



## NOVEMBER AT THE FACULTY CENTER

### A Conversation on the 4-Credit Option

Friday, November 6, 12:00—1:00 p.m.

Frances Jones-Sneed will host a faculty conversation with Dr. Gordon Leversee, Dean at Keene State College, Keene, NH.



Recently, Keene State College (a fellow COPLAC school) transitioned from 3-credit courses to 4-credit courses for their academic courses.



Dean Leversee will talk about Keene's transition process. There will also be time for questions about the pros and cons of such a transition at MCLA.

Lunch will be provided. *The RSVP deadline for lunch was November 2, but all are welcome, regardless of RSVP status.*

### Brown Bag Seminar Friday, 11/14 @ 3:00 p.m.

Improvisational Pedagogy

David Braden-Johnson, Department of Philosophy



I argue that improvisation, understood as an in-process, often communicative act of creativity under conditions of uncertainty, is a permanent and inescapable component of all effective pedagogical exchanges. I begin with a close analysis of the pedagogical and ideological difficulties attending (in Harvey Siegel's phrase) the education of reason, or the development of skills and habits of thought required to mount a creative, effective response to life's challenges. In the context of a fictional dialogue between three educators (with Matt Silliman, co-author), I have the characters survey recent philosophical work in aesthetics and the philosophy of music, concluding that improvisation is not (as it is sometimes pre-critically assumed to be) the absence of structure, but rather creative, exploratory variation within an established framework of expectations and conventions. From this understanding it follows that even the most formalized presentation, performance, or social interaction inevitably involves some degree of improvisation.

### Discussion of Presidential Candidates with Faculty Association Executive Committee

You will have an opportunity to share your views with the Board of Trustees via electronic survey, but these meetings are an opportunity for you to discuss in person with the Faculty Association and your colleagues your observations and thoughts. As usual, high-test snacks and beverages will be provided!

There are two opportunities to weigh in:

Friday, November 20 3:00—4:30 p.m.

Monday, November 23, 10:00—11:00 a.m.



### 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.)

#### 11/5 [Mark Ronson: How sampling transformed music](#)

Sampling isn't about "hijacking nostalgia wholesale," says Mark Ronson. It's about inserting yourself into the narrative of a song while also pushing that story forward. In this mind-blowingly original talk, watch the DJ scramble 15 TED Talks into an audio-visual omelette, and trace the evolution of "La Di Da Di," Doug E. Fresh and Slick Rick's 1984 hit that has been reimagined for every generation since.

#### 11/12 [Ray Kurzweil: Get ready for hybrid thinking](#)

Two hundred million years ago, our mammal ancestors developed a new brain feature: the neocortex. This stamp-sized piece of tissue (wrapped around a brain the size of a walnut) is the key to what humanity has become. Now, futurist Ray Kurzweil suggests, we should get ready for the next big leap in brain power, as we tap into the computing power in the cloud.

#### 11/19 [Dave Eggers: My wish: Once upon a school](#)

Accepting his 2008 TED Prize, author Dave Eggers asks the TED community to personally, creatively engage with local public schools. With spellbinding eagerness, he talks about how his 826 Valencia tutoring center inspired others around the world to open

### Discussion on moving to 4-credit system Friday 11/6, 12:00 — 1:00 p.m.

Brown Bag Seminar Friday 11/14, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Tea with TED Thursdays, 12:15 — 1:00 p.m.

### Discussion of Presidential Candidates with Faculty Association

Friday 11/20 3:00—4:30 & Monday 11/23 10:00—11:00 a.m.

\*All events will take place at the Faculty Center, Bowman 121

#### Faculty Center

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