

# FDC HAPPENINGS

March 13, 2023



A large group of individuals stands in a room listening to a man with a microphone speak.

## Faculty Scholarly and Creative Activity Showcase

*When: Thursday, March 23, 2023, from 4 PM - 6 PM  
Registration due: Wednesday, March 15, at 5 PM*

The Bruce K. Nelson Faculty Development Center and the Office of Research Development and Administration (ORDA) are proud to announce the 2023 Faculty Scholarly and Creative Activity Showcase to celebrate disseminated scholarship and creative activities recently completed by EMU faculty, lecturers, and staff. The event will be hosted in conjunction with the George Liepa Sigma Xi Lecture later that evening. We invite all tenured, tenure-track, and emeritus, faculty and lecturers, to display posters, journal articles, books, artwork, and videos or compact discs of performing art, etc., that highlight scholarly activities that were disseminated or completed during 2022. Space will be provided to display poster presentations and artwork, as well as tables to display books, CDs, and DVDs. We also will provide space to play videos of creative works done by faculty and lecturers during 2022. Please register [here](#).

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# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS: FDC PROGRAM FUNDING PROPOSALS

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The FDC is seeking proposals for sustained learning communities, a series of workshops, or for hosting a significant one-time event (such as bringing in a prominent speaker).

*From the FDC*

We anticipate awarding up to \$5000 per program, which can include an honorarium for a facilitator or speaker, honoraria for participants, supplies, travel expenses, etc.

## Eligibility:

All faculty, lecturers, and staff are eligible to submit a Program Request Form. The beneficiaries of the program must be primarily faculty and/or lecturers. Past recipients of this award are ineligible to be funded in two consecutive application cycles. Preference will be given to new proposals as opposed to those repeating past programs. Significant modifications of past programs will be treated as if they were new programs.

## See below for work from our Winter 2023 winners

*\*Websites linked to titles*

**Andrew Ross,  
Lynn Bahena &  
Debra Ingram**  
"Inclusive Stem  
Teaching at EMU"  
Learning  
Community

**Alexis Braun Marks  
& Matt Jones**  
"Teaching Using  
Oral History"  
Learning  
Community

**Barbara Walters,  
Elizabeth Currans &  
Decky Alexander**  
"College in Prison"  
Learning  
Community

**Marilyn  
Corsianos &  
Christine Hume**  
"Navigating  
Sexual Violence"  
Learning  
Community

### Want to apply?

Click [here](#) to submit a proposal

Click [here](#) to see our website for this program

### Thinking of submitting? We would LOVE to talk to you

Contact Jeff Bernstein at  
[jbernstei@emich.edu](mailto:jbernstei@emich.edu) to find a  
time to talk

# UPCOMING EVENTS

READING IN  
PRINT?  
scan the QR code to  
access the links in  
this issue



## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

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March 14

11 AM - 12:30 PM

Location: Halle Library, 1st Floor



**Pet Therapy w/ John  
Palladino and Kevin**

## NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Are you interested in chatting more about ChatGPT and its implications for teaching? Please join Ann Blakeslee and Jeff Bernstein for “More Good Chat About ChatGPT” on Wednesday, March 22, at 12:30 PM, in the Faculty Development Center and on Zoom. We’ll focus on best practices in designing writing assignments for a ChatGPT world. View our [website](#) for more details and to [register](#) for this event.

**More  
ChatGTP**

March 22 @  
12:30 PM  
FDC or [Zoom](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Discussion Group

Register [here](#)  
March 24, 2023  
Breakfast @  
9 - 9:30 AM  
Presentation @  
9:30 - 11:30 AM

Brigid Beaubien and Amanda Maher (this year's Morris Co-Chairs) would love for you to join them when Dr. Mariana Castro presents the Discussion Group Project. During the presentation on 3/24 participants will receive an overview of the program, learn more about the research, engage in discussion, and learn about the current and future direction of the Discussion Project. Dr. Castro will also highlight how the project supports multilingual learners and connect it to her scholarship in multilingualism. Interested in more details about the project? Check out their website [here](#).

Thank-An-Eagle is an annual event where EMU students and faculty have a chance to thank an instructor, staff member, coach, GA, or mentor who has helped them during their time here at EMU. We encourage you all to submit a nomination [here](#). Nominations are due Friday, March 31. For more information, visit our [website](#).

### Thank-an- Eagle

Monday, April  
17, 2023  
3:30 - 5:00 PM

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at the Faculty Development Center to celebrate our most important holiday, Opening Day of Baseball Season! We'll have snacks (including apple pie!), good company, dispensing of wisdom on baseball and teaching, selfies with Eggbert, and, of course, a chance to watch the first pitch of the New York Mets season together! A good time will be had by all!  
#LGM #YaGottaBelieve

**Opening  
Day**

Thursday,  
March 30  
2 PM - 5 PM

### LGBTQ+ Programming

Register [here](#)  
March 27 @ 3:30-  
4:45  
109B Halle Library  
or [Zoom](#)

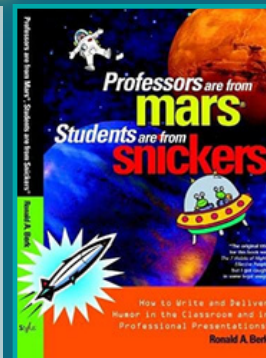
Join us for the last session, "Faculty-Student Interactions", where you will hear first hand how students and faculty can create inclusion through partnership.

Are you a faculty member who has ever received a Fulbright grant in any category (i.e. via another institution or in a student category)? If so, please [contact the FDC](#) to become a part of the EMU Fulbright family that helps inform others of the program.

### Calling all Fulbrighters

## SPOTLIGHTS

This week's book spotlight is *Professors are from Mars, Students are from Snickers* by Ronald A. Berk. In this book, Berk talks about the communication between professors and students and how humor can help break down the barriers between different worlds (or candy bars). Included in this book are testimonials of people who attempted this method of humor. Click [here](#) to read the full spotlight or to see other books in our library.



This week we are spotlighting Phil Simmons. In this spotlight, Simmons shares with us his favorite parts of working in professional theatre, his compassion toward his students, and how his acting career has affected his experience as a professor. He also shares with us his journey with creating the BA in Musical Theatre. To read the full story, click [here](#).

**Phil Simmons  
Professor  
Musical Theatre,  
Music & Theatre**

# TEACHING BLOG:

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I sit here today, during the winter semester of my third year here at Eastern, reflecting a lot on my past experiences. When I came to college, a scared 18 year-old, I didn't know what

to anticipate. I expected that I would just be a number, a letter grade assignment to my name where the 3 points I lost on my first general chemistry quiz were more meaningful and recognizable to my professor than my face. I was scared of this. I was scared to fail. I was scared to mess up. I was just scared. I am glad to share today that those juvenile thoughts were far from the truth.

I'll never forget that last year around this time, I was terrified of Organic Chemistry. All you ever hear are the horror stories about how it is the scariest class of pre-medicine undergrad, how it stripped away a student's passion. I was so naive and believed this going into the class. Instead though, that class - more importantly that professor - is the reason why I am still going today. It was the first time I felt cared about in higher education. In that classroom, my understanding, as well as the understanding of every other student, was the priority. Our knowledge and the quality of the education we were getting was at the top of the professor's list and we were set up to succeed, not to get our passions killed or be scared away. That professor dove head first into our education, and I can say that, as unpopular of an opinion as this is, Organic Chemistry is now one of my favorite classes.

This professor may have been the first person to make me feel seen in higher education, but she is not the only one.

I think of my Graduate Hall Director in Housing. Now, this person is my boss, and does all of the accountability aspects of her job very well, but she never forgets to make me feel like a human. Every interaction with her includes this one sentence: "What can I do to support you?" Even if it's something small that I am struggling with, I never feel like it's dismissible to her.

# WE REALLY DO APPRECIATE YOU

By Liv Overbee

I think of my current professor who casually mentioned the idea of me going to graduate school. Being pre-medicine, the thought of medical school, and more important getting into it, has always terrified me. It's one of my biggest sources of internal turmoil. I've spent a good chunk of my life making sure I hit all the boxes. Grades? Check. Volunteering? Check. However, no matter what, I still felt like something was missing. This professor brought up graduate school to me, making me rethink my path and, in the process, realize something: in order to succeed at medical school, I don't need to be perfect. I need passion; not only for school, but for the specific field I am entering. Before this, grad school has never even crossed my mind due to my being too focused on my original plan. The small interaction we had has made so much more fall into place than it has for 3 years now. I would bet that the professor is not even aware of how impactful this was.

Take a moment and reflect back on my first point: I was scared. The amount of stress college students are currently under is enough to drive anyone away.

## 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!

With academics, jobs, expectations, on top of still recovering and experiencing the effects of the pandemic, students need support

more than ever. A [study by Harvard Medical School](#) reported that three out of four students reported having experienced at least one stressful life event within the last year. In a recent [article](#) published about student stress, 45% of American college students claimed to undergo “more than average stress,” while 33% of students reported “average stress” and 12.7% reported “tremendous stress.” Students who reported “no stress” or “less than average stress” combined for only 9% total. That’s why students need you.

Last week at the Faculty Development Center, we launched our nomination form for an annual event titled “Thank-an-Eagle”. This event allows EMU community members the chance to thank an instructor, faculty member, coach, GA, mentor, or anyone else who has really impacted their experience here at Eastern. From what we’ve seen in previous years, this unsolicited “thank you” can really be the highlight of many people’s semester. It is a nice reminder that the work we do here really DOES matter. It does impact someone’s life. Your presence at the front of that classroom, your lecture topic that day, the random conversat-

ion you had with a student - it matters. Think back to even your time working here. Getting coffee with that one colleague, attending that one seminar or conference, reading that one book someone recommended. All those little interactions have shaped the educator you are today in some way.

I had the privilege last week to sit in the Student Center, talk to students about the event and the idea behind it, and watch as they nominated the people on campus who have impacted them. My experience was not isolated. So many students have someone who has been important to them here. That’s why I am writing this today. I am thankful to the professor who made me find passion for science again during one of the worst semesters of my life. I am thankful for the graduate student who has treated me like a person and allowed me to be vulnerable. I am thankful for the professor who doesn’t even realize his one conversation about graduate programs has sent me down a whole new path of self discovery.

I encourage you all to reflect on your time here in the same way I have. Say “thank you” to your fellow faculty members. Announce this program in class and encourage your students to say “thank you” to their important person. Simply filling out the 5-minute long [Google Form](#) could really be that meaningful interaction someone needs. To quote Aesop, “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

Our “Thank-an-Eagle” program ends with a celebration, on April 17, 2023 at 3:30 PM, where we all get another chance to feel just how important the work we do here is. If you want to submit a nomination or share it with your students, please use this [form](#). If you’re interested in more about “Thank-an-Eagle”, please visit our [website](#).



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alivia “Liv” Overbee is a third year student studying Neuroscience and Women’s and Gender Studies. On campus, she is a student

worker at the Faculty Development Center and a Resident Advisor.