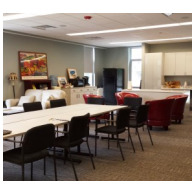
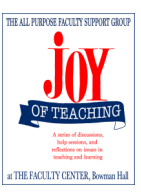
Faculty Center NEWS

A newsletter for faculty and librarians

September 2015 **The Faculty Center at MCLA Vol. 4 No. 1**





Our New Space in Bowman Hall

We are now in our permanent space in Bowman 121! It is beautiful and shiny. Thanks to all who helped move furniture and get the space set up. Come check it out, and feel free to use it as your hang-out space whenever. (If no one is in the room and it is locked, you will need an up-to-date MCLA ID to "beep" you into the room.)

Welcome New Faculty

Last week our new full-time faculty members met with some of us in our new Faculty Center as part of their day of orientation. We loved meeting them and you will too!

Clockwise from top left:
Shawn McIntosh, Engl/Comm.
Kebra Ward, Physics
Ruby Vega, Psychology
Josh Ostraff, FPA
David Cupery, Political Science
Amber Engelson, Engl/Comm.

Dave Cupery is a native of Holland, Michigan. After finishing a BA at Centre College (KY) he spent two years in Guayaquil, Ecuador as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, although his wife Karen - from Ecuador - claims he only headed to South America to find her. His PhD is from the University of Colorado Boulder and his primary research looks at Latin American public opinion and political rhetoric towards the US and China. Along with Latin American politics, Dave is interested in the politics of Sub-Saharan Africa, economic and political development, and civil conflict. He looks forward to teaching courses on these subjects and others at MCLA. When not in the classroom, Dave enjoys traveling, spending time in the outdoors, and playing soccer.

Amber Engelson is an assistant professor of English-Communications and MCLA's new Writing Across the Curriculum specialist. Her most recent faculty position was at the University of Denver. Acclimating to Western Massachusetts shouldn't be too difficult for her, however, since she earned her Ph.D. in English at UMass Amherst back in 2010. Her research interests include writing and rhetoric, global literacies, and multilingual writers. More broadly, she's a cyclist, runner, traveler and outdoor enthusiast.

Shawn McIntosh is an assistant professor in Digital Journalism and Communications in the English/Communications Department and will be an adviser for The Beacon and online Beacon. His research interests include collaborative journalism, media and democracy, and communication ethics. He is co-author with John Pavlik of the textbook *Converging Media: A New Introduction to Mass Communication,* and co-editor of *Zombie Culture: Autopsies of the Living Dead*, a book about the role of zombies in popular culture and media. He has learned the hard way not to give brown bag talks with visuals on zombies. Shawn grew up in northern Idaho but spent most of his professional and later academic life in London, Tokyo, and for the past 17 years in New York. He is enjoying reacquainting himself with blue sky and stars again.

Josh Ostraff was born in Seattle, Washington. He has lived and traveled around the world with his family but claims Utah as his home. He received his BFA at Brigham Young University, his MFA at the University of Minnesota, and he currently teaches as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Art at MCLA for one year. Josh is a multimedia artist who has exhibited his paintings, drawings, films, and art books. Feel free to check out some of his work at www.jostraff.com. Josh loves food and dinner invitations. His goals are to continue working on being a good husband and father while developing both his teaching and art practices.

Ruby Vega earned her PhD in Educational Psychology from the University of Arizona. Her research focuses on classroom learning, motivation, and student development and well-being. This fall she will be teaching courses in statistics and research methods and educational psychology.

Kebra Ward has just completed her Ph.D. in experimental optics at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on light-matter interacts in organic molecular solids, specifically monitoring the effect light has on the material properties of the solid and the partitioning of energy between molecules. Kebra looks forward to starting up an experimental optics lab in the Center for Science and Innovation, where physics majors will gain practical, hands-on laboratory skills. Prior to beginning her graduate studies, Kebra directed the service learning programs for middle and high school students in two New York City public schools. She gained a love for teaching science (and cashews) as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching high school biology in Mozambique.

THIS MONTH AT THE FACULTY CENTER

Faculty Social Friday, 9/11 @ 3:30

Come tell your colleagues what you did for your summer vacation!
Excellent food and beverages will be provided.

Joy of Teaching Tuesday, 9/15 @ 3:30

Christopher Tate from CSSE will demonstrate the amazing Kurzweil 3000

Kurzweil 3000+firefly is a software program with text-to-speech capabilities and access to online storage. Disability Services in CSSE has acquired web licenses for our students and staff to utilize this accessible and easy to use software so as to better serve our students. Students do not need to be on an accommodation plan to use Kurzweil, so any student who thinks they might benefit from Kurzweil 3000 is able to access it. This brief presentation will cover the basics of Kurzweill 3000, who might benefit from it, and will have a short demo of the capabilities of the software with time for questions.

Brown Bag Seminar Friday, 9/25 @ 3:30 p.m.

Ingrid Castro: *Nominating and Mentoring MCLA Undergraduate Students for Enrichment Opportunities Sponsored by National and Regional Academic Associations*

This brown bag presentation will discuss the various ways faculty can assist students in seeking out enrichment opportunities via regional and national associations. These include attending and presenting at conferences as well as Honors student status, which is competitively awarded by some associations.

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.)

Our first TED talk will be on 9/10:
Aaron Koblin: Visualizing ourselves ... with crowd-sourced data

If you have a favorite TED talk you'd like to share with others, please send Adrienne the link, and she will put it on the schedule.

September Events*

Faculty Social Friday 9/11, 3:30 — 5:30 p.m.

Brown Bag Seminar Friday 9/25, 3:30 p.m.

Joy of Teaching Tuesday 9/15, 3:30 p.m.

Tea with TED Thursdays, 12:15 — 1:00 p.m. beginning 9/10

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

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