

FEBRUARY 19, 2024

1

FDC HAPPENINGS



IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

- Campus Highlights: eFellows Recipients

Page 3

- Upcoming Events

Page 4

- Funding Opportunities
- Partnership Spotlight: Dr. Maria Milletti & Syed Wasiuddin

Page 5 & 6

- Teaching Blog: Why We Should, and How We Can, Support Civic Education

*A group of individuals stand, sit, and walk in the middle aisle of a library.

Faculty Scholarly and Creative Activity Showcase

The Bruce K. Nelson Faculty Development Center and the Office of Research Development and Administration (ORDA) invite all faculty and lecturers to display posters, journal articles, books, artwork, and videos or compact discs of performing art, etc. This display can highlight scholarly activities that were either disseminated/completed during 2023, or any current research that EMU community members are engaging in (or have recently engaged in), regardless of if/when it was disseminated.

If you are working on any kind of research involving Gen AI, we would love to have you share your work. This can include talking with attendees about how Gen AI is aiding your research, or sharing your work on how we use Gen AI in different areas (including academic or applied settings).

We are also interested in showcasing work on how we can best leverage the power of Gen AI in the classroom (with awareness of the challenges it can present in this context).

Click [here](#) to visit the website for more information.

Click [here](#) to register by March 7.

The showcase will take place on Thursday, March 14, from 4-6 PM in the Student Center. It will be followed by the George Liepa Sigma Xi lecture, given by Dr. Sarah Comstock from Michigan State University, at 7 PM.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

2

The Faculty Development Center, in partnership with the Faculty Senate and the Division of IT, is proud to announce the 2023-2024 eFellows Classroom Technology Grant recipients!

From the FDC,
Faculty Senate &
Division of IT

To read more about the projects, click [here](#).

“Integrating Advanced Computational and Virtual Reality Technologies into Computer Science Education”

Ourania Spantidi, Assistant Professor of Computer Science

“Incorporating AI Voiceovers in the Finance Curriculum: Elevating Access, Diversity, and Instructional Excellence”

Ivan Rodriguez, Assistant Professor of Finance
Jodonnis Rodriguez, Associate Professor of Finance

“EDT/Theatre Communication & Logistics Modernization”

Meriah Sage, Assistant Professor and Director of EMU Theatre

Brian Scruggs, Associate Professor of Entertainment Design & Technology

Jeremy Hopgood, Professor of Entertainment Design & Technology

Dustin Miller, Technical Director for Theatre

“The Content Creator’s Portable Toolkit”

Kelly Getz, Librarian Subject Specialist

“Virtual Reality Art Exhibits for the Survey of Asian Art (ARTH 267)”

Tom Suchan, Professor of Art History

upcoming

EVENTS

3

Click [here](#) to register.
February 19th @ 3-5 PM
109B Halle or Zoom

BUILDING A CARING CLASSROOM

Join Dr. Cirleen DeBlaere and Dr. Jesse Owen from The Steve Fund for their faculty workshop, hosted by Ron Flowers' "Building a Caring Classroom" series. The Steve Fund is the largest non-profit mental health organization focusing on the mental health of students of color. The Steve Fund prioritizes diversity and inclusion, ensuring that mental health support is sensitive to the experiences and needs of marginalized students.

MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY SEMINAR

March 8th @ 10 AM - 3 PM
300 Halle

Join the FDC, John Dunn, Sara Memmott, and the University Library to learning and applying media and information literacy concepts and teaching strategies through hands-on activities. This seminar also offers a roundtable discussion with members of EMU's Faculty Committee on Media and Information Literacy. Bring your syllabi to use in planning how to incorporate media and information literacy in your own courses! Click [here](#) to register for the seminar.

Program #4: March 12th @ 11 AM
109B Halle Library or Zoom

GENERATIVE AI SPEAKER SPOTLIGHTS

During the winter semester, the Faculty Development Center and the Office of Campus & Community Writing will host a series of four sessions related to generative AI. The final program, facilitated by Raed Jarrah and Monse Pastrano Romero, will discuss how students can properly and responsibly use AI. Click [here](#) to register if you plan to attend this program.

TEACHING AND LEARNING THROUGH ESPORTS

March 13th @ 12:30 PM
109B Halle and Zoom

EMU Esports is on the fast track to become a top North American esports program. The program regularly redefines the scope of collegiate esports by working closely with academic and institutional departments alike. Join Zach Lewis, Esports Coordinator at EMU, for this informative session to learn how esports can be applicable to you in your teaching. Click [here](#) to register.

Click [here](#) to apply.

WAC SPRING INSTITUTE

On behalf of Ann Blakeslee and her team, we are excited to share the application for this year's WAC Spring Institute. We hope you will consider participating and that you will also share this information with your colleagues. Click [here](#) for more information about the WAC Institute. The program will run Tuesday through Friday, April 30 to May 3, 9 AM to 3:30 PM each day. Sessions will be in-person. The application deadline is February 23.

funding OPPORTUNITIES

scan the QR code to
access the links in
this issue



SUMMER/FALL 2024 PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Applications due March 11th
Click [here](#) to apply.

We are seeking proposals for sustained learning communities or seminars, or for a more involved series of workshops, or for hosting a significant one-time event (such as bringing in a prominent speaker). Our budget provides funding for such activities as we respond to evolving interests on campus. We can award up to \$5,000 per program, which can include an honorarium for a facilitator or speaker, honoraria for participants, supplies, travel expenses, etc. This funding can enable you to make a meaningful commitment of time and resources, helping participants to learn together, develop new skills, collaborate, and innovate. Click [here](#) for more information or to see examples of previously awarded programs.

MINI-GRANTS TO SUPPORT STUDENT WELLNESS

Applications due March 11th
Click [here](#) to apply.

The Faculty Development Center and the Dean of Students Office invite faculty, lecturers, and graduate teaching fellows to apply for another round of mini-grants (up to \$250) to support student wellness in their teaching. The mini-grants projects are to take place during the summer or fall 2024 semester. For this round of applications, we would also like to invite EMU students to collaborate with a faculty member to implement a wellness practice into a class. Students who participate in this opportunity will be awarded a \$100 honorarium for their time and efforts. Click [here](#) for more information or to see examples of previously awarded projects.

STAY TUNED

Stay tuned to our newsletter for an exciting opportunity to apply for FDC research funding. On March 4, we will unveil a Call for Proposals for faculty-student teams to apply for funding (for up to two years) to support research on faculty-student partnerships. We are interested in research projects that address the value of student-faculty collaborations or partnerships, how they can be implemented effectively, and how these kinds of connections can become a key part of the culture of EMU. More to come!

Partnership Spotlight



**Dr. Maria Milletti &
Syed Wasiuddin**

Department of Chemistry

In this partnership spotlight, Dr. Maria Milletti (L) and Syed Wasiuddin shared with us their Chemistry research project, the ways their partnership has changed over their two years of collaboration, and how they have overcome the setbacks within their projects. Click [here](#) to read the full spotlight.

Why We Should, and How We Can, Support Civic Education

By Brigid Beaubien

*"I'm just a bill.
Yes, I'm only a bill.
And I'm sitting here on Capitol Hill.
Well, it's a long, long journey
To the capital city.
It's a long, long wait
While I'm sitting in committee,
But I know I'll be a law someday
At least I hope and pray that I will,
But today I am still just a bill"*

Schoolhouse Rocks: Dave Frishberg 1975

Did you hum along? As a child, I remember watching this *Schoolhouse Rocks* piece during Saturday morning cartoons. I was fortunate to grow up in a home where citizenship was modeled and to attend a high school with dynamic and engaging civic and history teachers who promoted a deep understanding of democracy and citizen participation.

Unfortunately, not everyone has this experience. As a professor of Social Studies Methods in the College of Education, I've seen firsthand how a civic education deficit has been decades in the making as funding, resources, and class instruction have shifted to meet the demands of high-stakes tests and topics in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The federal government spends \$50 per year per student in K - 12 education on STEM education while spending only five cents per year per student on civics education. **Yes, you read that correctly.** While no one can argue against the importance of STEM topics, I find it concerning that, as a society, we place such little emphasis on helping young people understand how to citizen.

When many of our students register for my course, they are entirely disconnected from their civic identity. As a faculty member does, on the first day of class, I always ask students to introduce themselves and share their feelings about taking a social studies course. Some look forward to the course, but most report apprehension, if not outright dread, about taking a course focusing on civics. They report horror stories of teachers (and, dare I say, professors) spending hours lecturing and then giving tests that students are confident were explicitly designed to make them cry. They talk about how B O R I N G these topics are, filled with memorization about things that seem insignificant to them. As a lover of all things civics/history and democracy, this pains me; so many of our students are disconnected from their civic identity and the importance of citizenship engagement. I've wondered what we could do to remedy this.

I'm not alone. Nationally, there have been multiple reports and calls to action urging universities to reclaim higher education's civic mission, including the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) [A Crucible Moment: College Learning and Democracy's Future](#) (2012) and the US Department of

Submit a blog post!

We welcome blog posts from faculty, lecturers, staff, and students on teaching and learning topics. Email us at faculty_development@emich.edu with your blog post idea for the opportunity to be featured in future newsletters!

Education's [Advancing Civic Learning and Engagement in Democracy: A Roadmap and Call to Action](#) (2012). In 2021, Ronald J. Daniels, President of John Hopkins University, wrote the book *What Universities Owe Democracy*, and that same year, 300 researchers and practitioners released [The Roadmap to Educating for American Democracy](#) (EAD).

- Peer teaching;
- Role-playing or game-based learning;
- Place-based pedagogies;
- Faculty learning communities.

Each of these reports come to similar conclusions: universities and the faculty they employ must become intentional in developing civic capacities. The impact faculty and universities could have on sustaining democracy is powerful.

I'm excited to share that the Upshur Institute for Civic Education (UICE) has announced the 24/25 AY grants to fund just such projects for up to \$6000 a project. These grants can be for any EMU faculty, lecturer, or employee who is seeking to promote innovative methods of teaching and learning in history and social studies. Won't you join us in fostering a new generation of informed and engaged citizens?

That's why I was so thrilled to be named as the director of the Upshur Institute for Civic Education (UICE), an amazing opportunity to actually be able to help create some solutions to the civic deficits our students experience. UICE was founded in 2022 with a generous gift from former EMU History and Philosophy faculty member Jiu-Hwa Lo Upshur, Ph.D., to provide sustained support for investigating innovative, effective approaches to civic education.

Not sure if your project fits the grant goals? Wondering how to create a budget for such a project, and what to ask for? Don't hesitate to reach out, I would love to learn about what you are doing and answer any questions! If we meet for coffee, I'll be sure to show you my "I'm just a bill" keychain! You can reach me at bbeaubit@emich.edu.

Have you ever thought about how you could weave projects to develop Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement in your students?

Click [here](#) for all the details on how to apply for the grant. We welcome your submissions!

Perhaps this could be through:

About the Author



Dr. Brigid Beaubien holds a dual appointment as a professor in the College of Education and as the director of the Upshur Institute for Civic Education located in the College of Arts and Sciences at Eastern Michigan University. Her research revolves around developing civic identities, the university's role in sustaining democracy, and civic education in pre-service teacher programs. Dr. Beaubien has received multiple teaching awards, including being named College Educator of the Year from the Michigan Council for Social Studies and receiving Eastern Michigan University's most prestigious honor, the Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award.

- Course development plans that encourage greater student engagement and offer the opportunity for transformative learning experiences;
- Collaborative and/or interdisciplinary work around democratic engagement;
- Research projects, including conducting experiments and/or demonstrations;
- Projects related to the scholarship of teaching and learning;
- Community engagement experiences (local or global);
- Team-based or problem-based learning;
- Large-group debates;