



Teaching Matters and Assessment Center (TMAC)

Dr. William FitzGerald, Director | Catherine Buck, Graduate Assistant



Director's Note

The big news this month is right below this note: the impact on changes to higher education from the proposed tax bill now under debate in Congress. Please familiarize yourself with this legislation and let your voice be heard!

Closer to home, TMAC invites you to join a practical discussion about teaching evaluations, both yours and the process in general. We're in the process of big changes to the system of evaluations, including the SIRS form we distribute to every class. See below for two dates next week and plan to join us. (And we'll feed you!)

Finally, scroll to the end of this newsletter for a first installment of an annotated list of academic journals dedicated to teaching and learning across the disciplines. We feature select publications in higher education generally and in particular fields and we encourage you to connect with the beneficial scholarship to help you teach more effectively. We will archive this list in a section of the TMAC website.

Peace,

Bill FitzGerald and Catherine Buck

In The News

Tax Plan Impacts

With the recent release of the GOP tax plan, many in academia are looking critically at changes that will affect graduate and doctoral student researchers. A [Washington Post](#) article outlines the many ways the proposal will have a long-reaching impact on endowments, tax credits, as well as changing the way that tuition waivers are counted when it comes to taxes.

Described as a ‘disaster for PhD students’ in a [Vox article](#), this change would mean that tuition remission provided to many graduate level students, as well as family members of university staff, would be taxed as income, making living standards that are already precarious even harder.

In addition to rising costs for faculty and staff, undergraduate student loan borrowers would also [lose benefits](#) under the proposed plan, ending interest rate deductions that Ted Mitchell, president of the American Council on education [stated](#) would “increase the cost to students attending college by more than \$65 billion between 2018 and 2027.”

Using Videos to Engage Online

Teaching an online class and struggling to keep students engaged in the new medium? *Inside HigherEd* recently published a [list of tips](#) to create videos that will grab and keep your students’ attention every time. A sneak peek:

- Start with an engaging greeting
- Keep them short— under 20 minutes
- Change up tone and make them interactive
- Title each video to be easily found later
- Plan for long term use—keep your references undated

Check out the full list [here](#), created by Salena Rabidoux and Amy Rottmann.

Chicago Colleges in Question

After a period of [rapidly improving](#) graduation rates, the City Colleges of Chicago have come under fire with [criticism](#) from the Better Government Association that indicates the gains have been artificial. The critiques range from accusations of small transgressions to implications that large scale fraud is underway.

According to the Illinois-based non-partisan watchdog group, “[City Colleges](#) has watered down its curriculum, violated its own rules on what constitutes a degree, changed the way it counts statistics and bestowed thousands of degrees...to current and former students who in many cases neither requested nor wanted them.” Read a [full report](#) from *Inside Higher Ed* to get the story, and hear from some supporters who say that the system is running as planned.

TMAC Calendar—Upcoming Events

November 14th | Making Sense of Your Course Evaluations | 12:45-1:45 | Faculty Lounge

As course evaluations come in each semester, we are provided with opportunities to adjust and improve our teaching practices. How can we best use these evaluations as tools, and what could the impact be for an instructor’s classroom and career? Join us for a lively discussion and concrete support. [RSVP](#) online or by email.

New: By popular demand, we will be opening a **second session** of the course evaluations workshop to be held on **November 15th, 11:20-12:20** in the Armitage Faculty Lounge. Please [RSVP](#) for this section as well.

In case you missed it..

Thanks to all who attended our events in earlier this semester, including the two syllabus design sessions, and last week's 'Minding the Stack'. If you were unable to attend, you can find many resources from the sessions on our website, including the following:

- [From Due Dates to Learning Goals: On Syllabus \(re\)Design](#)
- [The Complexities of Responding to Student Writing](#)
- [Responding to Student Writing: Tom Deans, UConn](#)
- [Syllabus and Assignment Design: Dartmouth University](#)

TMAC held an half-day training session for Teaching Assistants in the Childhood Studies department on Friday, October 27th. We discussed assignment design, assessment, and classroom management, among other organic topics. It was a wonderful and productive afternoon; we are grateful to Childhood Studies for their partnership! If your department would be interested in holding a similar event, please reach out to teaching.matters@camden.rutgers.edu.

In addition to our own fully stocked [TMAC website](#), many similar useful resources can be found at Dartmouth University's Institute for Writing and Rhetoric. Visit [their site](#) for further pedagogical news and insights into teaching.

Resources and Journals

TMAC is adding a collection of top academic journals to its online resources, including the following selection. Check back in the next newsletter for additional discipline-specific journals, as well as more general resourceful reading.

General Journals

- [Journal of General Education](#)
For faculty, administrators, and policymakers, JGE is the professional forum for discussing issues in general education today. JGE addresses the general education concerns of community colleges, four-year colleges, universities, and state systems. Along with perceptive essays on the role of general education today, JGE features articles on innovative methods in teaching and assessment, profiles of exemplary general education programs,

case studies of successful curriculum development efforts, and reviews of books and monographs related to general education.

- [Liberal Education](#)

Liberal Education, the flagship journal of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, expresses the voices of educators, faculty, administrators, and others who are working to enrich liberal learning and undergraduate education. The national forum about liberal education, the journal covers a full range of topics related to teaching and learning, leadership, faculty innovation, and institutional change.

Recent Article: [A Glimpse of Global Learning: Assessing Student Experiences and Institutional Commitments](#)

- [Across the Disciplines](#)

The result of a merger between two peer-reviewed, academic journals: Language and Learning Across the Disciplines and Academic Writing, Across the Disciplines provides communicating across the curriculum researchers, program designers, and teachers interested in using communication assignments and activities in their courses with a venue for scholarly debate about issues of disciplinarity and writing across the curriculum.

- [Journal of Higher Education](#)

Founded in 1930, The Journal of Higher Education publishes original research reporting on the academic study of higher education as a broad enterprise. We publish the highest quality empirical, theoretically grounded work addressing the main functions of higher education and the dynamic role of the university in society. We seek to publish scholarship from a wide variety of theoretical perspectives and disciplinary orientations. Articles appearing in the Journal employ an array of methodological approaches, and we welcome work from scholars across a range of career stages.

Recent Article: [Philanthropic Mirroring: Exploring Identity-Based Fundraising in Higher Education](#)

- [Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy](#)

Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy is a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary forum for pedagogical scholarship exploring intersections of identities, power, and social justice. The journal features a range of approaches, from theoretical articles to creative and experimental accounts of pedagogical innovations, from teachers and scholars from all areas of education.

- [Peer Review](#)

Peer Review of the Association of American Colleges and Universities provides a quarterly briefing on emerging trends and key debates in undergraduate education. Each issue is

focused on a specific topic, provides comprehensive analysis, and features campus perspectives.

Discipline Specific

- **Biology:** [Bioscene: Journal of College Biology Teaching](#)

Bioscene: Journal of College Biology Teaching is a refereed quarterly publication of the Association of College and University Biology Educators (ACUBE). Submissions should reflect the interests of the membership of ACUBE. Appropriate submissions include:
Articles: Course and curriculum development, innovative and workable teaching strategies that include some type of assessment of the impact of those strategies on student learning.

[Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education](#)

The Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education (JMBE) publishes original, previously unpublished, peer-reviewed articles that foster scholarly teaching, and provide readily adoptable resources in biology education. JMBE welcomes thoughtful and supported submissions pertaining to scholarly teaching in undergraduate, graduate and professional (e.g., medical school) education, K-12 outreach, and informal education.

- **Chemistry:** [Journal of Chemical Education](#)

The Journal of Chemical Education is the official journal of the Division of Chemical Education of the American Chemical Society, co-published with the American Chemical Society Publications Division. Launched in 1924, the Journal of Chemical Education is the world's premier chemical education journal. The journal publishes peer-reviewed articles and related information as a resource to those in the field of chemical education and to those institutions that serve them. JCE typically addresses chemical content, activities, laboratory experiments, instructional methods, and pedagogies.

- **Computer Science:** [Computer Science Education](#)

Computer Science Education aims to publish high-quality papers with a specific focus on teaching and learning within the computing discipline that are accessible and of interest to educators, researchers, and practitioners alike. Depending on their special interests, those working in the field may draw on subject areas as diverse as statistics, educational theory and the cognitive sciences in addition to technical computing knowledge.

Recent Article: [Girls and Computer Science: Experiences, Perceptions, and Career Aspirations](#)

- **Economics:** [Journal of Economic Education](#)

The Journal of Economic Education offers original articles on teaching economics. In its pages, leading scholars evaluate innovations in teaching techniques, materials, and programs. Instructors of introductory through graduate level economics will find the journal an indispensable resource for content and pedagogy in a variety of media.

Recent Article: [Evaluating Twitter and its impact on student learning in principles of economic courses.](#)

- **English:** [Pedagogy](#)

Pedagogy is an innovative journal that aims to build a new discourse around teaching in English studies. Reversing the long history of marginalization of teaching and the scholarship produced around it, it offers a forum for critical reflection and spirited debate. The journal publishes articles by senior scholars as well as more junior members of the profession, featuring voices from many subdisciplines and institutions. Pedagogy promises to stimulate new and exciting developments for undergraduate and graduate instruction in English studies.

[College Composition and Communication](#)

College Composition and Communication publishes research and scholarship in rhetoric and composition studies that supports college teachers in reflecting on and improving their practices in teaching writing and that reflects the most current scholarship and theory in the field.

- **Fine Arts:** [Review of Artistic Education](#)

This publication is intended as an opportunity for interdisciplinary approach opened to pedagogical, psychological, sociological and political analysis in the field of artistic and intercultural education. Their goal is to stimulate the production of knowledge in the field of artistic education and to enhance participation to the community of educational practice and research in Music, Drama, Choreography, Visual Arts, Artistic and Intercultural Education.

- **History:** [The History Teacher](#)

The History Teacher publishes inspirational scholarship on traditional and unconventional techniques in history education. Publishes articles of three general types: reports on promising new classroom techniques and programs, analyses of important interpretations, leading historians, and historical problems, and crucial review essays on audiovisual materials, textbooks, and other secondary works suitable for classroom use.

Recent Article: [History, Play, and the Public: Wikipedia in the University Classroom](#)

For additional resources, visit tmac.camden.rutgers.edu, or write us at teaching.matters@camden.rutgers.edu

