

CAE NEWS

The Center for Academic Excellence | Volume 7, Issue 1

Consider a Fall MAT

Mark your calendars! **October 11 - 24** is MAT (Mid-semester Assessment of Teaching) Season. A MAT is an informal, confidential, and off-the-record way for you to get constructive student feedback on student learning and your teaching. Find out how on Page 2.

Participate in Our Critical Conversations in the Classroom Series

These brown bag discussions co-hosted by CAE and the Faculty Chair for Diversity provide a space for faculty and staff to talk together about critical issues concerning social justice. Our September meeting will take place **September 26 from 11:30 - 12:30 in McGrath Commons**. Read more on Page 3.

Join a Core Revision Working Group

This summer the CAE hosted Working Groups on work related to the Core Revision proposal. Working groups are ongoing this fall. Email us at cae@fairfield.edu to join one.



From the Directors: It's Fall at the CAE!

It's fall at the CAE, and that means it's time to reflect on the activity of the summer months and to look forward to all the various ways in which the Center will serve as a hub for collaboration and innovation centered around teaching and learning for the coming year. To assist with all you want to accomplish, the CAE now has three Directors, one for Faculty Mentoring (Emily Smith), one for Curriculum Development (Carol Ann Davis), and one for Learning Technologies (Jay Rozgonyi). We are joined by Faculty Liaisons Valeria Martinez, Michael Andreychik, and Sriharsha Sundarram, and Curriculum and Technology Specialist Christopher Vescovi. You can reach any of us at cae@fairfield.edu. We will be responding to the CAE email according to specialty but can also each be reached via individual email. See you soon at the CAE! All best,

Emily, Carol Ann & Jay



Interpreting and Using Your IDEA Results

You have received your diagnostic IDEA results...now what? Join us for this workshop on interpreting your IDEA reports, reflecting on results, and using the data for course revisions, annual reviews or promotion dossiers. Two dates available, both in Library 107c:

- Wednesday, October 26, 2016, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., OR
- Friday, October 28, 2016, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Refreshments provided • Watch for registration link in This Week at CAE.

Teaching Consultations

Faculty are welcome to schedule individual consultations with any of the CAE Staff. Consultations can focus on a variety of teaching topics, such as designing a syllabus or course assignment; incorporating a new tech tool into your pedagogy; or analyzing your IDEA results or a set of student work. Simply email cae@fairfield.edu to set up an appointment.

Summer at Our Course Design Institutes

This summer we hosted two Course Design Institutes (CDI), one focused on assisting with course management as colleagues considered moving courses into online or hybrid formats, and another which helped to refine and revise syllabi, student learning outcomes, and assessment. Colleagues gathered together to work with partners to talk out their goals and work backwards toward assessment projects that would authentically demonstrate, to faculty as well as students, that those outcomes have been achieved. Jay Rozgonyi, Chris Vescovi, and Debbie Whalley helped participants to explore how technology can enhance teaching and learning.



Colleagues work in pairs to during July's CDI

Mid-Semester Assessment of Teaching (MAT)

October 11-24, 2016 • Make MAT Request by October 5, 2016
 A MAT is an informal, confidential, and off-the-record way for you to get constructive student feedback on student learning and your teaching. MATs are offered midway through a term to provide time to make adjustments or improvements based on student learning. To schedule a MAT for your course, please complete the online MAT request form (below) by October 5, 2016. Note that MATs are limited to one class section per instructor. CAE Program Assistant Cynthia Delventhal will follow up with you to schedule the 20-minute in-class collection of data from your students and a debrief conversation with you outside of class. Watch for registration link in *This Week at CAE*.



Writing Group Matching

Let the fireworks begin! If you're interested in joining a writing group that meets regularly to discuss your research or creative activities but haven't found colleagues with whom to collaborate, this program is for you. The CAE is facilitating Writing Groups among faculty by helping to match colleagues according to interest and affinity.

Lunch Money for Writing Groups

In order to support both ongoing and new writing groups, the CAE is sponsoring *Lunch Money for Writing Groups*, a mini-grant program that provides \$150 per semester per group to sponsor lunches that facilitate group work around research and creative activities. Grant applications are being accepted **until October 15**.

Write to cae@fairfield.edu to join either of these programs!

Critical Conversations in the Classroom: A Brown Bag Series

The CAE and the Faculty Chair for diversity are pleased to partner together to host a series of monthly brown bag discussions: *Critical Conversations in the Classroom*. These brown bag discussions will provide a space for faculty and staff to come together to talk about critical issues concerning diversity and social justice--locally, nationally, internationally--that affect our living and learning communities on campus (from managing difficult conversations to reflecting our own commitment to University mission). Forum topics will emerge from faculty and staff and be facilitated by members of the Fairfield University community.

Our **September** brown bag discussion will be facilitated by **Chanel Ward**, Director of Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs. Please join us for the dates/locations below, from 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.:

- Monday, September 26: McGrath Commons
- Tuesday, October 18: Library 107c
- Wednesday, November 16: McGrath Commons
- Thursday, December 1: McGrath Commons

Bring your own lunch. Beverages and light snacks provided.

Join a Teaching Circle

Summer Course Design Institutes are only one way to engage with others on the subject of teaching. If you're looking for a community where you can engage in substantive conversations about issues of teaching and learning, join a teaching circle! Teaching circles bring small groups of faculty together on an ongoing basis to discuss emerging issues of teaching and learning encountered in their daily teaching. Topics as well as the frequency of the meetings are determined by the members. If you are interested, contact CAE Liaison Valeria Martinez at vmartinez@fairfield.edu or write us at cae@fairfield.edu.

With Gratitude

The variety of CAE offerings are made possible with the assistance of CAE staff and campus collaborators including: Academic Affairs, Academic Computing, DiMenna-Nyselius Librarians, the Office of Student Learning, the FDEC, and individual faculty and staff. We thank all of you for your ongoing partnerships!

In the Room w. Zoom

Move into the new school year at light speed with Zoom, Fairfield's new web conferencing, screen sharing, and all around collaboration application. Hold a live class session from your couch on a snowy day; use your iPad to conduct and record a virtual whiteboard lesson; or have your students break into groups and share their laptop screens with each other as they collaborate on an active learning assignment - it's all possible with this simple and engaging new tool. This new tool allows for video, audio, and content sharing between for up to 50 participants from any device including Windows and Mac computers, iPhones & iPads, and Android phones & tablets. Email cae@fairfield.edu to set up a one-on-one consultation or look at your Blackboard landing page for a set of links to Zoom video tutorials.

Watch for *This Week at CAE* in your inbox

While we are beefing up our website (which is under construction) we're launching a new way of communicating. Find our weekly digest email titled *This Week at the CAE!* that will arrive via Faculty Announcements. These up-to-date email digests will feature all registration links and pertinent deadlines. As always, you can also reach any of our staff through cae@fairfield.edu.

WriteSpace: Back by Popular Demand

Okay, maybe we can't offer you this...



**WriteSpace
Mondays &
Tuesdays
9 - 11 a.m.
Library 107c
Sept. 19 through
Dec. 13, 2016**

...but the CAE is more than happy to open the doors of 107c again this fall for all faculty and professional staff to utilize it as a common writing space and enjoy the comity only a community of scholars and writers provides. Join us in the quiet!

The Faculty Resource Network

Once again several of our faculty attended Faculty Resource Network seminars this summer at NYU. If you see Noemi Morriberon, Shannon Kelley, Sriharsha Srinivas Sundarram, Johanna Garvey, Erica Hartwell, or Stephanie Storms around campus, ask them about their FRN Seminar experiences, or check out their short pieces on the experience at our website. Be sure to stop Silvia Marsans-Sakly, to ask her about that her experience in the month-long Scholar on Residence program. Also watch for them on Fairfield's ThinkSpace blog.

Current and future FRN opportunities can be found at the FRN website, www.nyu.edu/frn, or in our weekly digest *This Week at the CAE!*

Meet Your Faculty Liaisons!

CAE Staff: We're Here to Help



Contact Harsha at
ssrinivassundarram@fairfield.edu

Harsha Sundarram is Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering and has been at Fairfield University since 2014. He teaches courses in design, manufacturing, and materials, and is very active in developing new teaching pedagogies for the current generation of students. He is the recipient of a CAE Summer Pedagogical Innovation Mini-Grant for the project based on active learning he implemented in his machine design class. At the CAE he will assist with active learning consultations, and talk with faculty interested in the Faculty Resource Network, in which he has actively participated.

Mike Andreychik is an Associate Professor of Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences. During his time at Fairfield, Mike has served as Chair of the Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee, and as a member of the Fairfield 2020 Taskforce on Pedagogical Innovation. Mike has worked with the CAE by serving on the CAE Advisory Board, mentoring new faculty, and appearing on a number of CAE panels.



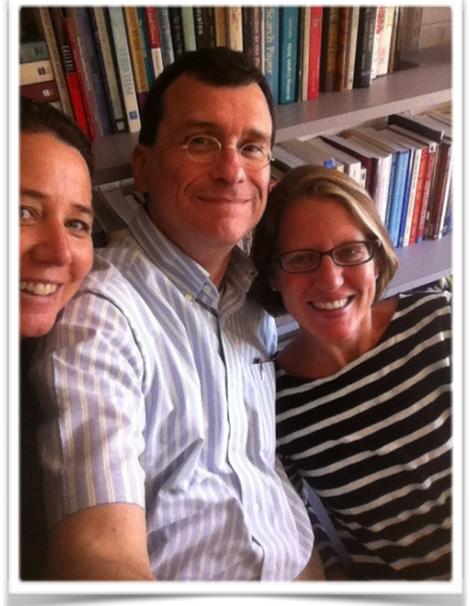
Contact Mike at
mandreychik@fairfield.edu

Valeria Martinez is an Associate Professor of Finance in the Dolan School of Business (DSB). Valeria is the recipient of the 2010 DSB Award for Teaching Excellence. She also received the best paper in finance pedagogy award at a leading conference in 2011. Valeria has been engaged with the CAE for several years, and in several recent academic years has served as Faculty Liaison. She has also facilitated a teaching circle for her colleagues.

Faculty Liaisons will also actively support faculty by conducting MATs.



Contact Valeria at
vmartinez@fairfield.edu



Reach Carol Ann, Jay & Emily at cae@fairfield.edu

We might not all fit into this selfie, but as CAE Directors, we want to fit into your teaching and learning plans! Call on us at any time--or better, email the team and the right person will reply.



Curriculum & Technology Specialist
Chris Vescovi is here to meet your learning goals with cool tech solutions. Contact him at x 2078 or through cae@fairfield.edu

CAE Program Assistant Cynthia Delventhal keeps everything running smoothly. Contact her at x 2876 or through cae@fairfield.edu

