

January/February 2016



The Faculty Center at MCLA Vol. 4 No. 4







JANUARY/FEBRUARY AT THE FACULTY CENTER

Joy of Teaching: Discussing Diversity in the Classroom Tuesday, February 2, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Sometimes discussions involving diversity are hard to start and even more difficult to conduct. Here is your golden opportunity to learn more about facilitating difficult discussions! On Feb. 2 in the Faculty Center, Tom Alexander, MCLA's coordinator for ALANA & the Multicultural Educational Resource Center, will lead a <u>Campus Conver-</u> sation on Race (CCOR) session. CCOR is a program that fosters student discussions on race and ethnicity. Tom will lead us in the same discussion exercises he and his trained student facilitators do for our students in the dorms and classrooms.

Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to <u>Adrienne Wootters</u> by January 30.

If you would like to attend but cannot, please know that Tom is available to come your classroom to lead a conversation with your class. Contact him at <u>Thomas.Alexander@mcla.edu</u> for more information.

Writing Across the Curriculum News

Since it formed in 2014, the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) initiative—an interdisciplinary pilot of 16 faculty members-has been working to foster campuswide conversations about teaching, writing and learning, with some tangible results.



The first is the hire of Dr. Amber Engelson, a WAC specialist and Assistant Professor of English/Communications. Amber is available for individual faculty consultations concerning any aspect of writing and pedagogy, from writing or revising essay prompts, to sequencing writing assignments, to assessment. She is also curating a WAC Canvas page, where faculty can find materials on everything from using sources effectively to teaching the literature review. Please email <u>a.engelson@mcla.edu</u> if you'd like to schedule an individual consultation, be added to the WAC Canvas page, or make a workshop request. Stay tuned as well for a series of campus-wide workshops on the teaching of writing.

In other good news, this Spring semester MCLA will open an official writing center. Located in Murdock 120, the Writing Studio will house MCLA's Writing Associates, who can assist student writers at any stage of the writing process: from understanding assignments and brainstorming ideas to revising and polishing final drafts. Students and faculty are also invited to schedule group meetings and writing events when space is available. Please visit our first Open House, Friday, February 5, from 2:00-3:00 pm, to discuss how the Writing Studio might serve you and your students. You'll find more information at <u>http://</u> www.mcla.edu/writingstudio where you can also click on "Faculty Resources" to find a Writing Studio blurb to copy into your syllabus.

Mind's Eye

CALL FOR PAPERS: THE MIND'S EYE, FALL 2016

SPECIAL ISSUE ON TREES AND TREE CULTURE

The Mind's Eye is a peer-reviewed journal of the Massachusetts College of the Liberal Arts that publishes scholarly and creative work. While emphasizing articles of scholarly merit, the journal focuses on a general communication of ideas of interest to liberal arts.

What is tree culture? How do trees contribute to the role of place-making in a community? What are the ways that trees gain stature culturally? Do trees deserve to stand in the world, regardless of humankind's needs for land and property? How have trees been used as forms of resistance? How do these questions connect with the theory of nature-society relations and environmental discourse?

The Mind's Eye presents a special issue exploring the interdisciplinary connections that can be made in regards to tree culture between environmental sciences, geography, anthropology, sociology, literature, history and the arts, among many other fields, that make up the liberal arts.

For this issue of The Mind's Eye, we invite submissions related to the exploration of tree culture(s) in the United States and abroad. We welcome submissions discussing all dimensions of tree culture including cultural constructs, ethical questions, symbolism, impact on landscape, and placemaking.

Submit unpublished material as an email WORD attachment. Please use MLA style for endnotes. While we will consider articles of unspecified length, preference is given to manuscripts of fewer than 20 pages. In addition to commentaries and studies related to our theme, we will consider other formats, including fiction, poetry, book reviews, interviews, cartoons, drawings and photography.

Deadline for submission: March 1, 2016

Submit your manuscripts to: Melanie.Mowinski@mcla.edu

Tea with TED Thursdays @ 12:15

Bring your lunch and join others to watch and discuss a short TED talk. Coffee, tea, and dessert sweets will be provided. (Okay, so maybe it should be Lunch with TED, but we thought "*Tea*" sounded nicer.)

1/29 Jill Farrant: How we can make crops survive without water http://www.ted.com/talks/jill_farrant_how_we_can_make_crops_survive_without_water#t-117195

2/4 Rich Benjamin: My road trip through the whitest towns in America http://www.ted.com/talks/rich_benjamin_my_road_trip_through_the_whitest_towns_in_america

2/11 Sandrine Thuret: You can grow new brain cells. Here's How http://www.ted.com/talks/sandrine thuret you can grow new brain cells here s how

2/18 Sebastian Wernicke: How to use data to make a hit TV show http://www.ted.com/talks/sebastian wernicke how to use data to make a hit tv show

2/25 Tim Hartford: How messy problems can inspire creativity

http://www.ted.com/talks/tim_harford_how_messy_problems_can_inspire_creativity

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