

CELT Newsletter: April 2021

Dear CELT Colleagues:

It appears that spring is finally here! I haven't been to campus in over a year and I am missing my favorite trees in front of Edison Hall. While the photographs in this newsletter are from a few years ago, I miss taking my students outside to draw on the first nice day of spring.

CELT congratulates all of the faculty for their hard work and dedication to teaching this past year. We also congratulate Crystal Quillen, the 2021 Excellence in Teaching Award recipient, Phalguni Ghosh, the 2021 Faculty Scholar Award recipient, and Maria Crecenzio, the 2021 Adjunct Excellence in Teaching Award recipient. The three recipients, as well as Richard Thompson, Claire Condie, and Mathew Siegel, the recipients from 2020, will be recognized at a zoom reception on **Tuesday, April 13 at 3:30 PM**. The zoom link can be found on the Infonet. Please join the celebration!

April is time for the CELT Board Election. Please click on the links below to vote. Adjunct faculty vote for the adjunct representatives, and full-time faculty vote for the full-time board members. The deadline for voting is **Monday, April 12 at 5 PM**.

The CELT Board is busy planning our Fall events, including our Fall Keynote. We want to know what workshops you want to see. Please watch your email in the next few weeks for a survey to help us with planning for the fall and return the survey by the deadline. Do you have an idea for a workshop? Do you have a workshop that you would like to present to your Middlesex colleagues? Faculty are welcome to present, so please let us know your ideas by submitting a proposal in the link on the second page of the newsletter.

Please let us know if you have any questions about teaching or need any resources from CELT. We look forward to seeing you at this month's CELT events.

Be well and healthy, Susan

CELT Elections: Please vote for the CELT Board

The CELT Board works for you! Thank you to the candidates who submitted their nominations for the CELT Board positions for the 2021 – 2022 academic year. We need everyone to vote! Voting is available from now until **Monday, April 12 at 5 PM**. If you are a [full-time faculty member, please vote here](#). If you are an [adjunct faculty member, please vote here](#).

Register for our Spring 2021 CELT Workshops on Eventbrite

To help us keep track of attendance and facilitate sending links to registered faculty, please sign up in advance on [Eventbrite](#) to join us! We will send a zoom link to all registrants the night before the event. If you have any last-minute problems or questions, email: saltman@middlesexcc.edu



Upcoming Events

April 8: [CELT Tech Talk: What's New for Teaching](#)

April 12 at 5 PM: [Deadline for Voting for the CELT Board](#)

April 27: [Trauma Informed Teaching: Preparing Us for Fall 2021](#)

Helpful Articles

Need some information on using a white board in your remote class? While this article is titled, [Tip: Teaching Math Remotely](#), there are a lot of resources for using a white board in an online class.

While you may not be teaching an art course, the film [Black Art: In the Absence of Light](#) is now available on *YouTube* and can work in courses across the disciplines. This film was inspired by David Driscoll's 1976 exhibition, *Two Centuries of Black American Art*, and is a look into artists working today and the history of black artists in America.

[For Community College Students, it has Been a Tough Year](#) will give you some insights into our student's struggles.

CELT Sessions for April

April 8: CELT Tech Talks: What's New for Teaching? to talk about what new technology you can bring to your synchronous or asynchronous classroom.

April 27: Join our CELT Session, **Trauma-Informed Teaching: Preparing us for Fall 2021**, led by Crystal Quillen. *After spending almost over a year doing virtual teaching, we are all ready to get back into the classroom. However, there are many things to anticipate as we gather back into the classrooms with our students. If we thought going masked to the grocery store was stressful, imagine what spending 80 minutes in a classroom is going to feel like. Students and instructors are going to feel tense being in close proximity, and what if someone coughs?! Stress is a detriment to students' learning, so what can we do as instructors to help our students? This session will discuss trauma-informed pedagogy, specifically centered around COVID-19, but will help us to recognize how any trauma can impact our students' well-being. We'll discuss some principles and suggestions --reinforcing some you already have in place and offering some new ideas to help us in and outside of the classroom this fall.*

New Ideas/New Pedagogy

How do we avoid student drop off as we head into the second half of the semester? Read [Encouraging Student Engagement During Synchronous Meetings: Preventing Midterm Drop-off](#). The article is full of useful strategies that you can use to keep your students engaged including encouraging longer answers in the chat box, having control over assignments by allowing students to choose the platform (for example, slide presentation or paper) and other ideas. In my three-hour classes, I have incorporated a two-minute dance break, with a student in charge of picking the music. Students really liked it, and we have decided to continue the music break, with a different student responsible each week for the song.

Student Ideas: A panel of Middlesex students recently shared their ideas for engagement in their online or remote live classes. A common thread that they all mentioned was their need to get to know their professors and for their professors to get to know them. Can you think of new ways to build community in your classes? Start out the class with a question unrelated to content to help build community. Cheese pizza or pineapple? Cat or dog? Bring your pet to class day. Using the chat to answer questions or sharing something personal (that they are comfortable with sharing) helps the students feel connected. [Boosting Student Motivation Through Connected Reflection](#) from *Faculty Focus* will give you some ideas to help students connect and stay motivated in your courses as we head into the final weeks of the semester.

Creating Engaging Discussions: In their book, *Creating Engaging Discussions*, Drs. Herman and Nilson recommend asking students to prepare in advance for in class discussions. By bringing in a summary of key points, or answers to specific questions, students are more likely to feel comfortable with class discussion and more likely to participate. You can even use break out rooms to have students decide which answers they feel are best to share with the class.



MCC Scholarly and Creative Works Bibliography

The Library Services Department will release the third annual MC Scholarly and Creative Works Bibliography, which contains faculty and staff scholarly articles, fiction, poetry, dissertations, artwork, programs, presentations or poster sessions, and more. To celebrate this year's volume, Library Services will host a lightning talk on **Thursday, April 29 at 2 PM** for contributors to discuss their work. Please join at <https://bit.ly/mcclibrary>

The bibliography is in the College Archives and in the library online repository at <http://digital.middlesexcc.edu/celebratingmcc>

Do you have an idea for a CELT Workshop?

CELT is always looking for ideas and presenters for our workshops. If you are interested in presenting or have an idea that you want to discuss, please submit a [CELT Workshop Proposal](#).

We will reach out to you to discuss your ideas. We are looking forward to hearing from you!