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CAE Newsletter

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. 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 integration of the Jesuit mission in graduate and professional education, and diversity. This newsletter highlights ongoing work with collaborators across campus on these efforts.

“What’s happening?”

Core Pathways Unmasked



Faculty, professional staff, peer mentors, and students unmask the Core at the 5th Annual Core Unmasked (October 21, 2011). This year, the Core Pathways were front and center. Over 500 students explored the Core, and learned about the Pathways, majors/minors, and academic planning tools. For more information about the Core Pathways, visit the [Core website](#) that was launched last Fall.

Core Pathways Online:

Visit the new Core website ►

Learn more about the Pathways, Core mission, requirements, and planning resources.

IDEA Resources Online:

Visit the IDEA center website
and Fairfield's IDEA website.

IDEA Student Rating System



In collaboration with the Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee (FDEC), the CAE offered workshops on “Getting Started with IDEA” and “Unpacking the Data,” as well as one-on-one consultations. In the Spring, the CAE will offer assistance via one-on-one consultations, and department, program, or school visits. To schedule a consultation or customized workshop, please [email us](#).

Tech Byte Series – Instructional Technology



In the Fall, four Tech Byte sessions focused on Blackboard course management, WizIQ Virtual Classrooms and Meetings, and Using Digication e-Portfolio. ♦ To learn more about technologies supported by Computing & Network Services, visit the new [Academic Computing Support website](#).

PRoT Resources:

Find sample materials online under CAE handouts ‘PRoT’.

Peer Review of Teaching (PRoT) Project



Dozens of colleagues (over 60 in all) participated in Faculty Development Day (December 13, 2011), as Peer Review Pilot Teams from the College of Arts and Sciences (Visual & Performing Arts, History, and Religious Studies), the School of Nursing, and the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions, shared their work. See sample materials posted at <http://goo.gl/mhyOS>, including a sample teaching activity plan, sample teaching philosophies, a rubric for both philosophies and teaching plans, an exercise for creating a teaching philosophy, a guide to the 3 legs of classroom observation, and sample narrative observation suggestions & questions. For more, check in with the teams at the Spring 2012 Faculty Development Day (Thu., May 3, 2012, 12-2 pm) when they will share further progress made. ♦ Interested in learning more about the Peer Review of Teaching? [email us](#).

CAE hosts Spring-into-Spring Week



To kick off the spring semester, the CAE collaborated with campus partners on a week of workshops (January 9-13) to help faculty get their Spring courses ready. Topics included course design, classroom assessment techniques, effective grading strategies, student engagement techniques, digital media, and instructional technologies. ♦ [Check the CAE workshops & events site for more CAE workshop offerings.](#)

Scheduled Offerings

CAE online:

To browse the most updated list of workshops & events ►

Register for CAE workshops & events ►

JUHAN FPLC workshop

February 8
11:30 -1pm
Library 107c

[Learn more about JUHAN](#) ►

Community-Engaged Scholarship

February 14, 12-1:30pm
February 15, 4-5:30pm
Library 107c

[Register for these events](#) ►

Spring MAT Season

Mark your calendar:
February 27 – March 9

Interpreting IDEA?

IDEA Student Rating System
[Learn more about the IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction system.](#)

Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network

Join the JUHAN Faculty & Professional Learning Community for a workshop on the JUHAN program, and to learn how you can “JUHANize” your courses. **JUHAN** is a collaboration between Fairfield, Fordham, and Georgetown with the aim to increase the effectiveness of efforts by Jesuit universities to respond to humanitarian crises in the United States and throughout the world. Over a dozen faculty members at Fairfield have taught courses in the [JUHAN program](#) and there are 10 JUHAN-designated courses being offered this spring. Current JUHAN faculty will be on hand to share course objectives and syllabi. U 2 Can JUHAN! Lunch will be provided.



Celebration of Community-Engaged Scholarship

Co-sponsored by the Office of Service Learning and the Center for Academic Excellence.

Please join us for this 2-event series to recognize and celebrate the engaged scholarship of five Fairfield University faculty and two community partners who presented their work at the 11th Annual [International Association of Research on Service Learning and Civic Engagement](#) (IARSLCE) conference, *Research for Impact: Scholarship Advancing Social Change*. ♦ “Student Learning and Development at the Crossroads” a panel on **February 14, 12-1:30pm, Lib. 107c**, lunch provided; panelists include: Patricia Calderwood, Michael Pagano, and Judy Primavera. ♦ “The Evolution of a School-University Partnership: Understandings from an Auto-ethnographic Study” on **February 15, 4-5:30pm, Lib. 107c**, wine and cheese provided; presenters include: Christine Siegel, Wendy Kohli, and Kelly O’Leary and Kameron Isaacs from St. Martin de Porres Academy.

Mid-semester Assessment of Teaching (MAT)

Mark your calendars! **Monday, February 27 – Friday, March 9** 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 out our summary [PDF](#). ♦ *Watch for the call from the CAE. To schedule a MAT for your course, email us* .

IDEA Student Ratings Workshops

Introduction to IDEA, integrating IDEA into your course, and interpreting your IDEA Diagnostic Form Report(s), now what? The CAE and FDEC (Faculty Development & Evaluation Committee) will continue to collaborate via IDEA consultations. ♦ Consult the IDEA resources available online including IDEA’s *Interpretative Guide of the IDEA Diagnostic Form Report*, among other [IDEA resources](#).



Summer Institute 2012:

May 16 – 18, 2012

Sign-up your team today!

Apply online by April 12

Next Summer Teaching Conference:

June 2013

Faculty Resource Network

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

Network Summer Seminars:

June 11-15, 2012

Application deadline:

February 10.

[Applications online](#)

Service Learning

Course Designation for Fall

Application due: February 15

Course Development Grants

Application due: March 30

Annual Service Learning Celebration and Poster Session

Save-the-date:

May 1, 2012

3:30 – 5pm

Kelley Presentation Room

Faculty Development Day:

Save-the-date:

May 3, 2012

Noon – 2:00pm

Summer Institute on Integrative Teaching & Learning 2012

Save-the-date! The 3rd Annual Summer Institute “Cultivating Integrative Teaching and Learning”: Wednesday, May 16 - Friday, May 18, 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 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 your team for the 2012 Institute, complete the [online sign-up form](#).* ♦ Funded by the [Davis Educational Foundation](#).



Annual Summer Teaching Conference to return in 2013

The CAE's Annual Summer Teaching Conference will not be held in June 2012 but anticipate its return in June 2013! ♦ Learn more about the Conference visit the [CAE's website](#).

Opportunities for Faculty

Faculty Resource Network

Going on sabbatical? Could use NYU resources in your teaching and research? Interested in connecting with colleagues across disciplines? Participate in Faculty Resource Network offerings! The [Network Summer 2012](#) (June 11-15, 2012) features 11 **seminars**: The 1960s: Politics, Race, and Law; Contemporary Latin-American and Caribbean Cinema; Exploring Women's Knowledge through Oral History; Interactive Technologies for Teaching and Learning; Memories of Malcolm X: Gender, Class, and Ideology; New Orleans Jazz: A Metaphor for American Life; A New Paradigm for Nursing Education, Scholarship, and Practice; People Power: Revolts in the Arab World; Practicing Critical and Creative Thinking; Tackling Tough Topics through the Classics; and The Tree of Life: Teaching Evolution and Genomics. No fee for participation, but you request travel funding from your program. ♦ Application deadline: Friday, February 10, 2012. ♦ Other opportunities include: the [Summer Scholar-in-Residence](#) (June 4 – 29, 2012) program, application **deadline: Friday, February 10, 2012**. ♦ To apply for these opportunities, contact [Larry Miners](#), *Fairfield FRN liaison*.



Office of Service Learning

To formally designate your courses as **Service Learning** for Fall 2012 submit an application by **February 15**. Visit the [OSL website](#) for an application and submission guidelines. ♦ *Interested in applying and have questions?* Experienced Service-Learning faculty and members of the S-L Course Review Committee will be available to answer your questions and help with your application. Bring a draft application and receive feedback during **“Drop-In” Days: February 8 and 9**, 9-11am, Canisius 200. ♦ **Service Learning 2012 Course Development Grants**, due **March 30**. For more information and to download an application visit the [OSL website](#). ♦ *Interested in applying for an SL Grant and have questions?* Bring your application and receive feedback from the Director and experiences SL faculty. **March 7 and 22**, 9-11am, Canisius 200. ♦ Celebrate – Share – Appreciate – Build Community at Fairfield during the **Annual Service Learning Celebration and Poster Session, May 1, 3:30-5pm**, Kelley Center Presentation Room. This event features student & faculty posters, reflections from faculty, students and community partners, as well as good food and company.

Spring Faculty Development Day – Peer Review of Teaching

Save-the-date! **May 3, 2012**, noon – 2:00pm, lunch provided. FDEC's Faculty Development Day will feature updates from your colleagues who have been working on developing peer review of teaching and systems. Their work has been funded by the [Davis Educational Foundation](#). ♦ *To discuss a possible department or program consultation on the peer review of teaching and curriculum, just email us [✉](#).*

New Student Orientation 2012:

Save-the-dates:

June 21 - 22 & June 27 - 28

New Student Orientation

Be one of the first to welcome the Class of 2016! There will be plenty of opportunities to engage with [new students at orientation](#) (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). Mark your calendars! Orientation Session A: **June 21 – 22** (Thursday – Friday) and Orientation Session B: **June 27 – 28** (Wednesday – Thursday).

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! During the fall FDEC day on the Peer Review of Teaching, Mukesh Sud (Management, DSB) suggested the formation of teaching circles in which faculty could get together to form informal teaching circles. Participating faculty would visit each others' classes with the goal of learning from each other. No reports will be generated and no letters written. Interested in joining Mukesh and others in this endeavor? [Email the CAE](#) and we will help coordinate a list of interested faculty. Once circles are formed, ground rules could be established with regards to the number of visitors per class and notification of visits.



Funding Application:

CAE's Travel Grant

To apply 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. ♦ [To apply, email the CAE](#).

Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL)

Looking for a venue to present your SoTL work? Consider the following: the [International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning](#), featuring scholars from Australia, Canada, UK and the United States. This journal is available online. Check out the most recent issue [Volume 6, Number 1, January 2012](#). ♦ The [2012 International Institute for SoTL Scholars and Mentors, May 31 – June 3](#), 2012 at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles; Proposal deadline: January 30. ♦ [Lilly Conference on College & University Teaching](#), May 31-June 3, Washington, D.C.; Poster proposals remain open as space allows. ♦ New England Faculty Development Consortium - [NEFDC Spring Conference "Making the Technology Transparent – The Professor's Dilemma," June 8](#), New England Institute of Technology, Rhode Island; Proposal deadline: March 1. ♦ Also consider the [Association of American Colleges and Universities](#) (AAC&U) meetings (e.g., *Modeling Equity, Engaging Difference: New Frameworks for Diversity and Learning*, October 18-20; proposal deadline: February 29), workshops, and summer institutes for campus teams. [Summer 2012 Institutes](#) include: Institute on General Education and Assessment (June 2-6), Institute on High-Impact Practices and Student Success (June 19-23), Institute on Integrative Learning and the Departments (July 11-15), PKAL Summer Leadership Institute for STEM faculty (July 17-22). ♦

Opportunities for Your Students

Symposium/Sigma Xi Poster Session:

Save-the-date:

April 26, 2012

Barone Campus Center

Fairfield University Symposium/Sigma Xi Poster Session

Join the campus community in the celebration of [high-impact educational practices](#) (Kuh, AAC&U, 2008), for all students in all disciplines. This is an opportunity to celebrate and share creative intellectual work that undergraduate and graduate students produce. Student work could take the form of a paper, portfolio, project, poster, etc. Mark your calendars and share with your students information about our [Fairfield University Spring Research and Creative Accomplishments Symposium](#) and the [12th annual Sigma Xi Poster Session!](#) Both held on Thursday, April 26th in the Barone Campus Center. The [Symposium](#) is open to undergraduate and graduate students in all areas of study. The Sigma Xi Poster Session is open to students in Biology, Chemistry/Biochemistry, Physics, Psychology, Mathematics, and Engineering. As you assign projects this semester, please keep this opportunity in mind and encourage students to submit proposals. ♦ [Questions](#) about the Symposium? Email [Beth Boquet](#); ♦ [Questions](#) about the Sigma Xi Poster Session? Email [Jim Biardi](#).

JUHAN Leadership Conference 2012:

Save-the-dates:
June 12 – 15, 2012

To learn more about JUHAN @ Fairfield visit the Center for Faith & Public Life site ►►

CAE Lending Collection

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

International Jesuit University Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN) 2012 Student Leadership Conference “Global Perspectives on Humanitarian Action”

Conference held at Fairfield University from June 12 – 15, 2012. Presentations by students will be an important component of the conference and are meant to raise awareness about the breadth and depth of humanitarian action efforts – course-based, service-focused, research-oriented – resonating from Jesuit campuses across the world. ♦ Application deadline: Friday, February 10, 2012 (candidates notified of acceptance by February 24, 2012). To access the [application](#) and [more information](#). ♦ Questions? Contact [Julie Mughal](#), Assistant Director, Center for Faith & Public Life.



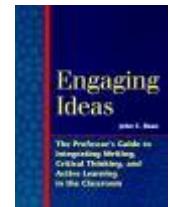
Teaching Resources & Tips

Check Out the CAE's Lending Library!

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

Book Highlight: *Engaging ideas : the professor's guide to integrating writing, critical thinking, and active learning in the classroom* by John C. Bean

Long a classic, Bean's incredibly practical book summarizes thinking and writing super-briefly and provides concrete examples of assignments and comments from colleagues around the country. He taught me the value of spelling out tasks, clarifying grading criteria, seeing student work early in the process, and having students be the first readers of their drafts. Among his principles, for feedback to be received as intended, it must be timely (within a week), appreciative (sandwich suggestions between strengths) and specific. Instead of calling something "unclear," guide the student concretely to "Expand and explain; could you give an example?" (p. 244). When conferencing with students, focus on the big picture and higher order meaning first, and lower order grammar and details only later in the process. Errors that confuse meaning, however, should be highlighted strongly up front. Most valuable for pressured faculty, he provides 10 timesaving strategies such as commenting on late drafts rather than final products, and only putting minimal comments on the latter. I return to this treasure trove constantly. **CAE shelves** GPRO 0022 (multiple copies) and **Library stacks** PE1404 .B35 2001.



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.

Article Highlight: *A Scientific Approach to Teaching* New!

A landmark 2-page description (and rare, from the journal *Science*) of a study that applies as well to teaching arts & humanities as to science. It highlights the key elements of active learning, assessment and diversity--and most practical of all, provides a link to [supplemental materials](#) (including a rubric for judging lesson plans or what are termed "teachable units"), which in turn links to [sample teachable units](#) themselves (e.g. see [The Structure of Scientific Revolutions](#)). Phenomenally practical examples of how to plan a class in chunks of several minutes to get the most learning bang out of your teaching time. And it's all evidence-based!

Academic Computing Support – NEW resource site!

Computing & Network Services has launched a [new webpage](#) featuring information on the full range of technology support available to faculty. You will find information on technology classrooms and public computer labs, course management systems, online audio and video (QuickTime Streaming, NBC Learn, iTunes U), live online class meetings (WizIQ Virtual Classroom), faculty web pages, tech devices, and the contact information for C&NS academic computing support staff.

CAE Resources

Teaching Handouts

[Browse the CAE's Articles](#)

Academic Computing:

Visit C&NS' new Academic Computing Support site ►►

Office of Academic Engagement (OAE)

[Visit the OAE website](#) ►►

Assessment Resources

[Visit the resource website](#) ►►

Academic Engagement – resources online

The [Office of Academic Engagement](#) (OAE) is available to work with students and faculty. [Jessica York](#), the new Director of Exploratory Academic Advising, [Suzanne Solensky](#), Director of Undergraduate Academic Planning, and [Beth Garvey](#), Director of Academic & Disability Support Services, coordinate and collaborate across campus to support student engagement. Explore the [OAE website](#) to learn about support services and find resources to assist with academic advising.

Course & Program Assessment – NEW resource site!

If you are new to Fairfield or student assessment, if your program is under-going review, if you are a member of your department's assessment team, or if you just want to learn more, Christine Siegel, Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Allied Profession, and Faculty Consultant for Assessment of Learning is available for individual or group consultations. ♦ [Email the CAE](#) or [Christine](#) directly to schedule an appointment.

Fairfield's Vision for Teaching and Learning

Teaching at Fairfield is gradually undergoing a culture change in at least four main ways:

- (a) Better clarifying the goals of a Fairfield education (hence the six Pathways to Integration; see the [page of learning outcomes](#)), so students get the point of it all;
- (b) Checking how well our students achieve those goals: what our students 1) know, 2) can do and 3) care about (hence the renewed work on "assessment of student learning"), so we find out whether they're getting it;
- (c) Reflecting better on our own teaching practice hence "[peer review of teaching](#)" pilots in numerous departments, to include not only classroom observation and [IDEA student ratings](#) but materials and teaching philosophy, both for purely improvement purposes and for decisions like annual reviews and rank & tenure, so we keep learning ourselves;
- (d) Using technologies for all the above, especially through learning management systems like [Blackboard](#) and [Mentor](#), and [Digication](#) ePortfolio, all tools that let students and faculty alike store work, reflect on it, and share it with others – all in one place.

Your Feedback

We welcome comments on our newsletter, suggestions for workshops, teaching tips. [Email us](#) !

The CAE Team is here to help!



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