FACULTY ACADEMIC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AT TOWSON (FACET)

Spring 2021 Newsletter
"A Community of Faculty"

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 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 Hermann, Dr. Anne Estes, Dr. Barry Margolies, 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 (CoP):

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.

WELLSPRING

Do you want to pursue resources and support for that project or program you’ve been envisioning? Consider reaching out to the faculty 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 and Social Responsibility, SET, and University Advancement. For more information, please contact Assistant Provost Patricia Westerman, Ph.D. at pwesterman@towson.edu or x4-6065.
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

MARCH

- Faculty Mentoring Community of Practice Meeting
  Tuesday, March 23
  3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

- Emerging Technologies Community of Practice Spring Meeting
  Thursday, March 25, 2021
  1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m

- Faculty Resources for Undergraduate Research
  Thursday, March 25, 2021
  3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

- No More “Maybe Next Year:” Finding and Applying for a Fulbright Fellowship
  March 26, 2021 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.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
  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 and teaching high school, my 1st grader is on Zoom every day, and my 3-year-old even has a Zoom class once a week.

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 smartphone into a high-quality webcam. To improve audio, consider a professional sounding microphone, and avoid echoes and feedback by using earbuds or headphones.

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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.
RECOGNITIONS

TU FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The TU Faculty Awards publicly recognize exemplary faculty performance in Teaching; Scholarship, Research, or Creative Activity; Public Service; and Mentoring. These awards publicly recognize distinguished faculty recommended by Towson University’s Institutional Faculty Nominating Committee to President Schatzel for consideration. Let us, as a community, congratulate the following faculty, who will also be recommended for 2021 USM Board of Regents’ Faculty Awards.

DR. SARADHA ANANTHAKRISHNAN
Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology & Deaf Studies
BOR Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship

“Dr. Ananthakrishnan’s research is of the highest caliber, and she has made considerable contributions to the field of Audiology, which have been acknowledged both nationally and internationally. These scientific advances are exemplified in Dr. Ananthakrishnan’s recent works appearing in Ear and Hearing (ranked #2 in otorhinolaryngology) where she showed, for the first time, how auditory neural encoding of speech is altered by ‘sensorineural’ (i.e., permanent) hearing loss at the level of the human brainstem. Dr. Ananthakrishnan further extended these findings, and the results of her ground-breaking research is directly challenging the prevailing view in the field as it confirms that hearing aid technologies are likely targeting the wrong acoustic information in their processing schemes. In addition, Dr. Ananthakrishnan is only one of a few elite researchers specializing in these unique brain responses. Her work has paved the way for many other researchers interested in the adverse effects of hearing loss and signal modifications by identifying a unique ‘biomarker’ of these deficits in subcortical, human brain activity.”

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH P. CRUSSE
Clinical Associate Professor, Nursing
BOR Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring

“During her academic career, Professor Crusse has taught nurse leadership courses that help graduating nursing students transition to their professional career... Professor Crusse guides students to assess contextual clues and to broaden their understanding prior to sharing her responses. What is so unique about Professor Crusse’s mentoring is she actively listens and provides responses for what her mentees need to hear even if it is not what they want to hear. She pragmatically encourages and empowers without wilting one’s spirit. The talent to communicate so effectively in this manner is her hallmark as a mentor. Her leadership expertise and interest in advancing nurses’ educational attainment led to a $1.6 million MHEC grant to support associate to baccalaureate nursing education. As a leader on this grant she had between 80 and 450 advisees per year. Her advisee ratings averaged 4.94 on a scale of 1-5.”

DR. JOEL MOORE
Associate Professor, Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences
BOR Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship

“Dr. Moore is a geochemist studying chemical weathering and control of geochemistry of streams, ground water, and soils. He does this in collaboration with several USM institutions, members at the USGS, and other faculty at TU. This work provides vital information for sustainable agriculture and forestry, water quality, ecosystem evolution and long term climate impacts both in Maryland and across the entire Mid-Atlantic urban watershed. Additionally, he is using his research to educate Maryland students and preparing them for both industrial and government jobs and graduate studies. It must be noted that he does this while maintaining a high teaching load (3 course units per semester) and performing an exceptionally high level of service. In 2019 he was recognized with the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics Outstanding Faculty award, the highest award granted by our college.”

DR. MICHELLE SNYDER
Associate Professor, Biological Sciences
BOR Faculty Award for Excellence in

“Dr. Snyder is an outstanding mentor of both undergraduate and graduate students. Her mentoring occurs in her lab, classroom and also in larger groups through the Bridges programs. She does not simply teach techniques, but embraces her role as a mentor of the ‘whole student,’ infusing career advice, study support, and consideration of work-life balance into her interactions with students. In her lab, Dr. Snyder has supervised research projects of >80 TU students. These students frequently contribute their findings to posters or presentations at research conferences at TU and elsewhere, learning the scientific process from start to the dissemination of results. As she states in her application, the majority of these students, many from groups traditionally under-represented in science, have progressed to graduate or professional school or a STEM career.”
“Professor Day is the lead supervisor for the Children’s Therapeutic Program, an interprofessional program for preschool-aged children who have a communication disorder. Because of the interprofessional nature of this program, Professor Day seamlessly models for her students the nature of working with other professionals (i.e., occupational therapists) and families. As one student commented, ‘I learned so much from observing her interactions with other clinicians, students, clients, and parents.’ Professor Day is an exemplary clinical supervisor whose primary goal is to adequately prepare the students to be prepared for their off-campus placements and roles as future speech-language pathologists. Her student clinic evaluations are excellent, and students consistently comment that she is ‘the best supervisor’ who ‘provides just the right amount of support...in a way tailored to my learning style while still allowing for an optimal amount of growth.”

“Dr. Hondrogiannis created or comprehensively revised several courses to support the curricula of these programs, including FRSC 363, FRSC 467, FRSC 640 and FRSC 670. Dr. Hondrogiannis previously served as a forensic chemist in the US Army, focusing on forensic toxicology and drug analysis. Dr. Hondrogiannis incorporates this professional expertise into these courses and assures that students are learning the most current and relevant methods to prepare them for the forensic workforce. Her efforts contribute to the ongoing popularity of the forensic programs and the success of our graduates, with more than 90% of our forensic MS graduates obtaining jobs in the forensic field. Her efforts have also been critical in contributing to and maintaining the prestigious accreditation of our programs by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC).”

“When she was hired in 2009, Dr. Holman was tasked to lead the development of the Teacher as Leader in Autism Spectrum Disorders M.Ed concentration, due to her vast and highly successful experiences in working with this population of children and their families at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. As a result of her dedication and diligence to this project, this degree program was strategically and collaboratively planned and developed over the next year and launched in the 2011-12 academic year, instructing three cohorts of graduate students in their local school districts. Dr. Holman continues to coordinate this growing graduate program, advise all of the students, and maintain a professional learning community for the adjunct and full-time faculty members teaching in the program. As part of the Teacher as Leader in ASD course schedule, students are required to attend two full-day Saturday sessions each semester. Dr. Holman and the faculty coordinate their instructional objectives to plan each session and the morning activity consists of a speaker, panel, forum, etc. that will provide information on ASD that is current and pertinent to all. Each year, Dr. Holman extends these sessions to the public as the Autism Education Series, which have been attended by local educators and administrators, professionals, as well as families of and adults with ASD. Dr. Holman is highly dedicated to improving the education and outcomes for children with ASD, and is efficiently utilizing her teaching and program administration positions to do so.”

“Dr. Scala’s ongoing research on elections security has directly impacted the local community, the state of Maryland and beyond. In particular, her work has identified vulnerabilities to polling places, proposed mitigations for those vulnerabilities, and created educational training for poll workers to identify and respond to threats. To achieve this, she has partnered with Anne Arundel and Harford counties to customize the poll worker training with county-specific needs. Specifically, the partnerships with the counties can positively impact the training of over 1,900 poll workers in a pandemic, who will preserve the integrity of votes in counties with populations of approximately 750,000. Furthermore, Dr. Scala quickly pivoted her research in spring 2020 to study the impacts the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the 2020 elections. She is now also examining threats to mail-based voting and the relative strength of those threats. Such an analysis continues to establish that mail-based votes have integrity. A combined system of expanded mail-based voting along with in-person voting is harder for an adversary to attack and also increases voter access in a pandemic. This analysis is key to increasing voter confidence and ensuring as many eligible Americans as possible have access to the polls in the upcoming Presidential election.”