Teaching Matters and Assessment Center (TMAC)

Dr. William FitzGerald, Director │ *Brynn Kairis, Graduate Assistant*

Director's Note

Happy (almost) Spring! Most of you reading this newsletter are in the thick of midterms, stacks of papers awaiting response, and too many claims on your time. So thanks for taking time to skim and for clicking on a few links.

Thanks as well are due in advance to our speakers who have agreed to anchor a necessary conversation on the academy's response to the challenges of teaching and learning in a post-truth era. Please consider attending (and encourage your students to attend) "Alternative Facts?: A Forum on Speech and Politics in a Post-Truth Era," next Monday, March 6, from 3:00-4:30 in 401 Penn. Light refreshments will be served. (For details on the forum, see below.) Also check out the resource guide that TMAC has prepared on teaching in a post-truth era.

We continue this month with mini-profiles on this year's cohort of Digital Teaching Fellows, including Peg Avallone (Nursing). Peg's profile follows a section on digital pedagogy in general.

Finally, for our PTLs, TAs, and early career faculty, please join us next Wednesday, March 8 for a "strategy session" (lunch provided!) on "Teacher-Student Relations: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly." We've all had that student or that semester where things proved difficult to handle. TMAC is here to help.

Enjoy a well-deserved Break!

Let's Talk Teaching

For the past two years, the AAC&U's national Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education (VALUE) has sought to find a way to assess student learning beyond tests and grades. A new report titled "On Solid Ground" presents VALUE's initial findings.

Inside Higher Ed reports on a short speech delivered by Betsy DeVos at the Conservative Political Action Conference on Feb. 23rd, in which DeVos criticized college educators for politicizing the classroom and telling students "what to think".

New research published by the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources finds that despite higher education's progressive reputation, a pay gap still exists between male and female administrators.

What do *you* think? Let us know at teaching.matters@camden.rutgers.edu
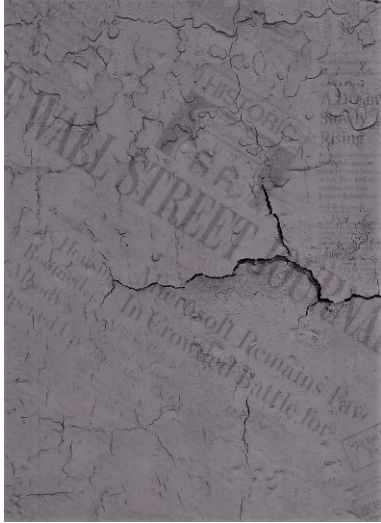
Teaching in a Post-Truth Era

The Oxford Dictionary recently announced that "post-truth" is its "Word of the Year 2016". TMAC has compiled a resource guide on our website to help teachers consider what it means to teach in a post-truth world. Here, we offer a preview:

Johnathan Gold calls on teachers to continue teaching civic literacy and methods of evaluating information in an age of alternative facts.

The Stanford History Education Group released a recent report concerning students' abilities to evaluate online information.

The MILNE Library at SUNY Geneseo provides sample materials for creating a lesson on decoding fake news.

For more information on this important issue, join TMAC on **March 6th** from 3:00-4:30 pm in 401 Penn for **"Alternative Facts?: A Forum on Speech and Politics in a Post-Truth Era"**.

Teaching with Technology

Jessica Brogley, an instructor, trainer, and blogger at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville's School of Education discusses her strategies for training teachers to incorporate technology in their classrooms.

In January, the U.S. Office of Educational Technology released a report on "Reimagining the Role of Technology in Higher Education".

Malcolm Brown presents "Six Trajectories for Digital Technology in Higher Education".

While teachers and administrators work to use technology effectively, Sarah Garland reports on "What Students Really Think About Technology in the Classroom".

Digital Teaching Fellow Spotlight

Peg Avallone, Assistant Professor and Director of the Traditional Baccalaureate Program of the Rutgers School of Nursing, describes her growth as an educator through the Digital Teaching Fellows Program. Peg uses educational apps to promote classroom engagement and facilitate assessment. She uses Padlet to encourage discussion in her classroom, tasking students with creating online message boards to answer questions of praxis and theory. Peg also uses Socrative to build questions into her lecture which students then answer in real time, providing an immediate way to assess student learning. Importantly, Peg discusses both the successes and challenges of incorporating technology in the classroom, highlighting the importance of articulating goals and procedures for students' engagement with the software.

Want to get involved? Click here for more information on the Digital Teaching Fellows Program.

Professional Development Opportunity

Evergreen State College is accepting applications for a three day Summer Institute titled "Creating Equitable Learning Opportunities: Exploring the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) with an Equity Mindset".

For additional information and submission guidelines, please view the application **here.** Application review will begin March 1st.

Upcoming Events

"Alternative Facts?: A Forum on Speech and Politics in a Post-Truth Era"

Monday, March 6th – 3:00 – 4:30pm – 401 Penn

Speakers Jim Brown (Digital Studies, English), Jean-Louis Hippolyte (World Languages and Cultures), Tim Knieval (Political Science), Katie Anderson (Robeson Library), and others will lead a conversation for students and faculty on teaching, learning, and living at a time when standards of evidence and reasoning are under assault.

"Student/Teacher Relations: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly"

Wednesday, March 8th – free period – Faculty Lounge, Armitage

Where does the line fall between student and teacher relationships? You can sense when it's been crossed—an inappropriate comment, a barrage of casual emails, a too-friendly rapport, but how do you deal with it without making yourself or the student uncomfortable? Perhaps you're still a student yourself. Do you think that affects how your own students interact with you? Please join us for this workshop on the right ways to deal with the distressing, sometimes awkward situations that can occur when boundaries get crossed. Horror stories are welcome. *Pizza will be served.*

Visit us at tmac.camden.rutgers.edu. Send us your questions, links, and comments at teaching.matters@camden.rutgers.edu