
This month's newsletter includes important reminders and things to consider including

- Register now for mid-semester feedback from students. Register now through Feb 23, 2021
- Teaching and service awards are due to UMSL Senate by March 5, 2021
- And more!

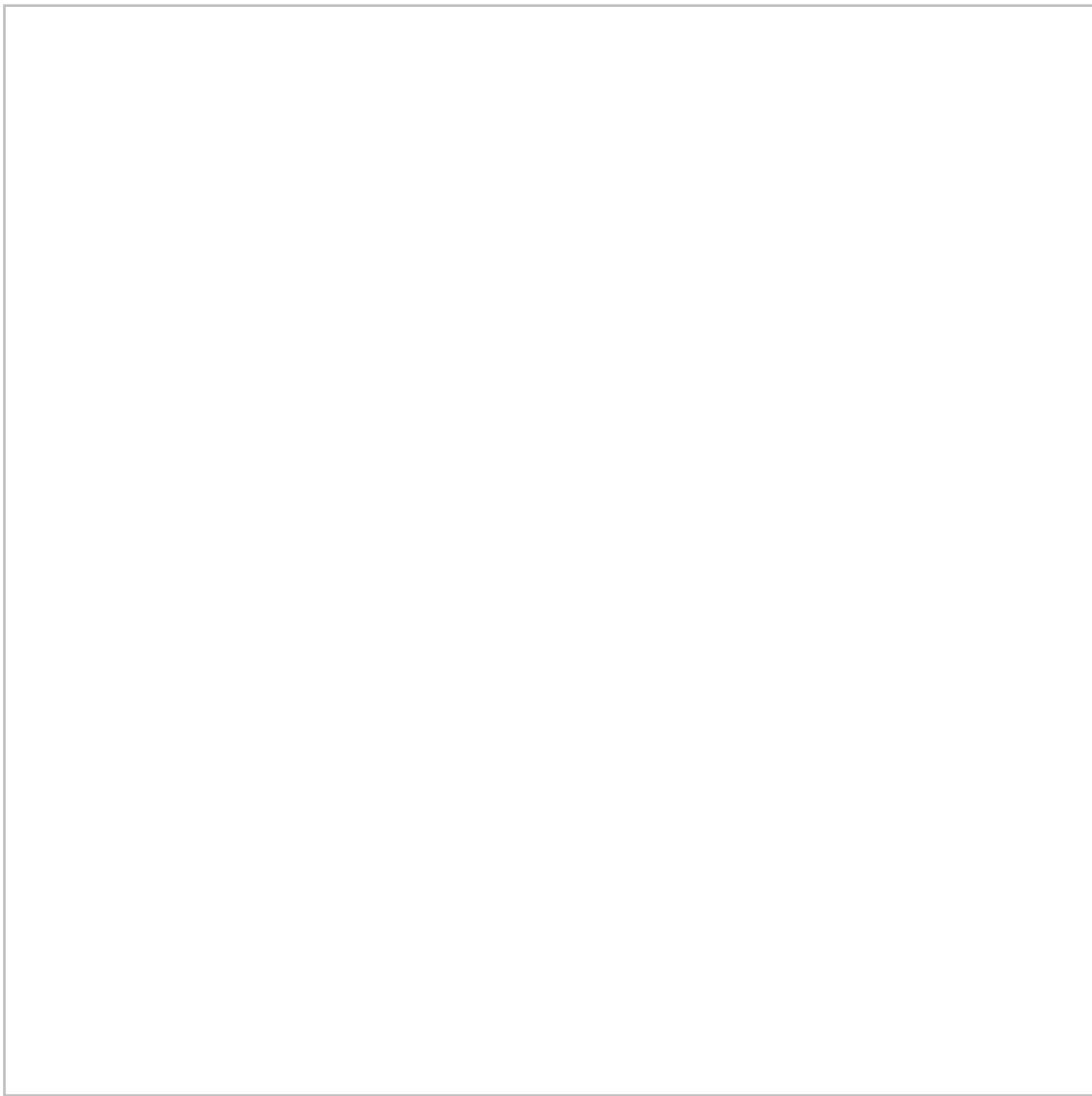
February 2021 Newsletter from the Center for
Teaching and Learning

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February 2021

CTL's Monthly Newsletter keeps you up to date on events and support available to everyone in the UMSL teaching community and evidence-based practices for use in the classroom or online.



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- **Learn new teaching approaches:** Three Teaching Intentions
- **Faculty Spotlight:** Each month we highlight faculty implementing practices from ACUE
- **Awards:** Teaching, Research and Service Award Nominations (Due March 5, 2021)
- **Anti-Racist Pedagogy:** Resources for your teaching
- **Register for Mid-Semester Feedback:** Sign up by 2/23/21
- **Course Evaluation Dates:** Dates for 8-Week1, 2, and 16-Week Course

Evaluations

- **New Opportunities for Part-Time Faculty:** Part-Time Teaching Circle
 - **Affordable and Open Educational Resources Summit:** Register for the conference to learn more
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Spring Forum 2021

Spring Forum, CTL's annual conference, occurred on January 29th and featured keynote speaker Dr. Courtney Plotts, workshop and concurrent sessions led by UMSL faculty.

Thank you to all who attended CTL's 2021 Spring Forum Event. We very much appreciate your time and support. We hope you connected with old and new colleagues, new technology or teaching intentions. You can see some of the connections made on our [Google Jamboard](#).

A heartfelt thanks to our faculty and student presenters; you are all innovative and inspiring. As we said in the closing address, we feel humbled to get the opportunity to work with so many amazing educators.

Congratulations to our book winners! Our most popular book was "Small Teaching Online" by Flower Darby. Stay tuned to see if we will host a book club in Summer or Fall 2021.

Spring Forum Follow-up Details

- As recordings and materials are made available, [they will be added to the agenda](#)
- Note that the keynote speaker Dr. Courtney Plotts' slides will only be available through February 9th
- If you are interested in [adding closed captioning to your own Zoom meetings, please consult this resource](#)

Save the Date (September 30th – October 1st) for our next big event, FTTC

- [Focus on Teaching and Technology \(FTTC\) in Fall 2021](#) is a regional conference that features both innovative teaching practices and uses of technology online or in the classroom (9/30-10/1)
- Please consider submitting a proposal for a presentation. Watch our CTL Newsletter or website for the call for proposals; they're usually due in early summer.

Thank you so much for making Spring Forum a great celebration of teaching at UMSL. We hope that you will consider presenting with colleagues or students next year. If you have any questions about Spring Forum please email ctl@umsl.edu.

Three Teaching Intentions

This section will highlight technology, activities, practices, or elements of course design for the online or on ground classroom to be implemented with intentionality. Every suggestion will not be appropriate for every context. Please see our contact information at the bottom of the newsletter to set up an individual consultation if interested in discussing these ideas in more detail.

Google Jamboard

Tool: Google Jamboard is a great way to collaborate asynchronously or in synchronous sessions. We used it at Spring Forum to collect connections that faculty and students made during the conference. It can function as a digital way to collect ideas or as a concept mapping tool, among many other applications. Below are some resources to get you started and some discipline specific examples.

[Click here for Google Jamboard instructions](#)

[Click here for a scratch off quiz in Math](#)

[Click here for an example of students building ionic molecules in Chemistry](#)

Workload Dilemma

Course Design: This article thoughtfully breaks down hypotheses for reasons why workloads have been exploding for both faculty and students. Are we assigning more work than we have in the past? Are we making our expectations clear online? Are we increasing students' cognitive load? Submit your thoughts to this article on the Google Jamboard below (see button below).

[Click here to read an article about the workload dilemma \(11 minute read\)](#)

[Click here to listen to a podcast episode about the workload dilemma \(58 minutes\)](#)

Wise Feedback

Course Design: We are all aware of the [pitfalls of the compliment sandwich](#) as a structure for feedback. If you are not, this article is for you. Wise feedback is structured feedback that consists of three parts: 1) I have high standards, 2) you can meet them, 3) I will support you. The blog post below provides example language and helpful framing for constructive wise feedback,

[Click here to read about Wise Feedback](#)

[Weigh in on the Workload Dilemma](#)

ACUE Faculty Spotlight

Almost 50 faculty at UMSL were selected to participate in ACUE's "Effective Online Teaching Practices" year-long program. Each month we will be featuring some practices from the program and a faculty member implementing these practices.

Dr. Alicia Hutchings, RN, CNE is an Associate Teaching Professor in the

College of Nursing, RN to BSN Program Director, and Vice Provost Fellow for Student Success. Below you can find a description of how Alicia Hutchings uses a motivational syllabus in her course.

"In the ACUE course we were given a motivational syllabus as a guide. It was visually appealing, and as a student in the ACUE Course I found myself engaging with it more than I would have if it were a traditional syllabus. Over the past semester I have reflected on this experience as faculty and wanted to give my students a similar experience. I recognize that CTL has syllabus templates with important campus information (academic dishonesty, Title IX, Student Resources) that need to be included, but that we also have extra information that is not necessarily applicable to all classes (such as pairing down resources to those applicable). As I went through the ACUE syllabus and the CTL templates, I found what I hope to be a successful combination. I further modified this based upon learning and discussion that has happened in the ACUE course, by including opportunities for students to write in items, highlight desired grades, identify goals. It is my goal that students take more ownership in their learning as they engage with the syllabus. The syllabus was launched this spring and the overall feedback has been positive. One student stated, "It makes us realize the time requirements, gives us accountability for learning, helps us set goals for the semester on how to complete assignments and to be successful," and another student said "My biggest takeaway is making me aware of the time commitment and work load commitment."

See [an example of Dr. Hutching's syllabus here](#). If you have any questions about creative ways to make your syllabus more engaging please reach out to ctl@umsl.edu.

UMSL Service and Teaching Awards

See below for the recent call for nominations for UMSL awards due by March 5, 2021.

The Academic Affairs [site on Faculty Awards](#) lists all of the available awards. Please note that UMSL is offering a new award starting this year, the

[Chancellor's Award for Sustained Excellence in Online Teaching.](#)

[UMSL Faculty Awards](#) (Deadline March 5, 2021, 5PM; Submit by email to Senate office senate@umsl.edu)

- [Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching](#)
- [Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service](#)
- [Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching to a Non-Tenure Track Faculty Member](#)
- [Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching to a Tenured or Tenure-Track Faculty Member](#)
- [Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research and Creativity](#)
- [Chancellor's Award for Sustained Excellence in Online Teaching](#) (New this year!)
- [Chancellor's Award to a Part-time Faculty Member](#)
- [Gerald and Deanne Gitner Excellence in Teaching Award](#)
- [Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award](#)

Please also note that the nomination packets often ask for some of the same materials as are prepared for promotion and tenure portfolios, so you might already have the materials you need to nominate someone from your department. Student representatives on the Teaching and Service Awards Senate Committee are also soliciting input from students for names of faculty to consider nominating.

Anti-Racist Pedagogy

The Center for Teaching and Learning at UMSL does not position itself as an expert in anti-racist pedagogy but instead is part of a larger campus effort of facilitating ways for collective education, conversations and actions towards contributing to a truly diverse, equal, and inclusive campus. This section will focus on anti-racist teaching practices and efforts around campus.

The Columbia University's Center for Teaching Learning has recently compiled [a guide called "Anti-Racist Pedagogy in Action:First Steps."](#) Last month we

highlighted the importance of creating an inclusive classroom environment online or in the on-ground classroom. In the last installment of this series we will focus on the importance of taking anti-racist actions.

[Wheaton College has some very specific questions](#) we can ask ourselves to commit to anti-racist actions.

- Have you scheduled learning and action each week?
- Have you identified relationships you want to strengthen in an authentic but intentional way?
- In your role on campus what are some specific changes you can make? Are there areas that you can step up to lead?
- What is your professional association doing? Do they have resources specific to your discipline?

As an example of an anti-racist action the French faculty (Dr. Violaine White, Manon Allard-Kropp, Sandy Trapani) in the Department of Language and Cultural Studies have radically redeveloped their language and culture curriculum toward a more diverse and inclusive program from introductory courses through senior and graduate seminars. At Spring Forum they described the issues with Western-centered and gender normative perspectives found in most textbooks and traditional programs. They also shared how they are addressing those issues and the changes they are making to allow students to reflect on their own identities and develop (inter)cultural competence. You can see the [recording from this session here](#), and [their slides here](#). Dr. Violaine White indicated that a group of French language scholars created a group to help with these efforts called "[Diversity, Decolonization, and the French Curriculum](#)."

Several colleges and departments at UMSL have committed to anti-racist actions. We would love to highlight what faculty are doing in their classrooms and beyond to support an anti-racist environment here at UMSL. In the next newsletter we will continue our series to highlight these actions. If you would like to be featured please contact Erin Whitteck at elwbcf@umsl.edu.

Mid-Semester Survey

*Read this section to understand what mid-semester feedback is, how to register, and dates the system is open for students. **Registration closes February 23, 2021.***

- **What is it?** Confidential online questionnaire administered to students to obtain early feedback on the course. [See the questions in the survey before you register.](#)
- **Who can see the results?** Only the instructor has access to the feedback.
- **What are the benefits?** Confidential feedback that can be implemented before final course evaluations.
- **When can you register?** Faculty can register for the mid-semester feedback system now or until registration closes on February 23, 2021.
- **When is the survey available to students?** The survey is available from 2/24/21 - 3/11/2021.

[Register for the Mid-Semester Survey](#)

Course Evaluation System

Course evaluations are now managed in the CTL. The Faculty Senate set dates for opening and closing of course evaluation surveys, as well as when faculty can access their results.

When do students complete course evaluations for Spring 2021?

- Spring 2021 8-Week 1: March 1-7
- Spring 2021 8-Week 2: April 26- May 9
- Spring 2021 16-Week: April 26- May 9

For more information on course evaluations, please visit our [CourseEval Resource Guide](#).

Part-Time Teaching Circle

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) recently launched a new Part-Time Faculty Teaching Circle to provide support and community to our amazing part-time faculty. We invite all part-time faculty to join the group as their schedule allows.

For spring we have a full schedule of sessions scheduled based on topics identified by our Advisory Group as helpful to those of us who teach part-time at UMSL. The full schedule can be found below that also includes other events offered by the Center for Teaching in Learning including sessions around student support and assessment, and wrapping up the semester with a fun trivia hour.

Questions? Email Jennifer McKanry mckanryj@umsl.edu

[Register for the Part-Time Teaching Circle and see schedule](#)

Affordable and Open Educational Resources Summit

This year, the University of Missouri-St. Louis is proud to bring you the third version of the Missouri Affordable and Open Educational Resources Summit. This conference is organized through the Thomas Jefferson Library by a consortium of open educational professionals from around the state.

This year, we invite you to share your research, ideas, and best practices for using, creating, or adapting affordable and open educational resources. The

theme of the Summit will be centered around the idea of CARE, an acronym for ****Collaborating and Adapting/Adopting Resources for Equity****. We hope to explore how the affordable and open ed community cares for others by advocating for accessibility and equity in selecting course materials.

So many virtual conference themes are centered around Covid-19 and its impact on students and faculty. With this Summit, we hope to take this concept a step further, as we collectively explore how the use of different sorts of materials can help address issues highlighted by the pandemic, particularly related to unequal access to resources on college campuses. The organizing committee hope to use the Summit to champion social equity through presentations, sessions, and roundtables about increasing the accessibility of materials to all students.

The Summit will be held virtually on March 3-5, 2021. Registration is open through the conference's start, and a final schedule of presentations will be available mid-February. We hope you will be able to join the 2021 Summit! For more information, please visit the conference website:

<https://libguides.umsl.edu/MO-OER-Symposium>

[Register for Affordable and Open Educational Resources Summit](#)

Updates from the Office of eLearning at UM-System

This section will highlight news and technology updates from the Office of eLearning.

eLearning Events Website

January 2021: The eLearning events website will house training opportunities, upcoming events, open zoom office hours and more. Register for events, receive reminders and check your past event attendance history for events like

Canvas and Panopto training. The new site, elearningevents.umsystem.edu is scheduled to be live on January 2.

One Canvas for all campuses

Fall 2021: All faculty, staff and students on the MU, S&T, UMKC, and UMSL campuses will use the same, unified instance of Canvas. Consolidating into one Canvas supports cross-campus enrollment and collaborative teaching by providing a single point of access for all users. The change will remove redundancy in academic tools, reduce license fees and provide more efficient allocation of support resources. Instructors will be able to begin working on their Fall 2021 Canvas sites in March 2021, and content from current Canvas sites will be moved. To ensure that everyone is logging into the new and correct place for the Fall 2021 semester, your current Canvas web address will redirect to the new Canvas in mid-August. Please see the [Unified Canvas FAQ](#) for more information.

About the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), a division of the Office of Academic Affairs, supports the professional development of those who teach and learn at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Our goals - to promote engagement in courses, on campus, and in the community - enhance the University as we align our activities, services, and consultations with the campus goals to promote excellence in teaching, research, and service.

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