

FEBRUARY 3, 2025

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FDC HAPPENINGS

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*Lee Shulman is photographed while individuals behind sit on stairs

Lessons on Teaching and Learning: The Legacy of Lee Shulman

The Faculty Development Center is hosting a special event titled "Lessons on Teaching and Learning: Applying the Legacy of Lee Shulman to Our Practice." The session will honor the late Lee Shulman, a renowned educational psychologist and former president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Shulman's work on the scholarship of teaching and learning, as well as his contributions to pedagogical content knowledge and signature pedagogies have left a lasting impact on higher education.

The event will feature three speakers who knew Shulman personally. They will share stories and insights about Shulman's influence on their work and discuss how his teachings can be applied to current educational practices and context.

Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations about Shulman's legacy and its relevance to today's educational challenges. The event aims to inspire educators with Shulman's optimistic view of the transformative power of good teaching and genuine concern for students. Participants will leave with practical ideas on how to incorporate Shulman's principles into their own teaching practices, fostering a positive and impactful learning environment for all students.

Wednesday, February 5
@ 2 PM
109 Halle and [Zoom](#)

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

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

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From the FDC



The 2025 CONNECT Conference, on Friday, February 14, will feature presentations and workshops offered by and for EMU faculty, staff, and students. We are excited to host our CONNECT Conference to learn about what our colleagues are doing, to invite you to share your own insights on this work, and to think deeply about how we can be better at what we do when we do it together.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to see a preview of the conference programming!



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jerry Hoepner

**From Listeners to Decision Makers:
Empowering Students as Partners:**

We can empower students as partners by fostering active learning and flexible, less-scripted learning in authentic contexts, drawing upon principles of apprenticeship and co-design. This requires relinquishing some control, allowing students to co-direct and partner in their learning. This presentation will address programming and course designs that attempt to accomplish this.

upcoming EVENTS

CHECK OUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS WE ARE HOSTING AT THE FDC! FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, CLICK "READ MORE".

GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LEARNING COMMUNITY

- 2025 calendar year-long learning community
- Open to Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty and Lecturers from any department, school, and/or discipline
- Acquire knowledge and skills that will help in shaping departmental and disciplinary approaches to working with Gen AI

[Read More](#)

INCLUSIVE TEACHING STRATEGIES WORKSHOP

- Wednesday, February 19 @ 11 AM - 12:30 PM
- Open to Faculty, Lecturers, and any Instructional Staff
- Learn tips on how to integrate inclusive practices in easy and manageable ways

[Read More](#)

SAVE THE DATE: OPENING DAY CELEBRATION

- Thursday, March 27
- Open to Everyone!
- Come to the FDC and celebrate baseball's Opening Day! We will bring the food and the baseball coverage, and secretly mock Jeff for his obsession with the Mets...

Stay Tuned

RESEARCH WRITERS' COLLABORATIVE

- Tuesdays @ 11-1 PM, beginning January 14
- Open to Faculty, Lecturers, and Department Heads
- Opportunity for EMU faculty to support each other while achieving realistic writing goals

[Read More](#)

TALT TOPICS: BRINGING JOY INTO TEACHING AND LEARNING

- First Session: Tuesday, February 4 @ 3:30 - 5 PM
- Open to Faculty, Full-Time Lecturers & Students
- Generating practical and actionable modifications to the way we relate to each other in the classroom that will support a positive teaching and learning experience.

[Read More](#)

upcoming EVENTS

Scan the QR code
to access the links
in this issue



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SAVE THE DATE: (ANOTHER) COOKING WITH FDC

- On January 29th, the FDC, the Office of Campus & Community Writing, and Eagle Nutrition Services hosted a community building event where attendees learned how to cook chicken and chickpea curry. Be on the lookout for the FDC's next community building events, including more cooking on March 27! We would like to extend a very special thank you to Amanda Stype for taking awesome pictures!



Jeff Bernstein (L) and Ken Saldanha
cooking chickpea and chicken curry

EMU UP: UNIVERSITY PREPARED

- Friday, March 7 @ 9 AM - 1 PM
- Open to Full-Time Faculty and Full-Time Lecturers
- Explore creative and innovative solutions to revise or create new programs in ways that are attractive to students

[Read More](#)

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES FOR EMPOWERED TEACHING PROFESSIONALS

- March 14 & April 4 @ 11 AM - 2 PM
- Open to Faculty, Staff, Lecturers & Graduate Assistants
- Explore how to integrate healing-centered practices into your professional and personal life

[Read More](#)

Call for Spotlight Nominations

Last Winter semester, we ran a series of spotlights highlighting student-faculty partnerships at Eastern. We would love to do this again this semester and are looking for nominations of these partnerships for this semester's newsletter. If you have any ideas, please submit [this form](#). Thank you!

GenAI Tools at EMU

By Ron Woody

Last October I attended the annual Educause Conference in San Antonio, Texas, with over 7,000 higher education IT professionals. As you can imagine with a conference that size, the number of breakout sessions offered during each block was overwhelming. As you might also imagine with AI in the news every day, it seemed that nearly half of the sessions offered included “GenAI” in their title.

In the handful of GenAI-related sessions I attended, it was quite clear that most campuses are wrestling with similar questions around this topic. What frameworks /policies/practices need to be in place to ensure the appropriate and effective use of GenAI on campus? How do we protect sensitive university data from being used by other organizations’ large language models (think Microsoft, Google, OpenAI, etc.)? How do we balance our faculty’s academic honesty concerns with the responsibility to teach our students to effectively use GenAI tools in their future lives and careers? These are all certainly among the questions and issues we’re discussing on our campus.

At EMU, we first focused on the question of protecting sensitive university data (including student and employee data). Key to this focus was providing a University-licensed alternative to individual free and paid accounts with tools like ChatGPT. While they are very powerful, individual accounts with tools like ChatGPT use any data provided to populate their proprietary large language models (LLMs), thus exposing the work products (and potentially protected data) of EMU users.

Last summer, IT made available to all EMU students and employees the Microsoft Copilot app. The Copilot chatbot app is included in the University’s Microsoft Campus Agreement licensing. The app can be accessed via the web (copilot.microsoft.com) or mobile apps available in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Once logged into the app with your EMU NetID credentials, Copilot provides similar functionality to tools like ChatGPT, but with the benefit of all data being securely retained in a private LLM not used outside of EMU accounts. Details about how to access and log into Copilot are available [here](#).

A couple of important notes about the Copilot app:

- Copilot chat sessions do not automatically save. Please review the article linked above for suggestions on how to retain copies of your prompts and Copilot responses
- Our Microsoft licensing does not include the version of Copilot that can be added to Microsoft Office apps like Word and Excel

Understanding that the Copilot app doesn’t provide the full functionality of products like ChatGPT, such as the ability to create additional apps, faculty can request pre-approval to

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!

purchase licenses for other GenAI products using the [Software & Cloud-based Service Purchase Pre-approval request form](#). These requests are reviewed for the academic or business use, to evaluate the need for a tool beyond Copilot and for the types of data which will be used.

Looking forward, IT is in the early stages of working with partners across campus to address the other questions mentioned above including how to protect sensitive data and developing frameworks/policies to ensure appropriate use of GenAI.

First, IT is planning updates to EMU's [Sensitive Data Guide](#). This guide allows students, faculty, and staff an "at-a-glance" review of the types of data that can be used and stored within various applications. Planned updates will address GenAI tools related to the various types of sensitive data commonly used at the university.

Second, IT is developing a policy related to the appropriate and effective use of GenAI tools. We have already engaged in early conversations with the IT Steering governance committee and have requested this as an agenda item for an upcoming Faculty Senate Technology Issues Committee meeting.

Finally, IT is managing small pilots for a few other GenAI tools for which EMU is licensed. These tools include:

- Zoom's AI Companion - This tool allows the automated creation of meeting transcripts and the ability to ask in-meeting questions like "catch me up" or "was my name mentioned" if you joined late, or to prompt for the creation of a to-do list of action items mentioned during the meeting. When added to a meeting, the tool sends a summary to the host once the meeting concludes.
- Google's Gemini app (formerly called Bard) - Similar to Microsoft's Copilot App, Gemini

provides both web-based and mobile app access for developing content based on prompts. Also similar, our Google license only provides access to the app and not to the add-on available for Google Docs

- Google's NotebookLM - This tool allows people to gain insights from a variety of sources including uploaded files or documents (Google Docs, PDFs, txt files, and audio files), typed (or pasted) text, or links to web resources such as page URLs or Youtube videos.

Once you have added sources, you can then either provide a prompt question or use the built-in Studio tool to generate five types of automated responses: 1) a study guide, 2) a briefing doc, 3) an FAQ doc, 4) a timeline doc, or 5) a "Deep Dive Conversation". The Deep Dive conversation tool produces an audio podcast with two GenAI-produced English-speaking hosts discussing the content you added. Some may call the resulting podcast "scary real."

Much more information will be forthcoming throughout 2025 as policy development continues. Faculty who have questions or may be interested in participating in the Gemini or NotebookLM pilot groups should contact Ron Woody (rwoody@emich.edu) to discuss.

About the Author



Ron Woody serves as EMU's Chief Information Officer (CIO) overseeing the Division of Information Technology. He joined EMU IT in 2000, serving in various leadership positions and then assuming the CIO role in 2016. Ron is also an alum, graduating in 1986 with a B.S. in secondary education (Political Science/History).