FACULTY ACADEMIC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AT TOWSON (FACET)

Spring 2021 Newsletter
"A Community of Faculty"

TABLE OF CONTENTS
FACET Updates  Pages 1 & 2
Events  Page 3
FACET Fellows  Page 4

FACET IS A COMMUNITY BY FACULTY FOR FACULTY

During this challenging year, TU faculty have faced every obstacle with a determination to provide a valuable education for our students. We have heard from many of you and have sparked many new connections and relationships. Your dedication and resilience have been an inspiration. Our world-class faculty continue to drive FACET’s initiatives to provide the support and services that you need to succeed. We have created many programs and services, including instructional design support, research writing groups, and events to help your teaching and scholarship. We are excited to welcome you back to the Center soon, but until it is safe to do so, please visit us often by going to towson.edu/facet. Have a healthy Spring semester!

DR. PATRICIA WESTERMAN
Assistant Provost,
Faculty Academic Center of Excellence at Towson (FACET)

FACET INTRODUCES LIVE CHAT

To continue to serve faculty, FACET will have a chat feature embedded on our website for your convenience! The live chat will be available to all faculty Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. A staff member will be ready to respond to your questions about FACET services, programs, and events! Visit us at towson.edu/facet
FACET UPDATES

FIRST ANNUAL FACULTY RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Faculty Academic Center of Excellence at Towson (FACET) is now accepting proposals for its first annual faculty research conference!

MultiFACETed Research at TU
October 29, 2021, 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

This conference is an opportunity for faculty at any stage in their careers to share their work, reconnect with other TU faculty, and participate in emergent interdisciplinary research clusters. This call invites proposals for posters, roundtables, presentations, and panel discussions. We welcome proposals from faculty on scholarly activity at all stages of development. Our goal is to bring researchers in different fields and colleges together with the hope of future collaborations! Save the date!

Learn more and submit a proposal!

Proposal submissions are due by April 7, 2021
Presenters will be notified of acceptance by May 5, 2021

TU FACULTY & FACET TEAM UP ON TWO PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS THIS MONTH

FACET staff and TU faculty presented a panel at the Sixth Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference hosted by the International Center for Academic Integrity. The panel was inspired by the pivot to online learning and the lessons learned from it, as well as ongoing conversation about the importance of building a culture of academic integrity. The panel featured TU faculty Dr. Karla Kubitz, Dr. Ronald Herrmann, Dr. Anne Estes, Dr. Barry Margulies, FACET’s Assistant Provost Dr. Patricia Westerman, and Instructional Designer Dominique Swann, who shared perspectives on implementing creative pedagogy and authentic assessment to build that culture.

Inaugural FACET Fellow Dr. Mary Slade and Dr. Patricia Westerman virtually conducted a presentation at the 13th Annual Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy at Virginia Tech. The session, which was based upon a module developed for last summer’s FACET Online and Hybrid Teaching workshop series, explained planning and design infrastructures that encapsulate effective combinations of innovative course formats and pedagogy models. The presentation allowed FACET to bring forth an evidence-based model that will assist faculty in constructively considering important variables when determining approaches to high-quality online and hybrid teaching.

JOIN A FACET-SPONSORED COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (CoP)

A CoP unites faculty and staff from across the campus who share common interests, passions, and concerns regarding their roles and responsibilities in the educational environment. Through collaborative efforts, the faculty build their knowledge-base and skill levels. An additional objective of each FACET CoP is to bring together information about relevant programs and activities occurring at the TU and identify models that may be generalizable from one department, college, or unit to another. The outcomes of the collective members of the community improve individual efforts and increase access to initiatives. Each CoP focused on its specialized theme, began to build a community of faculty and staff members with common interests, and provided leadership to facilitate professional learning related to the theme.

FACET has developed four communities of practice (CoPs):

1. Emerging Technology [David Merino, Chair]: Focus on use of emerging technologies, including virtual and augmented reality, 3D printing, and drone technology, on research, scholarship, creative activities, and teaching.
2. Student Engagement [Claire Holmes and Mary Slade, Co-Chairs]: Focus on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and other approaches to enhancing student engagement and success.
3. Faculty Mentoring [Sam Collins and Desiree Rowe, Co-Chairs]: Focus on identifying, exploring, and developing further any programs that support faculty mentoring of faculty.
4. Open Educational Resources [Jennifer Scott and Alex Storrs, Co-Chairs]: Focus on bringing together faculty who use or would like to identify or develop and use open-source materials to decrease their students’ educational costs and enhance their learning. An additional component of this CoP is to work with existing and future OER users to enhance culturally responsive curricular activities.

If you have an interest in any of these CoPs, please contact the Chair(s) to ask about the next meeting or activity.

DO YOU WANT TO PURSUE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR THAT PROJECT OR PROGRAM YOU’VE BEEN ENVISIONING? CONSIDER REACHING OUT TO THE FACET WELLSPRING

Wellspring is a group of Towson University colleagues who meet periodically to review project ideas of faculty to provide guidance about next steps. Wellspring can help you develop for and advance your project idea to potential funders. During a meeting with a Wellspring panel, you will talk with representatives from BTU, OSPR, FACET, Office of Civic Engagement, SET, and University Advancement. For more information, please contact Assistant Provost Patricia Westerman, Ph.D. at pwesterman@towson.edu or x4-6065.

2
Facet is dedicated to working with our institutional partners to provide faculty members at Towson University with the most updated evidence-based resources on designing and delivering effective online and hybrid courses. Join the Blackboard Community for faculty! Whether you have a question regarding a specific tool, teaching method, or best practice, we have brief and helpful resources to get you answers.

Visit the One Stop Shop!

Topics include:

• synchronous teaching strategies
• online course and syllabus templates for you to download, including a module to help students with their online courses
• strategies for student engagement
• example of student assessment plan for online course from a TU faculty member
• Voluntary Online Course Checklist - Learn more about the strengths and opportunities for improvement in your online and hybrid courses.

Common Fellows Application

The application is now available for the Diversity & Inclusion, Service-Learning, and Faculty Academic Center of Excellence at Towson (FACET) Faculty Fellow programs. Please read the information on the application and consider applying for one or more of these excellent programs. You may apply to more than one program, but will be selected for no more than one. All full-time faculty are eligible to apply.

Apply here!

Applications, including department chair and dean signatures, must be submitted by March 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. EST.

The application includes additional background information and requirements.

Facet Events

Through our Faculty Fellows, staff, and our partnerships, we are here to support your teaching, scholarship, research, and mentorship at any stage of your career. Make a plan to join us for one or more events and please visit the website as new events are constantly being added.

towson.edu/facetevents

February

• Managing Group Projects In-Person and Online
  Friday, February 12, 2021
  11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

• Scholarly Writing Accountability Groups (SWAG) - Spring 2021
  Meets weekly starting Feb. 25th and Feb. 26th and ends on May 6th and May 7
  10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

April

• Dedoose Research Software Sneak Peek
  April 21, 2021
  10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m

• Spring 2021 PTRM Workshop
  April 30, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

June

• Dedoose Sandbox Workshop
  June 2, 2021
  9:00 a.m - 10:30 a.m.
Greetings from your FACET Research Fellow! As the Research Fellow my mission is building a comprehensive “Scholar’s Toolkit” for TU faculty within FACET. In AY 2020-2021, we’ve redesigned the research portion of the FACET website, held lots of workshops and trainings, and continued writing groups. Here are a few things to look forward to for Spring 2021:

• Sandbox workshop with the emerging qualitative software Dedoose
• Discussion panel and application review for interested Fulbright Scholar Applicants.
• Writing groups starting in February
• Digital tenure portfolio workshop, and space to ask questions outside of evaluation

We are also working hard behind the scenes on a research conference for Fall 2021 – stay tuned for more details!

The research arm of FACET is also a place that can help put together interdisciplinary research teams or clusters. If you are interested in collaborating with other faculty at TU, send me a quick note and we will pull folks together for conversation and networking. It’s hard meeting folks in person these days, but we’ve made it a point to engage with one another in more meaningful dialogue. If there is anything you think we should add to the website or have considered (and not included), please reach out and we will work to include them.

If any of these things have sparked your interest, be on the lookout for registration links. If there is something you think is missing, send me an email and we can get it done!

DR. DESIRÉE D. ROWE
Assistant Professor, Communication Studies and FACET Fellow for Research
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The last several months have been difficult for educators across the world. In March of 2020, educators quickly shifted instruction and many of us were overwhelmed with the switch to online instruction. We quickly learned that it is a time-consuming effort to effectively deliver instruction online. Many of us are still struggling to develop engaging and meaningful course content and look forward to the days ahead when we will once again return to face-to-face instruction at TU.

Though challenging, there are many silver linings as a result of this experience. Across the university, instructors are talking about pedagogy more than I’ve ever observed in the last decade or so years. Faculty have engaged in workshops and informal, department level, college level, and university-wide professional development like those hosted by FACET to enhance their instruction. TU faculty have been discussing and learning more about engaging students in learning, social justice and inequity issues in the classroom that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, and the challenges of upholding academic integrity by developing more personalized exams and implementing authentic assessments. It has been wonderful to experience faculty from across the university work together to share ideas and strategies to meet the needs of Towson University students while maintaining high cognitive demand tasks that will prepare students for the workplace and/or graduate school.

I applaud the efforts of faculty and staff to provide the best instruction possible during the pandemic and celebrate those who devoted countless hours to learning new pedagogical approaches and technologies to support student learning. I truly believe we will emerge from the pandemic more effective teachers with a wider range of instructional tools than we had prior to the pandemic.

DR. RON HERMANN
Professor and Director of the Earth-Space Science Program and FACET Fellow for Teaching
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There’s a lot of Zoom going on in my house. I’m teaching college film and media classes remotely, my wife is teaching high school, my 1st grader is on Zoom every day, and my 3-year-old even has a Zoom class once a week. I’ve seen best and worst practices all year, so I wanted to share some tips to Up Your Zoom Game at a couple of FACET Fellows Workshops this year. We can polish our visual presentation by thinking about lighting and cameras. Swap that bright backlit window for a diffused lamp that lights your face. Try out an inexpensive app to make your smartphone into a high-quality webcam. To improve audio, consider a professional sounding microphone, and avoid echoes and feedback by using earbuds or headphones. In my home office, I would be lost without a second monitor to organize my Zoom windows and my lecture materials. And when it comes to sharing video and audio, download a local copy rather than streaming your clips, and make sure to click those “Share Computer Audio” and “Optimize for Video Clips” buttons! Check out the Up Your Zoom Game workshops for specifics on these tips and more ways to improve your Zoom setup and share multimedia clips.

Then, keep an eye out for more Emerging Technology Workshops this Spring as we dig into topics like 3D scanning, screen capture for software tutorials, virtual reality, and more!

RYAN MURRAY
Associate Professor, Electronic Media and Film and FACET Fellow for Emerging Technology
rmurray@towson.edu

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