

# Center for Academic Excellence

Supporting innovation and scholarship in teaching and learning  
for all faculty and professional staff since 2003.

Volume 3, Issue 1  
Fall 2012



## Fall 2012 Newsletter

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### Message from the director

Welcome to Fall 2012!

I look forward to working with, learning from, and providing service to faculty and professional colleagues this year. Thank you in advance for contributing to the CAE's endeavors, and to supporting me to work wisely and well for our communal benefit.

Have a wonderful semester,  
*Pat*

### CAE offering highlights

- Faculty Leadership Fellows Program
- Writing Retreats
- Course Design Institutes
- Expanded communities of practice offerings
- Summer Conference 2013

## What's happening?

### New CAE Directorship

Welcome to **Dr. Patricia Calderwood**, Professor of Curriculum and Instruction in the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions, as the new director of the Center for Academic Excellence. Pat began her term of service on July 1, 2012. She succeeds Dr. Larry Miners, Professor of Economics, founder of the Center from 2003 – 2012, and interim CAE director (2010 – 2011) Dr. Kathy Nantz, Professor of Economics. Thank you to Larry and Kathy for their years of dedication to the CAE! Pat joins the CAE with the support of Dr. Suzanna Klaf, CAE associate director (as of July 1, 2012) and Ms. Cynthia Delventhal, CAE program assistant.

### Faculty Leadership Fellows, 2012 – 2013

The CAE has launched a pilot Leadership Development program intended to build local expertise and cultivate campus leadership for teaching and learning. Welcome to the CAE's first cohort of Faculty Leadership Fellows: **Dr. Valeria Martinez** (Finance, DSB) and **Dr. Glenn Sauer** (Biology, CAS)! Learn more about our Faculty Leadership Fellows on page 8.

### Faculty Consultant for Writing Across the Community

As of Fall 2012, **Dr. Cinthia Gannett**, Director of Core Writing, will be affiliated with the Center for Academic Excellence in a new role as the Faculty Consultant for Writing. In this capacity, she will support a variety of CAE Initiatives which feature writing for learning and communicating across the Core and the disciplines, including special support for faculty interested in developing their scholarly and pedagogical writing.

Her work with the CAE will include sponsoring faculty writing retreats and writing circles according to interest, consulting with individual faculty on writing projects, offering speakers and workshops, supporting Core Integration through assignment & course design and evidence-based work on academic (disciplinary-interdisciplinary) writing pedagogies, and support university-wide discussions of writing engagement and support.

### FDEC & CAE to collaborate on Mentoring, 2012 – 2013

Look for an enhanced focus on mentoring for new, mid-career, and senior faculty through the year as the CAE works with the Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee (FDEC).

## Summer Institute on Integrative Teaching & Learning 2012

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Summer Institute “Cultivating Integrative Teaching and Learning” (May 16 – 18) brought together 44 participants from different colleges and departments working on teaching projects, and numerous campus experts who presented and consulted with teams on topics included: course design, assignment design, assessment of student learning, and course management systems. This Institute was made possible through funding from the Davis Educational Foundation.

## CAE hosts Back-to-School Day

To kick off the new academic year, the CAE collaborated with Jay Rozgonyi, Mary Kleps, of Computing & Network Services, Jessica McCullough of the DiMenna-Nyselius Library, and Curt Naser, creator of Mentor, to facilitate sessions to help faculty get their Fall courses ready. Topics included a refresher on teaching resources, and sessions on Blackboard and Mentor. Look for a similar offering prior to the start of the Spring 2013 semester.

## Peer Review of Teaching (PRoT) Project

In collaboration with the Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee (FDEC), the CAE welcomed three new teams of faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences (**Biology, English, and Philosophy**) that will work on developing their department Peer Review of Teaching systems. (These teams join PRoT alums from 2011 – 2012: the School of **Nursing, the Graduate School of Education & Allied Professions, Visual & Performing Arts, and History and Religious studies**). View the [PRoT resources](#) created by the 2011 – 2012 PRoT teams, available [online](#).



## Scheduled Offerings

### Writing Retreats

The CAE will sponsor a variety of initiatives to support the campus “community of writers” across the year. The **kick off writing event** of the semester will take place on **Friday, September 28, 9:30am – noon**, location: **Alumni House**. This event will provide the opportunity to meet writing consultants on campus, set an agenda for writing projects, and get started on your writing. Bring laptop, pen and paper. There will be space and time for writing by yourself and sharing your plans and projects. Other scheduled retreats for Fall 2012 include: **October 12** (in celebration of the [National Day on Writing](#)) and **November 9**, both **10am to noon**, in the **Library lower level**. These events are co-sponsored by the CAE, Faculty Consultant for Writing, and the DiMenna-Nyselius Library. Can't participate due to scheduling? Consider other opportunities such as joining a **Writing Circle**, learn more on page 5.

### Writing Retreats

Friday, September 28, 9:30am – noon, Alumni House  
Friday, October 12, 10am – noon, Library lower level  
Friday, November 9, 10am – noon, Library lower level

◆ Register online today! – [click here](#) ◆

### Mid-semester Assessment of Teaching (MAT)

Mark your calendars! October 9 - 23, 2012 is MAT season. MATs are confidential, informal, off-the-record, formative feedback from your students about which activities in your classroom are helping them learn and which would help them more. To learn more about our MAT procedures, check our summary [PDF](#). To schedule a MAT for your course, please complete an [online MAT request form](#).

### MAT Request

Deadline: Tuesday, **October 2**

◆ Request a MAT online ◆  
– [click here](#) to access the form.

### Conversation on Ignatian Pedagogy and Jesuit Values in Higher Education

Join colleagues for a conversation on Ignatian Pedagogy and Jesuit Values in Higher Education, with an emphasis on Goal III of the University's Strategic Plan. This wine & cheese event will take place on Thursday, **November 15**, 4:00 – 5:30pm, in the Diffley Room, Bellarmine.

### Conversation on Ignatian Pedagogy and Jesuit Values

Thursday, November 15  
4:00 – 5:30pm  
Diffley Room, Bellarmine

◆ Sign-up online today! – [click here](#) ◆

### IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction

Join the CAE for sessions on “getting started with IDEA,” designed for those new to Fairfield and the IDEA system but all welcome to attend. Thursday, **November 8**, noon – 1:30pm and a repeat session 3:30 – 5:00pm, both in Library 107c. ◆ Can't attend? Check out the resources available online through [Fairfield University](#) and the [IDEA](#) Center. ◆ Consults on IDEA are also available through the CAE for individuals, departments, and schools. ◆

### “Getting Started with IDEA” Session

Thursday, November 8  
noon – 1:30pm or 3:30 – 5:00pm  
Library 107c

◆ Register online today! – [click here](#) ◆

- ◆ IDEA student Ratings resources for faculty available [online](#) ◆  
*Find resources from the CAE-FDEC workshops on “Getting Started with IDEA” and “Interpreting the Data”.*

#### IDEA resources online:

- [Faculty Evaluation](#) – information on using IDEA for faculty evaluation. *Features information on interpreting IDEA diagnostic form reports, summative decision making, a worksheet for faculty to record IDEA results over time and display trends.*
- [Faculty Information Form Resources](#) – faculty support information and documents for Student Ratings of Instruction: *Features tips on selecting learning objectives, integrating IDEA objectives into syllabi, etc.*



### Tips from Fairfield faculty – going paperless with IDEA:

- Make time/schedule IDEA into class time
- Have students bring their laptops or reserve a computer lab
- Communicate and familiarize students with IDEA
- Remind students of the importance the evaluation process and their feedback

### Tech Bytes Brown-Bag Series

Bring your lunch and join the CAE and Computing & Network Services for a series on instructional technologies, offered noon – 1pm, in Library 107c. The three sessions this semester include: Kaltura video streaming - Thursday, **October 4**, facilitated by C&NS assistant director Jay Rozgonyi, Blackboard course management - Wednesday, **November 7**, facilitated by instructional support specialist Mary Kleps; and iPads in the Classroom - Tuesday, **November 27**, facilitated by Jay Rozgonyi.

### Tech Byte Series

Noon – 1pm, Library 107c

Thursday, October 4: **Kaltura** video streaming  
Wednesday, November 7: **Blackboard** Learn  
Tuesday, November 27: **iPads** in the Classroom

◆ Register online today! – [click here](#) ◆

- ◆ For other instructional technologies supported by C&NS, visit their [Academic Computing Support website](#) ◆

## Coming up

### Events to look forward to in 2013...

#### Course Design Institute

The CAE will begin offering institutes for faculty interested in designing new courses or revising courses using the Backward Design Model, a proven method that focuses on student-centered learning. These 4-day institutes allow faculty to interact with colleagues from across campus. Institute dates include: **January 7 - 10, 2013** and **June 11 - 14, 2013**. *Space is limited.* ♦ Complete an [online application](#) ♦ Note: accepted participants must commit to participating in all four days of the institute.

#### Course Design Institutes 2013

Winter (January 7-10) & Summer (June 4-7)  
Daily 10am - 3pm

♦ Apply online today! - [click here](#) ♦

#### Annual Summer Teaching Conference 2013

Back after a one year hiatus, in 2013 the CAE will host its 12<sup>th</sup> conference on **Innovative Pedagogy & Course Redesign: "Collaborations for Empowerment & Learning,"** open to Fairfield University and beyond. Conference dates: **May 29 - 31, 2013**. Conference keynote speaker: internationally renowned Dr. Mary Deane Sorcinelli, Associate Provost for Faculty Development and Professor of Educational Policy, Research & Administration, and director of the Center for Teaching and Faculty Development at University of Massachusetts Amherst. Consider presenting your innovative work, volunteering, and/or attending this regional conference hosted on campus. ♦ Upcoming: Look for the call for proposals.

#### *Other events:*

**2-day Assessment Institute**  
Wednesday, May 15 and Thursday, 16

**2-day Writing Retreat**  
Monday, May 20 and Tuesday, May 21

## Opportunities for Faculty

#### Service Learning - *Workshop and Courses*

Please join the Office of Service Learning and Center for Academic Excellence for our annual **Service Learning 101** workshop on **Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 10-11:30am in CNS 200**. To register, [click here](#).

♦ If you would like to have your Spring 2013 courses designated as Service Learning in course listing, please complete the application (click [here](#)) and submit to [servicelearning@fairfield.edu](mailto:servicelearning@fairfield.edu) by **October 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The application is for NEW and RENEWAL designation. ♦ Faculty interested in consulting on a new or existing service-learning course can contact **Melissa Quan**, director of Service Learning and associate director of the Center for Faith and Public Life at [mquan@fairfield.edu](mailto:mquan@fairfield.edu) or ext. 3455.

#### **JUHAN (Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network) - Call for Courses for Spring 2013**

*Deadline for submission: October 3, 2012*

The principal focus of JUHAN is undergraduate education, broadly defined to include traditional academic curricula as well as less formal learning through conferences, workshops, and service to the community. JUHAN also provides an opportunity for faculty and staff at Jesuit Universities to collaborate on research programs and curriculum development. [JUHAN Assessment Toolkit](#) available as a [PDF](#) online.

♦ Questions? Contact Julie Mughal, assistant director of the Center for Faith and Public Life at [jmughal@fairfield.edu](mailto:jmughal@fairfield.edu) or ext. 3505.

## Communities of Practice

The CAE will facilitate the formation of communities of practice around teaching, writing, and mentoring. To get involved, please apply online, or contact [Pat](#) or [Suzanna](#) for more information. *Please note that the CAE's Faculty and Professional Learning Communities (FPLC) program is on hiatus for 2012-2013, but we hope to facilitate FPLCs in the future.*

## Teaching Circles

Models of departmental collaboration around teaching and learning have become staples on campus in the Mathematics & Computer Science and History departments. *Interested in reflecting on your teaching with others across the Institution?* Join a teaching circle! Responding to the call for the formation of teaching circles during the December 2011 FDEC day on Peer Review of Teaching, the CAE continues to help coordinate faculty interested in forming informal teaching circles. Participating faculty set guidelines, discuss teaching, visit each others' classes with the goal of learning from each other. No reports will be generated and no letters written. ♦ Interested in participating? Complete an [online application](#) and the CAE will facilitate the formation of teaching circles. ♦

## Mentoring Circles and Pairings

Looking for a mutual mentoring opportunity outside your department? Mentoring circles offer the opportunity to support and be supported by colleagues who might be facing the same challenges and opportunities as you, who are in similar career stages (for example, transitioning from mid-career concerns to legacy-building, dealing with post-tenure "what-now" opportunities, learning how to navigate our university culture during your early years, or looking to learn how to improve chairing and other leadership skills). Co-mentoring circles meet as frequently as weekly, and as infrequently as 3-4 times per year, as the circle decides. Together, the group identifies its purpose, process and parameters. Many mentoring circles include a facilitator. The CAE can assist you to find or establish a mentoring circle that is right for you, and can provide some facilitative guidance and assistance. ♦ Complete an [online application](#) or email [Pat Calderwood](#) if you'd just like to talk about joining a co-mentoring circle.

## Writing Circles

Looking for support with your writing? Join a writing circle. Writing circles are small groups of 3-5 faculty that meet on a regular basis (weekly, bi-weekly or less frequently, as the group decides) for 1 or two hours. Each group finds its own best rhythm and process, but all groups provide mutual support for members at any stage of their writing process. For example, some writing circle meetings begin with a check-in, so that each person can comment briefly on how they are progressing. The remainder of the meeting time is then allotted to one (or two) group member(s) to talk and think with the group about any aspect of their writing, drafting, struggling for ideas, words, images, reviewing, finding venues for presentation or publication, and so on. Resources on getting writing done and journal outlets are available on the [CAE site](#). ♦ Interested in participating? Complete an [online application](#) and the CAE will facilitate the formation of writing circles.

### **Communities of Practice**

**2012 - 2013**

♦ Apply online today! ♦

### **Teaching Circles**

♦ Online application - [click here](#) ♦

### **Writing Circles**

♦ Online application - [click here](#) ♦

### **Mentoring Circles**

♦ Online application - [click here](#) ♦

*Note: we will try our best to meet your request for participation; however this will depend on the responses we receive.*

### Faculty Research Network

Going on sabbatical? Could use New York University resources to support your teaching and scholarship? Interested in connecting with colleagues across disciplines and a network of over 50 institutions?

Participate in [Faculty Resource Network](#) offerings! The Network Winter 2013 (January 14-18, Hawaii) features seminars around the theme of "The Pacific": Pacific Biodiversity, Pacific Peoples and Places, and Pacific Literature and Film. No fee for participation, but you request travel funding from your program. ♦ Network Winter Application deadline: **October 5**. ♦ Other opportunities include: the Semester Scholar-in-Residence program; and University Associate, application deadline: **October 12**. ♦ To apply for these opportunities, contact [Pat Calderwood](#), Fairfield FRN Liaison. ♦

#### Faculty Resource Network

♦ Learn more about FRN opportunities [online](#). ♦

##### [Network Winter 2013](#)

Application deadline: October 5

##### [University Associate](#) (Spring 2013)

Application deadline: October 12

### Faculty Scholarly Publishing – Fall Library workshop series

Join the DiMenna-Nyselius library for workshops on scholarly publishing. The first in the series "Finding a place to publish social science and science scholarship" was offered on August 29. Upcoming offerings include: **Understanding your Rights as an Author – Know Your Copy Rights**, during *Open Access Week* (October 22-28, date and time to be determined); and **Get Published: Cool Tools to Ease the Pain** (mid-December, date and time to be determined). ♦ Look for a call from the Library. ♦ For more information, contact Jackie Kremer, [jkremer@fairfield.edu](mailto:jkremer@fairfield.edu). ♦ Also check out the [Faculty Publishing Guide](#) available online created by the Reference Librarians of the DiMenna-Nyselius Library. ♦

If you are unsure about whether or not to apply for an FRN opportunity, read below to learn more about the professional benefits of engaging in the FRN:

"Taking part in the opportunities and experiences offered by Fairfield's affiliation with New York University's Faculty Resource Network consortium has changed and enhanced my research and stimulated many curricular initiatives. My affiliation with FRN, started in 1997. Both during that year and in 1998, during the summers, I took one of the week-long intensive, theme-based workshops offered by the Network. It was great to be in residence for a week in New York while participating in a focused course. To be surrounded by colleagues from a variety of disciplines who had come from other Network-based Universities across the country created a rich and engaging environment for discourse. In 2000 and 2006, coinciding with the times I was on sabbatical, I applied and was awarded a Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship. During those times as a Scholar, I was given a free apartment at NYU, worked with other NYU professors in my field of interest, audited a course and had unlimited access to the Bobst Library research and IT facilities. In addition, I was able to meet other Scholars through the various functions, receptions and dinners that were offered during each of my four month stays. Since that time, I have applied and received University Associate status during a number of semesters, allowing me to audit classes and/or use the library. My work in visual art is, by its nature, interdisciplinary, so having access to such a wealth of resources in which to continue learning has been an amazing opportunity."

– Jo Yarrington, Professor, Studio Art Program, Department of Visual and Performing Arts.

## Teaching Resources & Tips

### DiMenna-Nyselius Library's Research Tracker

Help your students keep their research ON TIME, ON TRACK, and ON TARGET with this tool developed by Fairfield's Reference Librarians. ♦ For more information contact the library at ext. 2178, text message: 203-295-7642, or [email](#). ♦

♦ Find the [Research Tracker](#) online. ♦

### How do we know what students are learning?

If you are new to Fairfield or student assessment, if your program is undergoing review, if you are a member of your department's assessment team, or if you just want to learn more, **Dr. Christine Siegel**, Faculty Consultant for Assessment of Learning Associate Dean, Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions, Associate Professor, School Psychology, is available for individual or group consultation appointments. ♦ To schedule an appointment contact her at (203) 254-4000, ext. 3125 or [csiegel@fairfield.edu](mailto:csiegel@fairfield.edu).

♦ Find [Assessment Resource](#) online. ♦

### Video about diversity at Fairfield – a Faculty & Professional Learning Community (FPLC) created resource

#### [The "D" Word: A 20-minute student-faculty video about diversity at Fairfield](#)

Premiered at the 2012 Creative Accomplishments and Research Symposium, produced by a student-faculty team, this 20 minute video is composed of micro-interviews with Fairfield students, alumni, faculty and staff who are women, people of color, ethnically diverse, or LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning). ♦ Student producers: Melissa Thomas (videographer and editor), Sarah Gatti and Jennifer Martin (interviewers), David Kurlander (videographer). Faculty/staff producers from the diversity FPLC, 2009 – 2010: Roxana Walker-Canton (editor), Philip Bahr, Sally O'Dricoll, Emily Orlando, and Roben Torosyan (producers).

### Cities Sandbox – a Faculty & Professional Learning Community (FPLC) created resource

The Cities FPLC (2011-2012) conceptualized an interdisciplinary community resource known as the "CITIES SANDBOX" as a group project. Through the initial efforts of FPLC members (Keith Stetson (Library), Marice Rose (Visual & Performing Arts), Nels Pearson (English), Victor Deupi (Visual & Performing Arts), Barbara Wells-Nystrom (GSEAP), and facilitated by Suzanna Klaf (CAE) and further developed by a team of faculty during the CAE's Summer Institute (Victor Deupi (Visual & Performing Arts), Kurt Schlichting (Sociology & Anthropology), Mary Murphy (English), Joel Goldfield (Modern Languages & Literatures), Jay Rozgonyi (Computing & Network Services), Johanna Garvey (English); the Sandbox is now open to all!

♦ All faculty are able to access the **CITIES SANDBOX** on [Blackboard](#) (*note: all faculty have instructor permissions and are welcome to add materials to the sandbox*). Logon and discover resources on the topic of Cities for your teaching and scholarship, and learn about scheduled events for the [University's area focus](#).



♦ Have fun in **virtual Cities Sandbox!** Browse, add, download/copy materials (texts, URLs, films, and other media) to your own Blackboard courses. "Usage Guidelines" for how to browse and add materials are posted on the main page. ♦ The documentary film "**Urbanized**," by Gary Hustwit, is available on the site under "Inhabiting Cities," and can also be requested for your courses via the library's [streaming video](#) request site.

♦ Also check out the DiMenna-Nyselius' Cities display and the [Library's](#) extensive collection on cities-related materials (print and media).

#### The "D" Word

##### [4-page teaching guide](#)

*provides discussion questions and tips for facilitating conversations.*

♦ Stream the 20 minute video [online](#). ♦

## CAE Affiliates

### Faculty Leadership Fellows, 2012 - 2013



**Dr. Valeria Martinez**  
*Faculty Leadership Fellow*  
 (203) 254-4000, ext. 2881  
 Associate Professor of Finance  
[vmartinez@fairfield.edu](mailto:vmartinez@fairfield.edu)

**Valeria Martinez** is an associate professor of Finance at Fairfield University. Her research includes both traditional empirical finance and pedagogy. She is a passionate teacher who constantly strives to become better at her craft. She received the first Dolan School of Business Teaching Excellence Award in 2010. In 2011 she was the recipient of the Best Pedagogy Paper Award at the Financial Education Association Annual Conference for her work "Triangular Arbitrage Deconstructed," which has been published in the *Journal of Financial Education*. In addition in 2011, she received a Teaching Innovation Grant from the Dolan School of Business for her research on "Time Value of Money Made Simple: A Graphic Teaching Method."



**Dr. Glenn Sauer**  
*Faculty Leadership Fellow*  
 Associate Professor of Biology  
 (203) 254-4000, ext. 2741  
[gsauer@fairfield.edu](mailto:gsauer@fairfield.edu)

**Glenn R. Sauer** is an associate professor of Biology and has been a member of the Fairfield University faculty since 2000. He teaches courses in biochemistry, endocrinology, plant physiology and general biology. He also teaches a science core course entitled "God & Modern Biology", which examines various topics in science and religion. His scholarship has been published in leading scientific journals including the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Journal of Cellular Biochemistry*, and the *Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry*. Dr. Sauer is very active in the interdisciplinary field of Science and Religion. He was recently awarded a grant from the John Templeton Foundation to develop science and religion educational programs for Catholic schools and parishes in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Dr. Sauer has served in leadership positions across campus, as the chair of Biology (2004 -2010) and associate academic chair of the Ignatian Residential College.

## CAE Consultants

### Faculty Consultant for Writing:



**Dr. Cinthia Gannett**  
 Director of Core Writing  
 Associate Professor, English  
 (203) 254 - 4000, ext. 2800  
[cgannett@fairfield.edu](mailto:cgannett@fairfield.edu)

### Faculty Consultant for Assessment of Learning:



**Dr. Christine Siegel**  
 Associate Dean, Graduate School of  
 Education and Allied Professions, Associate  
 Professor, School Psychology  
 (203) 254-4000, ext. 3125  
[csiegel@fairfield.edu](mailto:csiegel@fairfield.edu)

### Peer Review of Teaching Consultants: *(Davis-funded project)*



**Dr. Kathy Nantz**  
 Professor, Economics  
 (203) 254 - 4000, ext. 2271  
[nantz@fairfield.edu](mailto:nantz@fairfield.edu)



**Dr. Larry Miners**  
 Professor, Economics  
 (203) 254 - 4000, ext. 2868  
[miners@fairfield.edu](mailto:miners@fairfield.edu)

## CAE Staff



**Dr. Patricia Calderwood**  
*CAE Director*  
 Professor, Educational Studies and  
 Teacher Preparation, GSEAP  
 Library 107b  
 (203) 254 – 4000, ext. 3071  
[pcalderwood@fairfield.edu](mailto:pcalderwood@fairfield.edu)



**Dr. Suzanna Klaf**  
*CAE Associate Director*  
 Adjunct, International Studies  
 Library 107a  
 (203) 254 – 4000, ext. 3489  
[sklaf@fairfield.edu](mailto:sklaf@fairfield.edu)



**Cynthia Delventhal**  
*CAE Program Assistant*  
 Library 106  
 (203) 254 – 4000, ext. 2876  
[cdelventhal@fairfield.edu](mailto:cdelventhal@fairfield.edu)

## Center for Academic Excellence

DiMenna-Nyselius Library lower level

Contact the CAE at ext. 2876 or [cae@fairfield.edu](mailto:cae@fairfield.edu)



Visit our website at:  
[www.fairfield.edu/cae](http://www.fairfield.edu/cae)

The CAE welcomes your feedback on our newsletter and offerings. Please submit anonymously through our [online suggestion form](#).

## CAE Advisory Board 2012 – 2013

**Beth Boquet,**  
*Academic Affairs, Writing Center*

**Cynthia Gannett,**  
*Faculty Consultant of Writing*

**Manyul Im,**  
*College of Arts & Sciences*

**Valeria Martinez,**  
*Dolan School of Business*

**Christina McGowan,**  
*DiMenna-Nyselius Library*

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*Faculty Consultant on Assessment of Learning*

**Suzanne Solensky,**  
*Office of Academic Engagement*

**Stephanie Storms,**  
*Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions*

## Fall 2012 Events

### SEPTEMBER

9/27 - Service Learning 101  
 9/28 - Writing Retreat

### OCTOBER

10/4 - Kaltura Video Streaming  
 10/ 9 through 10/23 – MATs  
 10/12 – Mini Writing Retreat

### NOVEMBER

11/7 – Blackboard  
 11/ 8 – Getting Started with IDEA  
 11/9 – Mini Writing Retreat  
 11/15 – Ignatian Pedagogy  
 11/27 – Teaching with iPads