

In This Issue

Update: What's happening?

Scheduled Offerings

Opportunities for Faculty

Teaching Resources & Tips

Core Integration Online:

Core Integration Activities
Learn more about Core activities

Core Pathways brochure
*Learn more about the Pathways
and view the brochure (.PDF)*

Core Mission
*Learn more about the mission of the
Core and requirements*

CAE Newsletter

Happy 2011! In this issue of the Center for Academic Excellence's Newsletter, 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 this semester!

Since 2003, the CAE has supported innovation and scholarship in teaching and learning across Fairfield University. We eagerly support individual, department, program, or unit work on the University's strategic goals: Core Integration, Living & Learning, the Jesuit mission, and diversity. This newsletter highlights ongoing work with collaborators across campus on these efforts.

"What's happening?"

Faculty & Professional Staff Explore the "Core of the Core"



In Fall 2010, faculty and professional staff learned about and shared course content and pedagogies, in a workshop series on "Foundational" Core Courses: English (October 22), Religious Studies (November 10), and Philosophy (December 2). More coming to come this spring! ♦ Find "Core of the Core" handouts at the CAE's [Core Integration page](#).

Core Pathways Project Directors

Announcing the 2010 – 2011 Pathway Directors: Bob Epstein (*Engaging Traditions*, formerly *Appropriating Wisdom*), Jo Yarrington (*Creative and Aesthetic Engagement*), Renée White (*Global Citizenship*), Laura McSweeney and Linda Henkel (*Quantitative Reasoning*), Cinthia Gannett (*Rhetoric & Reflection*), and Kraig Steffen (*Scientific Reasoning*). Stay tuned for opportunities to engage in Core Pathway conversations, and for Pathway events. ♦ Learn more about the [Core Integration Initiative \(CII\)](#) and the Pathways Project. ♦ View the [Pathways brochure](#) to learn why the Pathways were formulated, and discover their practical learning objectives. ♦ View a [Summary of the Core Pathways](#).



Faculty & Students Unmask the Core



On October 29, 2010, faculty, first-year students, and peer advisors converged to unmask the core. The 4th Annual Core Unmasked drew the campus community together for interactive displays, integrative conversations, and a community celebration of Core offerings. ♦ *To view photographs of this event*, visit the CAE's [Core Integration page](#).

IDEA Student Rating System



In Fall 2010, the CAE collaborated with the Faculty Development & Evaluation Committee (FDEC) on workshops to help faculty "get started with IDEA". For more information about [IDEA](#) implementation at Fairfield, visit the [University's IDEA site](#).

♦ Key contacts: On-campus IDEA Coordinator: [Tracy Immerso](#), *Manager of Academic Operations, Academic Affairs*; and [Dr. Angela Harkins](#), FDEC Chair.

CAE online:

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

Register for CAE workshops & events ►►

Community Engaged Scholarship

Save-the-date:

February 10 – 11, 2011

Literacy and Community Action

Save-the-date:

February 23 – 24, 2011

Core Workshop Series

History “Core of the Core”

March 1, 2011

To learn more about the History Core: HI 30

Spring MAT Season

Mark your calendar:

March 1 – 11, 2011

Scheduled Offerings

The CAE offers many services and resources to faculty (full-time and part-time) and professional staff including: workshops, 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. Check our [website](#).

This Spring we offer workshops on topics including: *Assigning Writing in Any Course to Promote Rhetoric and Reflection* (facilitated by Cinthia Gannett, English and Director of Core Writing and featuring a faculty panel), *Cross-Cultural Communication* (co-facilitated by the Global-Local FPLC and other partners), *Interdisciplinary Uses of the Bellarmine Museum of Art's Kress Collection* (facilitated by Jill Deupi and faculty panelists), among others. See emails or CAE's [Schedule of Events](#) page.

Community Engaged Scholarship Event

Save-the-Date! **February 10 – 11, 2011**. In collaboration with the [Office of Service Learning](#), the CAE will bring guest speaker [Dr. Patti Clayton](#) to campus. Patti is a national expert on community engaged scholarship, critical reflection, and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). During her time with us, she will deliver a keynote presentation, offer workshops, consultations, and engage in conversations. ♦ Detailed schedule coming soon. ♦ *Note:* This event is not a stand-alone event, but as grounded in the University's three [strategic goals](#), is part of several other events to come that will continue building momentum to integrate such scholarship and teaching (e.g., on campus: guest speaker on Literacy and Community Action [Linda Flower](#)- information below; the CAE's Annual Summer Institute on Integrative Learning – May 18 - 20; off campus: the [Connecticut Campus Compact](#) sponsored workshop on engaged scholarship and rank & tenure).



Literacy and Community Action

Save-the-date: **February 23 – 24, 2011**. [Dr. Linda Flower](#), Professor of Rhetoric at Carnegie Mellon University, co-founder of the Community Literacy Center in Pittsburg, and author of the award-winning *Community Literacy and the Rhetoric of Public Engagement* will be speaking on **February 23, 7:30 – 9:00pm**. She will talk about the work of the [Community Literacy Center](#) which, for more than twenty years, has brought community members and university students together to work on shared projects focused on literacy and community action. Additionally, she will be leading a workshop for faculty on February 24. ♦ *If you teach a course that deals with urban development, literacy, cross-cultural communication, or a service learning course, you and your students may find the presentation of special interest.* ♦ This series is supported by the Humanities Institute of the College of Arts and Sciences. Coordinators for this series: Beth Boquet, Dean of Academic Engagement; Betsey Bowen, English; and Cinthia Gannett, Director of Core Writing.



“Core of the Core” Workshop Series Continues!

Ever wonder what students are learning and doing in Core courses? Discover the goals/objectives, skills, and assignments of History 30, Core Mathematics, and Modern Languages & Literatures. Gain valuable information that can help you in your teaching and advising. Join your colleagues this Spring for interactive presentations, discussions, and sharing over drinks and snacks. ♦ Continuing the series in the Spring: **History on Tuesday, March 1, 3:30 – 5:00pm**, in Library 107c ♦ **Modern Languages & Literatures on Thursday, March 31, 3:30 – 5:00pm**, in Library 107c. ♦ Other dates/times to be announced.



Mid-semester Assessment of Teaching (MAT)

Mark your calendars! **March 1 – 11, 2011** 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. ♦ To learn more about our MAT procedures, check out our summary [PDF](#). ♦ Watch for the call from the CAE. To schedule a MAT for your course, [email us](#).

Interpreting IDEA?

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

IDEA Student Ratings: “Unpacking the Data” Workshops

You have received your IDEA Diagnostic Form Report(s), now what? Building on the Fall 2010 workshops that focused on getting started with the IDEA Student Rating system, the CAE and FDEC (Faculty Development & Evaluation Committee) will continue to collaborate in Spring 2011 providing multiple workshops on “unpacking” the data, interpreting the IDEA reports and reflecting on formative improvements.

♦ *Workshop dates to be announced.* ♦ *Individual consults available upon request.* ♦ Consult IDEA’s [Interpretative Guide of the IDEA Diagnostic Form Report](#), among other [IDEA resources](#) that provide guidance for interpreting individual faculty reports.



The Learning Environment Projects (LEP)

The deployment of three technology projects collectively labeled the “[Learning Environment Projects](#)” continues this semester. These projects: Course Management Systems ([Blackboard](#) and [Eidos/Axiom Mentor](#)), Electronic Portfolio ([Digication](#)), and Portal (to replace StagWeb).

To date, the events have included an LEP informational panel (October 2010), a Blackboard Users’ Showcase (December 2010), and we kicked off 2011 with “Getting Your Blackboard Course Page(s) Ready for Spring 2011”. ♦ Stay tuned for more events to come in the Spring including an e-Portfolio Showcase.

Summer Institute 2011

Save-the-date:
May 18 - 20, 2011

 [Institute Application](#)

Summer Institute on Integrative Teaching & Learning 2011

Save-the-date! The 2nd Annual Summer Institute “Cultivating Integrative Teaching and Learning”: **Wednesday, May 18 – Friday, May 20**, daily 10:00am – 4:00pm. Please join us for this unique opportunity to engage in the process of creating truly integrative learning experiences for your students. Through this collaborative institute, faculty will work in teams to build bridges between courses, to establish integrative models of learning, and to pursue their own teaching projects.

♦ Our goal is to provide you with the tools, time, and resources you need to do your collaborative work, and to align your projects with institutional projects and priorities. ♦ *To register for the 2011 Institute, email the CAE the information requested on page 2 of the [application](#).*

♦ Funded by the [Davis Educational Foundation](#).



CAE Conference:

Summer Conference XI

Save-the-date:
June 1-3, 2011

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

Annual Summer Teaching Conference 2011: “Learning in Action”

Save-the-date! **June 1 – June 3, 2011**. Keynote presenter [Dr. Michele DiPietro](#) (Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Kennesaw State, and Associate Professor of Statistics) will discuss his new book [How Learning Works: Seven Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching](#) (2010).



♦ *Note:* conference fee and meals are waived for Fairfield faculty & staff, however registration is required. See brochure and registration form at CAE conference page. We welcome proposals demonstrating practices that engage students inside and/or outside the classroom (team/cooperative learning, service learning, field-experience, internships, study abroad, high-tech simulation, etc.) or that otherwise bridge learning and experience (applying knowledge to new situations, balancing personal and community concerns, etc.). ♦ Preceded by the regional [SENCER](#) (Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities) meeting.

FPLCs Program:

FPLCs @ Fairfield
Learn more about the FPLC program at Fairfield (established in 2007) 

 [FPLC Application](#)

Faculty & Professional Learning Communities, 2011 – 2012

Are you currently working on or planning to work on an integrative teaching and learning project? Do you seek a community of fellow travelers as you reflect, explore, and innovate? *If so*, apply to the 2011 – 2012 FPLC* Program!

♦ *Watch for the email call from the CAE.* ♦ [Applications](#) due April 15.

*A Faculty & Professional Learning Community (FPLC) is a cross-disciplinary group of 5-8 members, committed to a year-long teaching and learning curriculum, with seminars and activities for learning, development, and community building. FPLCs address Strategic Goal I, on integrating undergraduate core courses with one another, with major, and with the mission.



What are your Teaching & Learning Needs?

CAE's Faculty Needs Assessment, 2011

This semester, the CAE will be conducting a faculty needs assessment in order to better serve you. Expect an email with a link to an online survey. We ask that you please take the time to share your thoughts. The survey results will help us better understand and meet your needs; and determine programming to offer in the future. Thank you in advance for your participation!



Opportunities for Faculty

Peer Review of Teaching & Curriculum

We have grant funding from the [Davis Educational Foundation](#) to support a few departments each year on customizing their plans for both formative (for improvement) and summative (for personnel decisions) review of teaching and curriculum. Work ranges from sharing syllabi, assignments & activities, to tailoring processes and forms for observation of classroom, laboratory or studio, to curriculum mapping and aligning IDEA rating goals with departmental learning goals.

♦ To discuss a possible department or program consultation, just [email us](#).

Faculty Development Day

Save-the-date! **Thursday, May 5.** FDEC' Faculty Development Day will feature [Dr. Rebecca Moore Howard](#), guest speaker on **Authorship, Agency, and Global Citizenship** -- Who gets to "make" knowledge and how is it disseminated and circulated? How are notions of authorship, ownership, and integrity culture-specific and complicated by an emerging global marketplace of ideas? Dr. Howard is an Associate Professor of English at Syracuse University, author of numerous books and articles on authorship and agency, including *Standing in the Shadow of Giants: Plagiarists, Authors, Collaborators* and, as editor, *Authorship in Composition Studies* and *Pluralizing Plagiarism: Identities, Contexts, Pedagogies*, and a founder of The Citation Project, a cross-institutional research project gathering empirical data on campuses seeking to learn more about the textual practices of their students. Drawing on data gathered by this project, these campuses can make informed decisions about pedagogical practices and institutional processes that promote academic honesty and integrity. Join us for a conversation about these important issues! ♦ This event is funded by the Humanities Institute of the College of Arts and Sciences, and is part of a speakers series coordinated by: Beth Boquet, Dean of Academic Engagement; Betsey Bowen, English; and Cinthia Gannett, Director of Core Writing.

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. ♦ Spring application deadline: February 7. ♦ Complete the [application](#) and email it to the [CAE](#).



The Undergraduate Research Symposium

Do you have your students conduct independent research? The Office of Academic Engagement and the CAE will be partnering on a campus-wide event, on April 28, to highlight undergraduate research, a [high-impact educational practice](#) (Kuh, AAC&U, 2008), for all students in all disciplines. This is an opportunity to celebrate and share creative intellectual work that undergraduate students produce. Student work could take the form of a paper, portfolio, project, poster, etc. Stay tuned for a call for participation. ♦ *Questions?* Email the [CAE](#) and/or the Dean of Academic Engagement, dae@fairfield.edu.



Faculty Development Day

Save-the-date:
May 5, 2011

Funding Application:

Core-to-Major Integration
Apply and submit to the CAE.

Undergraduate Research Symposium:

Save-the-date:
April 28, 2011

Faculty Resource Network

Learn more about the [FRN](#) and professional opportunities.

Funding Application:

CAE's Travel Grant

Apply and submit to the CAE.

New Student Orientation 2011:

Save-the-dates:

June 16 – 17 & June 21 - 22

FRC Event:

January 26, 2011

3:30 – 5:00pm

Kelley Presentation Room

Faculty Resource Network

Participate in Faculty Resource Network (FRN) offerings! The [Summer 2011 Seminar series June 13-17, 2011](#) features seminars in economics, art, classics, technology in the classroom, engaging undergraduates in scientific research, etc. No fee for participation, but you request travel funding to NYU from your program. ♦ Other opportunities include the [Scholar-in-Residence program, Summer 2011](#) or [Fall 2011](#).

♦ Application deadline: February 11. ♦ To apply, please contact [Kathy Nantz](#), *Fairfield FRN liaison*.



Writing Circles or Pairings

Increasingly, groups of 3-5 faculty meet every 2 weeks, for 1 hour, no homework assigned. Some check in the first 10-15 minutes on how writing went. The person "up" then gets the remaining time, whether to put an idea into words, vent about obstacles or break up a draft conference proposal or article among participants for feedback or proofing. Resources on [getting writing done](#) and journal outlets are available on the [CAE site](#). To find others interested, just [email the CAE](#).



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. Please contact us prior to registering. ♦ *For an application, email the CAE*.



New Student Orientation

Be one of the first to welcome the Class of 2015! There will be plenty of opportunities to engage with new students (e.g., help with academic planning, offer sample classes, and/or participate in a panel presentation). Watch for an email from the Office of Academic Engagement (OAE). The CAE and OAE will collaborate on pre-Orientation training workshops for faculty and staff.

Living & Learning, Fall 2011

♦ First-year Residential Courses

Fall 2010 marked the launch of First-year Residential Courses (FRCs). The campus is gearing up to offer FRC sections in Fall 2011. Interested in learning more about the FRC program and hearing from colleagues about their FRC experiences? Join the Office of Academic Engagement, the FRC Committee, and FRC faculty for a gathering on January 26, 3:30-5:00pm, in Kelley Presentation Room.

♦ Sophomore Residential Courses

The five sophomore residential colleges -- Creative Life, Environmental, Ignatian, Leadership in the Ignatian Tradition, and Service for Justice -- will be looking for interesting courses for the fall semester. Remember that you can cross-list your course in several of the colleges to engage a wide range of students. Course enhancement funds are available to support class activities. For further information, look for information sessions this spring or contact Joe DeFeo, jdefeo@fairfield.edu, x. 2147.

Assessment Corner

The 2010 College of Arts & Sciences - Integrated Learning and Learning Outcomes Assessment Award was given to the [History Department](#) for their multi-year efforts to integrate their curriculum, define core learning outcomes, and create of a model for assessment. Congratulations to the department, and Liz Hohl and Bill Abbott for their leadership around this initiative. Is your CAS department or program interested? Look for the call soon.

CAE Lending Collection

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

Teaching Handouts

Browse the CAE's Articles

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!

We lend over 600 books and resources, on evaluation/grading, general guides, teaching in the disciplines, etc. [Search online](#) (location: CAE-Lower Level) or browse our shelves (by Library 107A&B), and check materials out at circulation.



Highlight:

Barkley's *Student Engagement Techniques: A Handbook for College Faculty* (2010).

Rarely do so many reproducible prompts, assignments, and tools appear in one book. For example, a simple background knowledge probe surveys Poli. Sci. students on terms like *Federalism* or *Separation of powers*, indicating "a. Never heard of it, b. Heard of it, but don't really understand what it means, c. Have an idea what it means, but not too clear, d. Have a clear idea what this means and can explain it." Or students complete a template to "Frame" contrasts, such as "Theory X proposes ___ and is useful because it offers insights into ___. On other hand, Theory Y, which proposes ___, better explains ___." Applicable across all disciplines. CAE shelves: TCHMD 0004 and 0011 + available [online](#).

Tipsheets, 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: *Teaching What You Don't Know* review

"The professor is supposed to know everything. So there is a larger cultural issue involved here about pride in what we know and our status as professors, and perhaps that's one reason this hasn't been talked about before. But senior faculty who've done this for years say this is nothing new; over the years, they've had to come up with survival strategies to cope with this expectation." From [Tomorrow's Professor](#) (Stanford) msg. #1022, and CAE Handouts / [Guides for Professors](#).

Teachers' Bureau

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

Did You Know?

Fairfield University is a member of the [Center for Academic Integrity](#) (Rutland Institute for Ethics, Clemson University). DiMenna-Nyselius Library offers Plagiarism Detection & Deterrence [resources](#) to help design assignments and raise student awareness. ♦ Join ongoing conversations on Academic Integrity facilitated by Jackie Kremer, Senior Reference and Outreach Librarian, and Christina McGowan, Head Reference Librarian (dates/times TBA). ♦ Related opportunity: a discussion with [Rebecca Moore Howard](#) (guest speaker and author of *Standing in the Shadow of Giants: Plagiarism, authors, collaborators*).

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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