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CAE Newsletter

Since 2003, the Center for Academic Excellence has supported innovation and scholarship in teaching and learning across Fairfield University. We are eager to support individual, department, program, or unit work targeting the University's strategic goals: Core Integration, Living & Learning, the Jesuit mission, and diversity. The CAE is working intensely with many collaborators across campus on these efforts. To ensure this work reaches the entire campus, we are launching a newsletter to be issued at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters. Within this first issue you will find news, information on CAE offerings and other campus resources, as well as opportunities to engage in various activities (so mark your calendars!). We look forward to working with you in 2010 – 2011.

"What's happening?"

CAE Under New Directorship



[Dr. Kathy Nantz](#), Director of Core Integration and Associate Professor of Economics, will be the Interim Director of the Center of Academic Excellence during the 2010-2011 academic year while [Dr. Laurence Miners](#), Co-Founder of the CAE and Professor of Economics, is on sabbatical.

Core Pathways Project Takes Root!



The [Core Integration Initiative \(CII\)](#) made great strides in 2009-2010 with the launch of the Core Pathways Project. In Spring 2010, the "Meet the Pathways" event introduced the campus community to the six Pathways and their faculty-developed definitions and learning objectives. During this interactive event, faculty and professional staff alike explored a timeline spanning centuries, interacted with Core Directors and engaged with active displays, sampled ways to incorporate the Pathways into daily practice, and took away a brochure of objectives and a printed coffee mug. ♦ View the [Pathways brochure](#) to learn why the Pathways were formulated, and discover their practical learning objectives. ♦ Stay tuned for more ways to branch out in the coming months.

Faculty Plant Seeds of Integrative Teaching & Learning



In May and June 2010, over 70 faculty participated in the CAE's first round of Summer Institutes on Integrative Learning. During the 3-day sessions, teams worked intensely brainstorming ways to integrate student learning across the core and within majors, setting learning objectives, developing reflective tools, and redesigning syllabi and assignments. Faculty "appreciated the time to reflect" and "the opportunity to connect with colleagues in other disciplines." Participants commented on the "enthusiasm" and "level of faculty engagement," and said the "enriching experience" provided "new ideas" and new "possibilities for collaboration." ♦ Coming Soon: 2011 Summer Institute call for participation!

4th Year of Fairfield FPLCs Ready for Takeoff



In 2010 – 2011, the CAE will support two Faculty and Professional Learning Communities (FPLCs): (1) Glocal (Global-Local) Learning, facilitated by David McFadden, Professor of History; and (2) Capstone and Reflective Experiences, facilitated by Roben Torosyan, Associate Director, CAE and Assistant Professor, GSEAP. ♦ Watch for the Call for Participation and a Spring 2011 FPLC Open House.

CAE Conference:

CAE Summer Conference

Save the date:
June 1-3, 2011

Learn more about the Annual Conference and how you can get involved ►►

CAE online:

To browse the most updated list of workshops & events ►►

Register for CAE workshops & events ►►

Core Workshop Series

To learn more about the English Core: EN 11, 12, and 100-level literature courses.

Fall MAT Season

Mark your calendar:
October 12 - 26, 2010

The Core Unmasked

Save the date:
October 29, 2010

Event Flyer available online.

New to Fairfield!

IDEA Student Rating System
Learn more about the IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction system.

Fairfield Crosses the Disciplinary Divide



The CAE celebrated the 10th [Annual Summer Conference](#) “Crossing the Disciplinary Divide: Innovative Pedagogy, Technology & Course Redesign” with 120 national and international participants. Keynote speaker [Therese Huston](#), author of the acclaimed *Teaching What You Don’t Know* (2009), and other presenters, shared innovations and inspired disciplinary crossing. Save the Date for our next conference: June 1-3, 2011! (*Reminder: For Fairfield faculty and professional staff, the registration fee is waived*) ♦ Watch for the Call for Proposals in Spring 2011.

Scheduled Offerings

The CAE offers many services and resources to faculty (full-time and part-time) and professional staff including: workshops (see below), individual consultations on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), consultations to departments and programs on peer review of teaching and curriculum, a mentoring program for new faculty, Faculty & Professional Learning Communities (FPLCs), an annual summer teaching conference (June 1 – 3, 2011), funding to participate in (or present at) teaching & learning conferences, and a Lending Collection. See our [website](#).

Foundational Core Course Workshop Series

Ever wonder what students are learning and doing in Core courses? Discover the goals/objectives, skills, and assignments of English 11 and 12, History 30, Religious Studies 10, Philosophy 10, Core Mathematics, and Modern Languages & Literatures. Join your colleagues this Fall for interactive presentations, discussions, and sharing over drinks and snacks. ♦ Kicking off the series will be the English Department in late **October 2010** ♦ Core workshop dates to be announced.



Mid-semester Assessment of Teaching (MAT)

Mark your calendars! **October 12 – 26, 2010** is MAT season.

MATs are confidential, informal, off-the-record, formative feedback from your students about which processes in the classroom are helping them learn and which would help them more.

♦ *Watch for the email call from the CAE. To schedule a MAT for your course, [email us](#) ✉.*

The Core Unmasked

Friday, October 29, 2010; 11:30am – 3:00pm, Barone Campus Center, Oak Room.

Join colleagues and students for a core tour. Now in its 4th year, this fun and interactive Halloween-themed event invites students to explore the core, engage with faculty, and receive informal pre-registration advising. Food, drinks, and prizes provided. ♦ *To reserve a department/program table and participate, [email us](#) ✉.*



Integration Brown-Bags

In response to faculty requests for an ongoing venue for sharing ideas, integrative practices and innovations, and resources, the CAE will host two informal gatherings this fall on Wednesdays October 13 and November 17, 11:30am – 1:00pm in Library room 107c ♦ Bring your lunch and we will provide coffee/tea and dessert.



IDEA Student Ratings

Beginning in Fall 2010, all standardized evaluation of instruction scantrons will be replaced by the [IDEA](#) Student Rating system. To facilitate this transition, the CAE is collaborating with the FDEC (Faculty Development & Evaluation Committee) and IDEA-trained faculty on workshops to help you understand the system and get started with it, and to customize your forms to best suit your needs.

♦ *Workshop dates to be announced.* ♦ *Individual consults available upon request.*



New to Fairfield!

Blackboard

Learn more about the Blackboard Course Management System.

DIGI[cation]

Learn more about the electronic portfolio system adopted by Fairfield.

Funding Applications:

Applications available here ►►

CAE's Travel Grant

Apply and submit to the CAE.

Core-to-Major Integration

Apply and submit to the CAE.

FRC Programming

Apply and submit to the Office of Academic Engagement.

Faculty Resource Network

Learn more about the FRN and professional opportunities.

The Learning Environment Project Series

In 2010-2011, volunteer faculty across campus are piloting the use of a series of technology tools, including: an e-Portfolio system ([Digication](#)); a new Course Management System ([Blackboard](#)); and an in-house *portal*. ♦ Learn more about the Learning Environment Project (LEP) in this series, beginning with an informational session, followed by platform-specific workshops. Co-facilitated by the LEP committee and sub-committee directors.

♦ *Workshop dates to be announced.* ♦ Blackboard training available from Computer & Network Services. ♦ To set up your Blackboard course page, [email Mary Kleps](#)

Opportunities for Faculty

CAE's Grant for Teaching & Learning Conference Participation

With support from the Davis Educational Foundation, the CAE is pleased to offer faculty travel grants to participate in teaching & learning conferences. Consult the 2010-2011 conference list and contact us prior to registering.

♦ For an application, [email the CAE](#) ✉



Core-to-Major Integration Funds

Funds are available to support faculty and student activities that enhance integrative learning around Core Pathways as they relate to work in upper-level or graduate courses. The goal of this program is to help students and faculty advance integrative work as they make connections between core learning and more specialized applications in upper-level courses.

♦ Complete the [application](#) and email it to the [CAE](#) ✉



First-Year Residential Course Programming Funds

Funds are available for faculty and students in First-Year Residential Courses, to support community-building activities. Goals are to engage students and faculty outside class, and to engage students more actively in course work.

♦ Fall application deadline: October 15, 2010 (*reviewed by October 22*).

♦ Complete the [application](#) and email it to the [Dean of Academic Engagement](#) ✉



Faculty Resource Network

A consortium of over 50 colleges and universities, the FRN provides professional development offerings to improve the quality of teaching and learning, through lectures, symposia, seminars, and a scholars-in-residence program. For deadlines and more see New York University's [FRN](#).

♦ Fall application deadline: October 1 for Network Winter and October 9 for University Associates Program. ♦ To apply, please contact [Kathy Nantz](#), Fairfield's official FRN liaison.



Peer Review of Teaching & Curriculum (*Department or Program consultations*)

With a grant from the Davis Educational Foundation, the CAE has been offering consultations and workshops on developing a peer review of teaching and curriculum system. Customized to departmental or program school needs, this work aims at both formative (for improvement) and summative (for personnel decisions) feedback on syllabi, assignments, activities, classroom observations, student ratings, etc. ♦ To schedule a Peer Review consultation, [email us](#) ✉.

Consultations on the Pathways to Core Integration

Find Pathway language for learning objectives to include in your assignments, activities, syllabi and grading criteria—or in your department's curriculum. Consult with the CAE and the 2010-2011 Pathways Directors

♦ To schedule a consultation on using the pathways, [email us](#) ✉.



CAE Lending Collection

Come to the library lower level and browse our lending collection.

Teaching Handouts

Browse the CAE's Articles

Convocation Resources:

Convocation: From Activism to Global Citizenship

[Learn more about Convocation](#) ▶▶

Instructor/Facilitator Guide

Available in .doc and .pdf format ▶▶

Center for Academic Excellence (CAE)

E-mail: cae@fairfield.edu

Phone:
(203) 254-4000, ext. 2876

Location:
DiMenna-Nyselius Library
Lower Level, Room 106


Website:
<http://www.fairfield.edu/cae>

Teaching Resources & Tips

Check Out the CAE's Lending Library!


Our collection of over 600 books and other materials ranges from evaluation of students / grading, to general teaching guides, to the life of a professor. [Find titles online](#) (Power Search, location: CAE-Lower Level) or browse our shelves (by Library 107A&B), and check materials out at circulation.



 **Highlight:** Walvoord & Anderson's classic *Effective Grading, 2nd Ed.* (2010)
To save time on grading, Walvoord & Anderson (2010) suggest delegating work to students through peer checklists, self-checklists, etc. Additionally, they suggest using technology (e.g., course management systems like Blackboard) to save time and enhance results.

Tip sheets, Articles, and Handouts on Teaching & Learning

Browse [online](#). Categories include: active learning tips, collaborative learning (in 60 seconds or less), critical thinking, diversity & service learning, and integrative learning techniques.

 **Highlight:** "Improving Classroom Discussion"
Get people started, probe deeper, balance voices, bring discussion back on track, and summarize learning. (From *The Teaching Professor* newsletter.) See [CAE Handouts](#), and click on 'Discussion'.

Fall Convocation and Your Classroom

To help you integrate the 2010-2011 convocation theme "From Activism to Global Citizenship" and the common film "[From RFK to Apartheid: A Ripple of Hope](#)" into your teaching, the Convocation Committee has made available an [Instructor/Facilitator Guide](#). Fall Convocation questions? Email Beth Boquet, Dean of Academic Engagement. Questions about the film? Email [John Suggs](#), Assistant Director of the Center for Faith and Public Life.




Teachers' Bureau

A database where faculty and professional staff on campus can share and participate in each other's core classrooms. Post an offer or a need online for classroom visit to run a 30-minute program.

Did You Know?

Fairfield faculty members report that they receive higher quality research papers from students than they would have otherwise, when they partner with DiMenna-Nyselius Librarians to offer [research skills development sessions](#) and support to their students.

Your Feedback

Your feedback and suggestions matter to us! Share your teaching tips and strategies, write to us! The CAE welcomes any comments on our newsletter or ideas for content. *Let us know* !

The CAE Team is here to help!



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