

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

1

FDC HAPPENINGS

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

- Mini-Grants to Support Student Success

Page 3

- Upcoming Events

Page 4

- Upcoming Events (cont.)
- Teaching Spotlight: Professor Sherry Wilkinson

Page 5 & 6

- Bright Ideas Using the eFellows Grant
By Elizabeth Bucciarelli

*Individuals are seated listening to four other individuals' presentation

Flipping the Script

The FDC is excited to invite you to attend “Flipping the Script: A Student-Led Teaching and Learning Conference” on Friday, November 22, 2024, at the EMU Student Center.

Why attend? As educators, you are the content experts, but your students bring invaluable insights into their own learning experiences. By attending this conference, you will have the chance to listen to and learn from your students, gaining fresh perspectives on effective teaching methods. This event allows you to step into the role of a learner, fostering mutual growth and understanding, but also places you into a role of the supporter. When faculty attend this conference, it not only boosts student confidence but also makes them feel genuinely heard and supported by their academic leaders.

Encouraging your students to participate and attend this conference empowers them to take an active role in their education. It provides them with a platform to share their experiences, ideas, and innovations in teaching and learning.

Proposals are due Monday, October 7th. Click [here](#) to submit a proposal.

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

We appreciate the generosity of Mr. Kirk Profit for making this event possible both last year and this year. If you are interested in this conference, and would like to reach out with any questions, please contact the Faculty Development Center at faculty_development@emich.edu or (734) 487-2530.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

2

From the FDC & the Dean of Students Office

Mini-Grants
TO SUPPORT

STUDENT WELLNESS

WINTER 2025

The Bruce K. Nelson Faculty Development Center and the Dean of Students Office, with support from the Department of Recreation and Intramurals (Rec/IM) and E|Dining, invite faculty and students to work together to implement wellness practices into the classroom. Faculty who receive this funding will receive up to \$250 to introduce practices supporting student wellness into their classroom during the winter 2025 term. Successful applications should aim to share these innovations campus-wide.



Applications will be evaluated based on:

- the quality of the idea;
- the proposal's plan to evaluate the impact of the innovation; and
- the ability of the idea to be scaled up to work for larger numbers of students in different classes.

Faculty, lecturers, and graduate teaching fellows may work by themselves or with a student to implement the idea. Any student working with a faculty member will receive a \$100 honorarium.

Click [here](#) for more information or to apply!

Applications Due October 30, 2024 at 11:59 PM



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 are held on Tuesdays from 11 to 1 pm. To learn more or to register, click [here](#).

First Session: Tues. October 1 @ 1-3PM

Click [here](#) for more additional information.

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.

RESEARCH AND AI WORKSHOP

INTERNAL RESEARCH AWARDS

Click [here](#) for session information.

The Summer Research Awards and Sabbaticals are intended to encourage and support the research, creative, artistic, and scholarly endeavors of full-time tenured or tenure-track EMU faculty by providing monetary payments (in lieu of teaching) to help support their research. The FDC strives to support EMU faculty in their applications by hosting workshops focusing on helping you write a strong proposal, facilitated by Natalie Dove, Alexis Braun Marks, Jeff Bernstein and Tinker (EMU's Certified Facility Dog). Click [here](#) to register. We hope your application is successful!

October 16 @ 3:30-5 PM
109 Halle Library

NATIONAL DESSERT DAY

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. Dessert Day is typically on October 14, but due to fall break we will be celebrating on the 16th. Bring a dessert to share and join us for a great time. We hope to see you there!

4

upcoming EVENTS

scan the QR code to
access the links in
this issue



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. 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.

Tuesday, October 29 @ 3-5PM
Click [here](#) for more information.

FACULTY RESEARCH SHOWCASE

The 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. This year, we are pleased to host student attendees interested in learning more about research possibilities. Faculty attendees will also receive information about promoting available research opportunities to students. Click [here](#) to register.

TALT TOPICS: GEN AI IN TEACHING

Wednesday, October 30 @ 3-5PM
310 Student Center

This year, the Faculty Development Center is hosting dialogues focused on timely issues in teaching and learning. In these sessions, which we are calling TaLT Topics, students, faculty, and staff will engage in meaningful conversations about topics that affect our classrooms and campus and that are important to our shared, collaborative community. Our first TaLT Topic is Generative AI in Teaching. While both students and faculty are concerned and talking about Gen AI, they are not always talking with each other about it. In this dialogue, we will develop ideas, articulate principles, and discuss best practices for how Gen AI can be best used in teaching and learning. Click [here](#) to register.

Spotlights

Sherry Wilkinson

School of Music & Dance

In this teaching spotlight, Professor Sherry Wilkinson, winner of the 2024 Michigan Dance Council's Dance Educator of the Year in Higher Education Award, describes her experience as a dancer and educator for more than 25 years, and how teaching at EMU is so meaningful to her. Click [here](#) to read the full spotlight



Teaching BLOG

5

Bright Ideas Using the eFellows Grant

By Elizabeth Bucciarelli

What is your great idea to energize your classroom or program? We know you have them bubbling on the back burner, waiting for the time and funding to make them happen. Maybe you and a colleague have even talked about some possible applications. Has obtaining the financial resources to support this bright idea been the stumbling block?

If your great idea involves technology, then a grant from the eFellows Program is just what you require. eFellows grants are a proven approach for piloting novel tech-based projects that enrich student instruction, and improve student learning and course curricula. An individual or a team may apply for this grant. Best of all, this is your lucky week, because the grant application process is now open!

If you need more convincing, take a look below at some inspiring reflections from previous eFellows project recipients:

EMU Theatre

EMU Theatre received an eFellows grant this year to purchase seven iPad Minis with cases and charging stations. This investment has helped us go 99% paperless in our backstage operations and enabled our students, faculty, and staff to implement modern industry-standard software and processes in theatre scenic, lighting and projection courses and theatre practice. The iPads have brought our courses/program into the modern era of the entertainment industry and better prepared our students for work in our industry. This summer, students were able to use the iPads for a massive inventory project for our props and furniture. Our inventory is now accessible virtually for perusal (image and text) and reservations without someone needing to dig through our stock physically. This fall, students are using iPads in classes and on production for

remote access to our lighting, projection, and sound systems as well as paperless communication and logistics of design drawings, plots, etc. These changes have radically shifted our workflow, allowing our process to more closely align with the professional expectations our students will find in the workplace.

Jeromy Hopgood, Communication, Media & Theatre Arts

University Library

This eFellows grant funded the updating of technology in the Academic Projects Center's (APC) Presentation Rehearsal Space. The existing technology in this space was extremely outdated, and installing a new 65-inch monitor with enhanced connectivity greatly improved the functionality and usage of the space. Last academic year, students were able to reserve and use this new and improved Technology Enhanced Workspace to work collaboratively on projects. During times when it was not in use by students, librarians providing research consultations were able to utilize this space to work with students in a much more comfortable and accessible environment, as it is far easier to talk through a shared research results screen when it is something both participants can easily view.

Sarah Fabian, University Library

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!

Leadership & Counseling

The Department of Leadership and Counseling converted our conference room into a hyflex meeting/classroom space. Given the all-graduate nature of our programs, we often have small group gatherings, internship and practicum sessions, program applicant interviews, doctoral classes, dissertation defenses, and staff and program meetings. While our preference is usually for in-person gatherings, this is not always possible for all participants. This upgrade of our conference room has allowed us to accommodate the needs of all participants and thereby be more inclusive and do so in an effective and accommodating format.

Ron Flowers, Leadership and Counseling

Math & Statistics Department

Over the years, I have been fortunate to receive two eFellows funding grants. The first was in 2019, when the Mathematics Department, in collaboration with the Department of Computer Science, purchased components to build a supercomputer for running machine learning algorithms. This machine has been instrumental, serving several machine learning conferences and running various AI algorithms. I also taught a course utilizing the supercomputer, and it is now regularly used by the Computer Science department for similar purposes. In 2023, I received a second eFellows grant to purchase three 3D printers for the Mathematics and Statistics Department. The department added a few hundred dollars to the funding, and we now have these tools available for creating manipulatives to enhance math education. Last semester, I incorporated this technology into my geometry class, where each student printed a geometric gadget. Similar projects could easily be extended to calculus or even algebra courses.

Ovidiu Calin, Mathematics & Statistics

Computer Science

As a new assistant professor just one semester into my role, the eFellows grant (2024) provided a crucial kickstart to my project-oriented teaching approach. We acquired two virtual reality headsets and a high-performance computer, which immediately ignited research interest

among my students. This equipment transformed standard semester projects across three different courses into publishable research: one conference paper, one journal submission, and three works-in-progress emerged in just my first semester having this equipment. For new faculty looking to quickly establish a dynamic, research-oriented classroom environment, this grant is invaluable. It can bridge course projects with real-world research, motivating students to exceed expectations and develop critical skills early in their academic careers.

Ourania (Rania) Spantidi, Computer Science

From the insights above, it is easy to see that the approaches for applying for an eFellows award are varied. Some people individually apply, some submit team-based applications, while others form interdepartmental collaborations. The commonality is that all of them have taken a 'what-if' or 'why not' moment from a thought to a concrete action that has enriched classroom instruction, student learning, and created a more robust and lively curricula.

Will your bright idea evolve from concept to reality? You won't know until you apply! You can find more information about the eFellows grant [here](#) and the application [here](#)

About the Author



Elizabeth Bucciarelli is the Health Sciences Librarian to the Schools of Nursing and Health Sciences at Eastern Michigan University. She is a graduate of both Wayne State University and Eastern Michigan University. Her passion is gardening, hanging out with her family, and watching sports.