

Faculty Center

NEWS

A newsletter for faculty and librarians

March 2015

The Faculty Center at MCLA Vol. 3 No. 6



Anacortes Coast

Photo by Thomas Whalen

FC Board to launch fall series

The Faculty Center Board is currently making plans to address issues involving diversity on campus in a multi-week series beginning next fall, FC Director Adrienne has announced. In the meantime, the faculty are encouraged to discuss these issues with one another and with students.

Given that sometimes such discussions are difficult to start and even more difficult to conduct, one way to get more comfortable is to participate in one led by a trained facilitator.

This Friday, March 6, at 3:15 p.m. in Sullivan Lounge, Tom Alexander, MCLA's ALANA coordinator, will lead a Campus Conversation on Race. This conversation is open to the entire campus: faculty, staff, and students.

Wootters said, "If you would like to attend but cannot, please know that Tom is available to visit your classroom to lead a conversation. He may be reached at Thomas.Alexander@mcla.edu."

MCLA taskforce releases new campus diversity statement

As you may have read in Notes and News, the MCLA Task Force on Diversity has crafted a statement that reflects the goals for diversity at MCLA. The statement is reprinted here:

MCLA Diversity Statement:

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) is committed to creating a campus climate and culture that values, represents, and honors diversity in our society. We actively endeavor to recruit and retain diverse students, faculty, and staff.

MCLA fosters meaningful dialogue both in and out of the classroom in order to encourage critical awareness and respect for similarities and differences. MCLA's inclusive education and informed pedagogy reflects and draws from the knowledge and empowerment of all individuals and the diverse groups that make up our college community.

MCLA critically addresses dynamics of inequality, exposing ways in which privilege and under-privilege are produced and maintained over time in society. We create and participate in forums and activities that both model and further equity in an informed manner. We also work to foster equity on campus and in the larger Berkshire community.

Members of MCLA are defined by and/or represent a variety of intersecting and diverse identities and groups, including but not limited to:

- Age
- Class/Socioeconomic Status
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Gender, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression
- Nationality
- Race
- Religion
- Sexuality

MCLA strives to integrate topics of social, cultural, and physical diversity in the curricular, co-curricular, residential, and work life of the MCLA community. In so doing, MCLA works towards collaboration and purposeful engagement to achieve social justice on campus and in the wider community. (December 2014)

Coming soon to the Faculty center

In March we have an embarrassment of riches in terms of offerings through the Faculty Center. In addition to a Brown Bag presentation and three Joy of Teaching sessions, the weekly Tea with TED sessions continue. As always, to find out the specific dates and times, you can check the Faculty Center Calendar, which can be accessed through the Faculty Center button on the left hand of your Portal screen.

Brown Bag Series

Friday, March 6, 3:00 pm: Ely Janis, Building an Irish Village: Ireland, Irish America, and Representations of Ireland at the World's Fair.

Ely's project examines the creation of the Irish Village exhibit at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. Central to the creation of the Irish Village was the question of representation and authenticity. Whereas Irish representatives focused on Ireland's possibility for modernization and economic development, Irish Americans presented an Ireland wrapped in a nostalgic celebration of their ancestral past.

Drawing upon correspondence, accounts of the fair, and Irish government reports from both countries, this project demonstrates the transatlantic competition to define and craft Ireland's image to the wider world in the early twentieth century.

March Happenings

BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES

~
Spring 2015
~

FRIDAYS
3:00 p.m.
Faculty Center

February 20th
DALE FINK

Elementary School Recess: Essential or Expendable? Insights from local teachers and students

March 6th
ELY JANIS

Building an Irish Village: Ireland, Irish America, and Representations of Ireland at the World's Fair

April 3rd
EMILY MAHER

Seeing Invisible Particles: Neutrinos, Fermilab, and the MINERvA Experiment

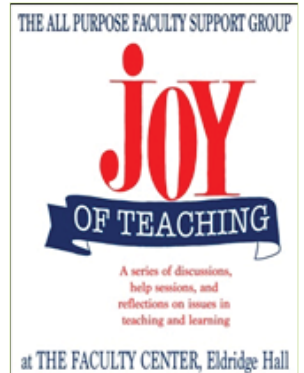
Joy of Teaching Series in March

**Thursday, March 5, 3:30 pm:
Teaching the Global Locally**

How do we introduce colonialism, diaspora, and globalization to a predominantly white first generation and regional student body? This was a subject of some discussion last Fall when *Half the Sky* was the common reading. Dr. Carol Bailey from the English department at Westfield State will facilitate discussion along with Karen Cardozo and Jenna Sciuto, who with ENGL/COMM and WMST are co-sponsoring Bailey's 5PM lecture on the gendered poetics and politics of performance in Caribbean Literature.

**Tuesday, March 10, 3:00 pm:
The Teaching Feedback Loop**

You write comments on your students' papers, but do they read them? Gerol Petruzella will show you but a few of the many miraculous tools that Canvas has that will make your life easier (really!) and help ensure that your students will not only read but use your feedback. In addition to showing you what you can do with Canvas, Gerol (and others) will show you what your students see on their Canvas screens, and how they interact with your feedback.



March Happenings continued

Friday, March 27, 3 pm: Creating and Sequencing Writing Assignments w/Kathleen Baldwin (UMass Amherst)

Since much of academic writing requires a synthesis of existing literature—a high order critical thinking and writing skill—critical reading and writing strategies must be integrated to make moving toward effective synthesis easier.

Writing assignments are a helpful tool for students to process concepts, synthesize course readings, and apply critical thinking to subject matter. This workshop will provide instructors with an overview of ways to create effective writing assignments in both lower and higher stakes forms.

Using “backwards design” that includes the development of rubrics to provide student feedback most effectively, participants will learn how to sequence different writing assignments to support student learning by building on skills over the course of the semester toward the desired result(s).

Participants should bring a sample syllabus for any course into which they would like to integrate writing instruction more effectively. This event is co-sponsored by the Writing Across the Curriculum Faculty Pilot group (for more information, contact Karen Cardozo or Zack Finch).



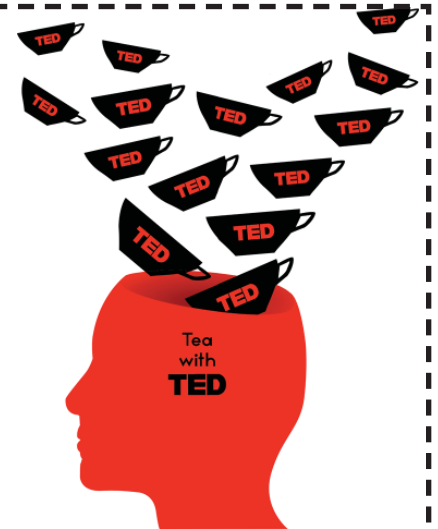
Mirabeau Pines

Photo by Thomas Whalen



*Tea
with
TED:*

*Every
Thursday
at noon!*



On the schedule for March:

3/5 Sir Ken Robinson, How to escape Education's death valley

3/12 Tom Wujec, Got a wicked problem? First, tell me how you make toast

3/26 Liz Coleman, A call to reinvent liberal arts education

Spring Melt #1

Photo by Thomas Whalen

Faculty Center Events Calendar

Thursday, March 5 @ 12:00pm

Tea with TED: How to escape education's death valley

Thursday, March 5 @ 3:30pm

Joy of Teaching: Teaching the Global Locally

Friday, March 6 @ 3:00pm

Brown Bag: Ely Janis

Tuesday, March 10 @ 3:00pm

Joy of Teaching: The Teaching Feedback Loop

Thursday, March 12 @ 12:00pm

Tea with TED: Got a wicked problem? First, tell me how you make toast

Thursday, March 26 @ 12:00pm

Tea with TED: A call to reinvent liberal arts education

Friday, March 27 @ 3:00pm

Joy of Teaching: Writing Across the Curriculum

Thursday, April 2 @ 12:00pm

Tea with TED: Dance vs. powerpoint: a modest proposal

MCLA Newsmakers:

Associate physics professor **Emily Maher** attended the 2015 Lake Louise Winter Institute, a conference focused on experimental and theoretical high energy physics (<http://uofa.ualberta.ca/physics/research/lake-louise-winter-institute>). Maher presented on behalf of the MINERvA collaboration on a talk titled, "Recent Result from the MINERvA Experiment."

Associate professor of education **Dale Fink** published an article, "Provocation in the Halls of Academe: Bringing Piaget and Vygotsky into the University Classroom," in the 2014 issue of THOUGHT & ACTION, the journal of the National Education Association. To view the article, visit here: <http://www.nea.org/home/1821.htm>

MCLA Association Officers 2014-15

Sumi Colligan, President

Michael Birch
Vice President

Frances Jones-Sneed
Grievance Officer

David Eve
Treasurer

Ely Janis
Member at Large

Graziana Ramsden
Secretary

Jennifer Zoltanski
Member at Large

MCLA Series Presents Cheryl Jacques

**GLBT Civil Rights Leader &
Former Mass. Senator**

Tues., March 3, 2015, 7 p.m. Murdock 218

Accomplishments & Artwork Wanted

Do you have a recent publication or have attended or will be attending a conference or involved with another scholarly or other professional activity, or do you have a photo or artwork you'd like to submit?

Please send to P.lesage@MCLA.edu.

Deadline is March 15 for the next FCNL edition.
Thank you kindly.

*The
Faculty
Center*

Advisory Board 2014-2015

Mariana Bolivar

Michael Dilthey

Lisa Donovan

Michele Ethier

Tony Gengarelly

Ely Janis

Paul LeSage, FC Newsletter *editor/designer*

Kelli Newby

Gerol Petruzella

Graziana Ramsden

Dana Rapp

Adrienne Wootters, FC Director