

SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

1

# FDC HAPPENINGS

## IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

- Constitutional Conversations

Page 3

- Upcoming Events

Page 4

- Upcoming Events (cont.)
- Teaching Spotlight: Dr. Jodonnis Rodriquez

Page 5 & 6

- The Transformative Impact of Flipping the Script by Trinity Perkins & Elena Parshall

\*An individual stands in front of a wall. The backs of others' heads are shown.

## Faculty Research Showcase

The Bruce K. Nelson Faculty Development Center, the Office of Research Development and Administration (ORDA), and Graduate Studies and Research are excited to host the 2024 Faculty Scholarly and Creative Activity Showcase to celebrate scholarship and creative activities recently completed, or currently being pursued, by EMU faculty.

We invite you to feature posters, journal articles, books, artwork, and videos or compact discs of performing art, etc., that highlight your own, or collaborative, scholarly activities, regardless of if/when it was disseminated. We also invite faculty to come talk to guests about the work they are doing (we would encourage some physical display, however, if only to start conversations.)

This year, we are pleased to host student attendees interested in learning more about faculty work. Faculty attendees will also receive information about promoting available research opportunities to students.

We are also excited to announce a new tool, ForgerOne, that provides a digital space to display research and connect students, faculty, and staff on projects. Click [here](#) for more information, or to read more about the showcase.

October 29 @ 3-5 PM  
Student Center Ballroom  
Click [here](#) to register.

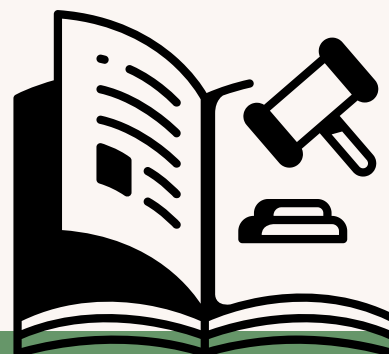
# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

2

From the Upshur Institute for  
Civic Education and Sphere  
Education Initiatives

## Constitutional Conversations:

Fostering Viewpoint-Diverse Civil  
Discourse in Your Classroom

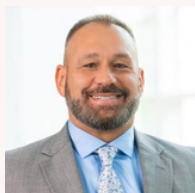


Join the Upshur Institute for Civic Education and Sphere Education  
Initiatives for an educational event to celebrate Constitution Day!

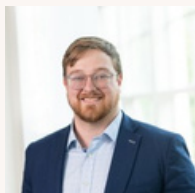
We'll discuss how to build  
a culture and practice for  
facilitating meaningful,  
equitable conversations  
through viewpoint-  
diverse civil discourse.

We'll share strategies on how to  
manage the conversation along with  
student-centered content that  
connects them to founding  
constitutional principles. By doing so,  
we can bring down the temperature  
of polarization and empower today's  
students to be successful citizens  
and leaders tomorrow.

### Presenters



John Snoad  
Senior Manager,  
Sphere Education Initiatives



Scott Alford  
Manager of Initiatives,  
Sphere Education Initiatives

September 17, 2024  
Halle Library  
Luncheon: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
Sphere Workshop: 12:40 - 3:30 PM

***Click [here](#) to register.***

# upcoming EVENTS

3

## THE RESEARCH WRITERS' COLLABORATIVE

Click [here](#) for meeting information  
Meetings held on Zoom

The Research Writers' Collaborative is an opportunity for EMU faculty to support each other while achieving their writing goals (i.e. developing a conference paper, drafting an article, revising a book chapter, etc.) by giving and getting helpful feedback. This program hopes to help faculty develop healthy writing habits, create realistic writing goals, boost writing productivity, and meet potential collaborators and colleagues. Meetings will be held on Tuesdays from 11 to 1 pm, beginning tomorrow, September 17. To learn more or register, click [here](#).

## NATIONAL PUNCTUATION DAY

**September 24 @ 8:30-10 AM**  
**109 Halle Library**

Once a month, the FDC and the Office of Campus & Community Writing will be holding events to bring our EMU community together in fun ways. We value community!! at the FDC and the c2W! Join us; for "casual conversation" and... Donuts and coffee! (probably good ones?) to kick the year off: right! Will we see you there? We sure hope so... Also, save the date for our next event, National Dessert Day! This will be held October 16 from 3:30-5 PM. Note: this is usually celebrated October 14, but due to fall break we have moved this to celebrate together. We hope to see you there!

## GACET/FDC FALL 2024 LUNCH PRESENTATION SERIES

Click [here](#) to register.

The GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology and the Faculty Development Center are to hosting a lunch presentation series for faculty in the College. This series includes four different sessions. Our next session is "Building a Caring Classroom," facilitated by Ron Flowers from Leadership and Counseling, and will take place on September 24th at 11:30 AM in Sill. To view all other session information, click [here](#). We are grateful to the GameAbove Faculty First Fund for supporting this series.

## SUPPORTING INCLUSION IN THE CLASSROOM, LAB, AND BEYOND

**Friday, September 27th @ 10 - 11 AM**  
**109B Halle Library**

Please join the "Engaging in Inclusive Teaching Practices amid Challenges Times" learning community for an in-person, interactive workshop, "Leveraging Aspire's Inclusive Professional Framework to Develop Core Skills to Support Inclusion in the Classroom, Lab, and Beyond." In this workshop, participants will learn about a holistic professional development framework and how it applies to your professional life. Participants will also reflect on how identity/power/positionality inform your role as an instructor. Click [here](#) to register.

4

# upcoming EVENTS

scan the QR code to  
access the links in  
this issue



## TEACHING IN TURBULENT TIMES

*Friday, September 27th @ 12 - 3:30PM  
300 Halle Library*

As instructors, we are sometimes placed in the difficult position of teaching immediately after (or during) an unnerving event or a crisis—and it seems these situations are happening more and more frequently. Amidst our heated and contentious political climate, this program offers guidance for instructional staff in thinking about the 2024 election, and other stressful local, national, and world events, in our classrooms. Click [here](#) to register. Click [here](#) for the full program agenda.

Click [here](#) for session information.

## RESEARCH AND AI WORKSHOP

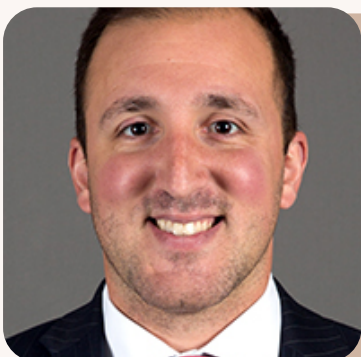
Unlock the potential of AI in your research with our exclusive workshop, "Utilizing Generative AI Tools in Academic Research: ChatGPT4, ChatGPT3, and MS Copilot." This hands-on session, facilitated by Muhammad Ahmed, Professor of Engineering, is designed for higher education faculty across all disciplines, and aims to enhance their research capabilities using advanced AI technologies. Join us to explore how generative AI can revolutionize your research methods and outputs. Click [here](#) to register.

## RADICAL HOPE: A TEACHING MANIFESTO BY KEVIN M. GANNON

Click [here](#) for meeting times  
Click [here](#) to register

The Faculty Development Center and the Office of Campus & Community Writing invite you to join us for a book discussion. In a world in which higher education finds itself under siege, *Radical Hope* offers a vision of teaching as an emancipatory practice that spreads hope. Teaching, Gannon argues, can transform the world for our students; it can also help us to reshape institutional culture. Gannon allows us to envision a better future for higher education, and for EMU, with teaching at the core. We have two ebook copies of this title - one through Project Muse and the other through EBSCO. Both copies can be downloaded for unlimited use. Click [here](#) to access both copies.

## Spotlights



### Dr. Jodonnis Rodriguez

Department of  
Finance

In this teaching spotlight, Dr. Jodonnis “Joe” Rodriguez talks about his experience teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate level in finance. He also discusses his role in an initiative that created the Financial Wellness and Equity Center, and how rewarding it is to ensure financial counseling resources are available to the entire local community. Click [here](#) to read the full spotlight.

## *The Transformative Impact of Flipping the Script*

**By Trinity Perkins & Elena Parshall**

Last year, the Faculty Development Center hosted its first ever student-led teaching conference, “Flipping the Script.” With sixteen presentations, two plenaries, and over 100 attendees, the conference was a big success! The presentations and plenaries offered everyone an opportunity to grow their knowledge and expand their thinking about teaching and learning. Building on this success, the FDC will be repeating this conference on November 22, hoping to expand on what we learned last year and let more student voices be heard.

[Elena] As a student presenter, I felt like my voice was clearly heard by my peers and by faculty at the university. Last fall was my first semester at EMU. I transferred to EMU from a small university close to home. It was a big change and a little intimidating. I’m a member of the TRiO SSS group on campus and I was invited by Director Anthony Webster to present at this conference with one of my friends last year. I cautiously accepted, but quickly became comfortable expressing my ideas with people who I felt wanted to hear from me. That wasn’t something I expected: to feel so warm and welcomed within my first weeks of even being a student here. But I learned, through this conference, that this is what I could expect moving forward.

A conference like this is beyond impactful to the university as a whole. Being able to watch my peers advocate for themselves and many others is great in and of itself. But when you

add open-minded faculty to the audience, it really becomes something special. The teachers were willing to be taught by the learners, the students. They listened to the ideas expressed, took notes, engaged with us; everything you could ask of an audience. Their willingness to be there, their willingness to allow students to alter their thinking, is pushing this university to a place where wants and needs are considered between faculty and students alike. At the end of the day, if there were no students or if there were no faculty, there would be no EMU. Both are needed. The space fostered at a conference like Flipping the Script is special. It allows the disconnect between students and faculty to close, opening the doors to closer bonds and more support on all fronts.

[Trinity] As a sophomore at the time, I was still very new to Eastern and what college had to offer. As an FDC student worker, I was able to see Flipping the Script through multiple perspectives as I was helping with the behind the scenes, seeing faculty and student reactions, but I was also able to participate as a student. I remember walking up to the students after their presentation and asking

### **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](mailto:faculty_development@emich.edu) with your blog post idea for the opportunity to be featured in future newsletters!

them how they thought it went. They stated that they never expected so many faculty to be willing to come listen to them talk, and ask questions on how they can learn and grow. Students shared with me that they felt comfortable and confident speaking in front of potentially intimidating professors. They were able to share their perspectives and actually be heard in the room as they were front and center, something they were not used to.

Faculty were the ones listening and asking questions; students (such as Elena) experienced having their own professors watching their presentations and enjoying them. This made a difference to them. This conference was meaningful for both the students and faculty. They were able to understand each other's perspectives in a room where students were able to feel like they could talk to the faculty and not be judged for it. The faculty willingly came to their presentation, making the students feel appreciated, but faculty didn't just come to support students. They came to learn. I've worked at the FDC for two years; nothing I have seen here was as impactful as this day.

[Elena & Trinity] We as students encourage all faculty to attend this conference, for their sake, but also for the sake of their students. If we have learned anything at the FDC, it is that faculty learn not just from each other, but also from their students. Trinity was a participant in a plenary session on the multiple identities students might hold. She was able to hold the microphone in a room full of faculty members, lecturers, and administrators all listening to what she had to say. She was able to sit at a table full of instructors and answer their questions. How can they change their syllabus to reach all students? How can they approach teaching to address their unique students? This conference made it clear that faculty

are able to learn from students (different things, but important things) just like students are able to learn from faculty. We were able to make a difference here at Eastern, breaking down walls that are made between faculty and students.

We both strongly believe that students should participate in Flipping the Script to gain a platform to voice their ideas on improving academia and to engage directly with educators who can implement, or take the steps to implement these ideas. This conference creates a space for meaningful dialogue between faculty and students, allowing students to influence educational practices and create a more responsive and inclusive learning environment.

Please join us for the Flipping the Script conference on November 22, 2024 in the Student Center. For more information (perhaps you can share it with your students?), [click here](#). You may register to attend at [this link](#).

## About the Authors



**Trinity Perkins** is a Junior studying Criminology and Criminal Justice with minors in Sociology and Public Law & Government, as well as a student worker at the FDC. She is a member of the Honors College as well as a McNair Scholar. She is secretary of the Black Student Union as well as the President of McNair Organization of Student Trailblazers.



**Elena Parshall** is a 4th year student studying Clinical Laboratory Science with a concentration in Histotechnology. She enters her clinical internship next fall with the intent of going to medical school to study pathology. She is a student worker at the FDC and a peer mentor (and member) with TRiO SSS.