ꝘNSPIRED TEACHING

A monthly newsletter offering tips, strategies and workshops for great teaching

March 2024

Open Education Week/Affordability

Welcome to the latest edition of the Inspired Teaching Newsletter! This month, we are embracing the spirit of Open Education Week, a global event that highlights efforts to make learning affordable and accessible for all. In this issue, we are excited to share tips, strategies, and resources to help you engage in innovative, open, and affordable teaching and learning practices.

FEATURED PODCAST

Teaching with Special Collections

This episode explores using library special collections as a course tool for experiential learning. Our guest today is Neil Weijer, the Curator of the Harold and Mary Jean Hanson Rare Book Collection. Neil shares

what lead him to special collections and how they can be used as learning tools in the classroom.

Listen here!

STRATEGY

Use Pressbooks to distribute your course materials.

Pressbooks is an open-source platform used to create digital textbooks and educational materials. Because Pressbooks can be used to develop and distribute customizable digital content, it reduces the expenses associated with traditional publishing, printing, and distribution. Using Pressbooks can also help you to leverage open educational resources (OER) to provide students with freely accessible materials that can be easily adapted to meet your specific course needs.

Pressbooks is available to UF faculty, staff, and students at no cost. You can create an account or view the catalog on the University of Florida Pressbooks website.

AI Tip of the Month from CITT

Students, faculty, and staff can now access Microsoft Copilot using their UF accounts at copilot.microsoft.com! After visiting the Copilot website, click on "Login" in the top-right corner to sign in. Once signed in, your chats are protected under UF's data agreement with Microsoft, meaning that your conversations are not saved and are not used for data mining or training purposes. Copilot is powered by OpenAI's language models, and the protected, signed-in version should be the first tool you consider when looking for a chatbot for university business.

PASSPORT AWARDS

Congratulations to the February Passport to Great Teaching completers! To participate in the Passport to Great Teaching program, visit the Center for Teaching Excellence's website.

Badges

Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL)
-Maria Laura Mecias, Kaylie Padgett-Pagliai, Nicole de Mello Fiallos, Theo Richardson and Savannah Pollenz.

Conferences
- Frederick Kates

Cultural Competencies
- Katherine Dorman

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Katherine Dorman

Student Focused Teaching
- Sean Trainor

Certificates

CIRTL Associate Certificate
- Maria Laura Mecias and Tatiana Lakovleva.

Global Teaching & Learning Certificate
- Jessica Stonecipher

Great Teaching Certificate
- Melissa Turley and Mengyu Li

Great Teaching Certificate: TA Edition
- Belkis Abufaur

Great Teaching for New Faculty Certificate
- Alix Rexford, Karen Schofield, Francesca Michelini and Rebecca Piazza.

HELPFUL TIP

Submit Your Textbook Adoptions On-Time.

The textbook adoption system for Summer and Fall 2024 is now open for you to submit your textbook adoptions. Having timely access to course material requirements helps students balance their course loads based on reading demands and financial needs – including the purchasing of books. By submitting your adoptions on time, you give your students the opportunity to explore a wide range of affordable options, and you also help the University stay compliant with both Florida Statutes and Board of Governors regulations. Please submit your textbook adoptions at textadoption.ufl.edu no later than the deadlines below:

Summer 2024 adoptions: March 23, 2024
Fall 2024 adoptions: July 3, 2024

If you have any questions about the textbook adoption submission process, please contact the textbook adoption website administrator at (352) 294-3355 or email TextAdoption-WebHelp@bsd.ufl.edu. For questions about textbook compliance, contact textbookcompliance@aa.ufl.edu.

FEATURED PROGRAM

CTE's Online Course Review Working Sessions!

Has your department chair told you, "It's your turn! You're up for an online course review this semester?" Are you unsure what this even means or how to begin?

Join the CTE's Online Course Review Working Sessions! These flexible virtual drop-in sessions are an opportune time to ask questions about your review or work alongside other instructors to complete your review prior to the closing dates.

It doesn't matter where you are in the process, it's more fun to work together! Bring a friend! Like any good party, you can drop in when it's convenient and leave early to prepare for your next class. We hope to see you there! Find us online here.

March Dates:

Thursday, March 21, 8:30am-10:00am
Wednesday, March 27, 10:00am-11:30am

SPOTLIGHT

OER 101

This self-paced course is designed for educators interested in using and creating open educational resources (OER) as alternatives to traditional textbooks. Throughout the course, you will explore the fundamentals of OER, including their benefits, open licensing, and the public domain. Practical guidance will be provided on locating and utilizing openly available resources. Our goal is to inspire you to incorporate OER into your teaching practices, reducing the cost of course materials for UF students.

Each module is structured to impart essential knowledge and skills, serving as a solid foundation for working confidently with OER. When you complete this workshop, you will be able to:

1. Define "open education" while understanding its core benefits, challenges, and potential.
2. Recognize resources with open licenses or in the public domain.
3. Locate OER and attribute them

appropriately under a Creative Commons license.

4. Adapt and share OER resources effectively.

[Register now!](#)

Did You Know

Interface is almost here!

The Interface Teaching Conference offers faculty, staff, TAs, GAs, and postdocs with innovative teaching and learning approaches in interactive breakout sessions. This single-day event will showcase sessions tailored to incorporate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into teaching and learning. The classroom's evolution has been profound in recent years, and this transformation will persist with the substantial integration of AI. This year's Interface is dedicated to exploring AI's impact on teaching and learning, with a particular emphasis on how the classroom has been reshaped by AI.

Our goal is to center the presentations around AI's influence on the classroom environment.

Imagine the Possibilities: AI In Higher Education
April 17, 2024
Emerson Alumni Hall
8:15 am – 4:30 pm

Register Here

Call for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Assignments and Assessments

Deadline: April 3, 2024

CTE is creating a library of assignments or assessments that integrate AI to guide and inspire other educators. Share your creation to help other instructors jump into teaching with AI. The first 20 submissions that complete the required criteria will receive a copy of Matt Miller's book *AI for Educators*. The contributors of the top two submissions will be recognized at Interface 2024 and win a VR headset. Best of all, we will have a catalog of assignments and assessments for UF instructors to access as they create or update their courses!

Submit Here!

Featured Workshops

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.

TEACHING SPARKS SERIES: Creating an Environment for Learning:

Objectives, Feedback, and Collaboration
3/12/2024 | 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM
Instructor: Jennifer Parker
ONLINE

Let's talk about the essentials around learning objectives, feedback, and collaboration in the classroom. Hear about methods for communicating and personalizing learning, integrating accountable talk and accountability in our coaching conversations, and facilitating cooperative learning experiences that work. Sharing ideas, resources, and best practices across the session will be encouraged and promoted. Part of the Teaching Sparks Webinar Series. Register Here.

Getting Started with AI In Teaching and Learning: Presentations and Visual Imagery
3/22/2024 | 10:40 AM - 12:10 PM
Instructors: Jennifer Parker and Michael Barber
ONLINE

Channel your creative and innovative energy for this session where we go deep into the power of generative AI for the purposes of creating presentations and visually appealing artifacts. From image generators to infographics to presentation builders, AI can help us build a visually appealing representation of our thoughts and ideas. Consider the AI tools available to make work more visually appealing, transform non-linguistic representations, and scale up teaching and learning. Explore ideas for embedding AI generated presentations and imagery into your professional practice. Part of the Getting Started with AI in Teaching & Learning series. Part 3 of a 4-part series. Register Here.

View the full list of March CTE Workshops here!