduate research and community engagement. Register here.

Efficient Grading for Assignments and Activities

October 19, 2021 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Facilitator: Crystal Anderson

In this workshop, you will re/design an existing assignment or activity in order to increase grading efficiency. Register here.

Providing Feedback to Support Student Revision

November 2, 2021 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Facilitator: Tom Polk

Participants in this webinar will learn more about how students revise and gain some strategies for providing feedback to support more substantive student revision. <u>Register</u> <u>here.</u>

Improving Student Performance on Assignments Using the TILT Framework

November 3, 2021 | 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

In this workshop, you will learn how to redesign an assignment to be more transparent, which can improve student confidence, persistence, and retention. <u>Register here.</u>

Creating and Grading Experiential Learning in Mason Impact Courses

November 9, 2021 | 11:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Facilitator: Crystal Anderson

In this workshop, you will re/design an existing assignment or activity by aligning the assignment's purpose and assessment in order to increase grading efficiency. <u>Register</u> <u>here</u>.

Designing High Impact Writing Assignments

November 9, 2021 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Facilitator: Tom Polk

This webinar is designed to introduce foundational practices for teaching with writing and designing writing assignments. Participants will learn about what research shows contributes to both meaningful and impactful writing assignments. <u>Register here.</u>

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 <u>Webinar & Training page</u>. To receive access to either application for your Fall 2021 course(s) or to look ahead to Spring 2022, please complete the <u>License Request Form</u>. 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 would like to use either tool in the upcoming year.

Writing Across the Curriculum

Fall Faculty Writing Sprints

Every Friday of the semester: 9:00 - 11:00 am

Our virtual Friday Writing Sprints are underway, and all faculty with any kind of writing project are invited to participate. Add it 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. To participate in the sprints, simply connect to our Faculty Writing Community workspace in MS Teams and look for the meeting in the General channel.

Registration: <u>Sign up here</u> and receive reminders about joining sessions and setting goals.

To participate in the sprints, 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: email us at <u>wac@gmu.edu</u> For more information about this and related programming, please <u>visit our website</u>.

New Resources for Teaching with Writing

The WAC Program continues to add new resources for teaching with writing to <u>our</u> <u>website</u>. 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 <u>wac@gmu.edu</u>.

Join Us To Explore New Learning Outcomes for Writing-intensive Courses

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the WAC Committee developed new learning outcomes for WI courses in an effort to more directly articulate the goals of the WI course and to provide additional clarity for course planning and assessment. Courses seeking to newly acquire the WI designation will be expected to integrate these outcomes when they apply for the WI attribute; courses that already have the WI designation will be expected to integrate these outcomes into their course designs during their next review cycle. More information about the outcomes and the new application process is available on the <u>WAC Program's website</u> and will be forthcoming. We are currently developing new resources to help faculty meet these outcomes and will keep you updated when they become available.

As part of that effort, we are recruiting faculty members who are interested in becoming early adopters and working with WAC staff to integrate these new outcomes into course designs for the spring and fall 2022 semesters. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email us at <u>wac@gmu.edu</u>.

Stearns Center News

Stearns Center is hiring! | Educational Developer with STEM focus

Review begins November 8

We invite applications for an Educational Developer with a specialization in STEM education and faculty development. This is a full-time, administrative professional position; applicants must have a PhD, formal study in a STEM field, and at least two years' college-level teaching experience. For more information, see the <u>GMU Jobs</u> <u>Board</u>, and please share this information with colleagues who may be interested.

Stearns Center Consultations

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 <u>clicking here</u>. We work to answer your questions as quickly as possible; however, response times may vary.

Want Tips and Guidance for Teaching Online?

Subscribe to the Stearns Center Digital Learning's Online Teaching Coaching Newsletter, whether you are new to teaching online or an experienced online instructor wanting additional guidance. The Fall 2021 Biweekly Online Teaching Coaching email newsletter will include topics such as: Supporting your students' learning online, Time management for online teaching, Online student engagement Inclusive, equitable teaching online, and more.

Subscribe today

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

From Our Partners

Faculty Affairs

Supporting Faculty Inclusive Excellence Workshop: Equitable Evaluation of RPT

Dossiers

October 11 | noon - 1:00pm | Zoom

Supporting Faculty Inclusive Excellence, III: Equitable Evaluation of RPT Dossiers Based on University of Michigan's STRIDE (Strategies and Tactics for Recruiting to Improve Diversity and Excellence), this series focuses on how certain criteria effectively exclude certain faculty; the role of schemas and implicit bias in the review of a candidate's performance; and bias in a variety of domains (e.g., the grants application process, student evaluations, evaluation letters). The program addresses how the accumulation of these issues creates advantages and disadvantages among certain groups of faculty. Finally, it presents research on how parental or other types of leave can negatively impact the evaluation of faculty members. <u>Registration</u> is required. Learn more about our Learning and Development Series <u>on the Provost's website</u>.

Faculty Affinity Groups: Teaching While X

October 13 | 3:00 - 4:00 pm | Zoom

"Teaching While X: Strategies to help faculty from underrepresented groups mitigate student bias." To thrive, not to survive, in academic teaching, faculty of color and LGBTQ+ faculty need to develop strategies to translate/adapt pedagogical best practices to their unique experiences. In this workshop, the facilitators will discuss strategies to mitigate student bias, develop a compelling narrative about teaching for reappointment, promotion and tenure and contextualize student evaluations in a way that showcases the strengths of faculty. <u>Registration</u> is required. Learn more about Faculty Affinity groups <u>on the Provost's website</u>.

Interactive Workshop: Building a Responsible Mentoring Culture October 20 | 1:00-2:30pm | Zoom

Do you want to talk with colleagues about effective practices for mentoring postdocs and students at all levels? Have you questioned how to equitably establish authorship on your projects for conference presentations and scholarly products? You are invited to a discussion in which we will share practices, explore the ethical dimensions of these decisions, and work through challenges to achieve transparent collaborations. Registration is required. Learn more about our interactive workshop series on our website.

OSCAR

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

Spring 2022 Application Deadline: October 27, 2021

URSP supports undergraduate students collaborating on a research, creative, or scholarly project with a faculty mentor. 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.

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