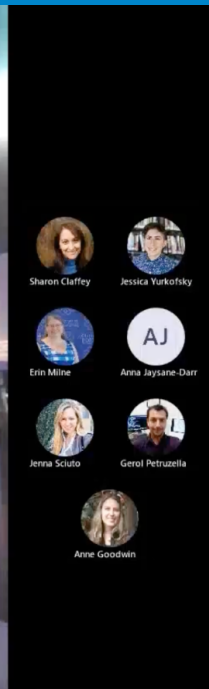
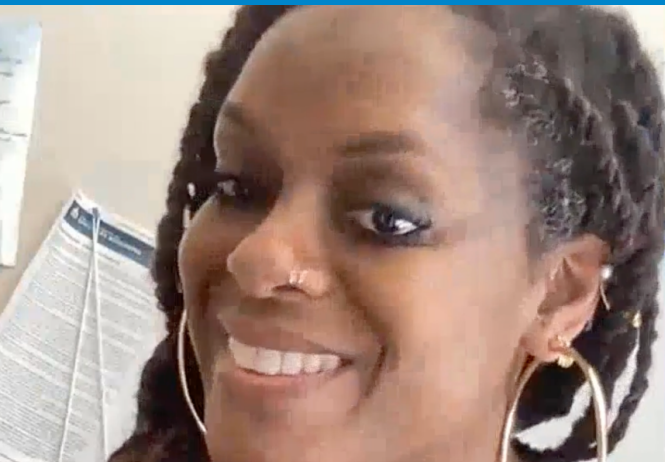




Newsletter

Issue 2 | April 14, 2023

mcla.edu/ctl | ctl@mcla.edu



Welcome to the CTL newsletter!

Get Familiar with DHE's Racial Equity Initiatives

In a recent update Vice President Glejzer noted the significance of the Department of Higher Education's [Strategic Plan for Racial Equity](#) and the [New Undergraduate Experience](#) as guiding documents for MCLA in the years ahead.

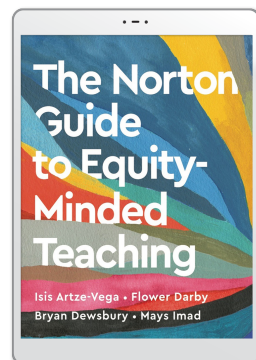
How are we doing so far?

Get a head start on the discussion. The Campus Climate Survey Working Group will be sharing the **results of MCLA's Campus Climate Survey** on Thursday, April 13th from 12:00-1:00 pm in Sullivan Lounge .

Dr. Bryan Dewsbury Envisions Teaching "Beyond Inclusion"

In March, Dr. Bryan Dewsbury, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at Florida International University presented a talk, **Beyond Inclusion: Education for civic participation and engagement** to MCLA faculty and Staff.

In this presentation Dr. Dewsbury examined the role of education as the mechanism by which civic participation can occur and explored specific strategies possible in the classroom that can engender this type of preparation. He also shared a text he co-authored, *The Norton Guide to Equity-Minded Teaching*, [available as a free online resource.](#)



Dr. Dewsbury plans to visit MCLA in the fall to follow up with an interactive workshop. **Missed the talk? [You can stream it!](#)**

The Practice of Decolonizing Your Syllabus

Upcoming Workshop with Professor Rosa Soto

In recent decades, there have been many calls to “decolonize your curriculum” or to “decenter your syllabus,” but what does this work actually entail? In this workshop, **I will discuss the theory and practice of decolonizing your syllabus and centering new voices, new experiences and new foundations of knowledge.** Though not an end to our work as scholars, this talk will allow participants to explore ways to diversify course materials and content, teach a range of student identities, and create inclusive course policies and syllabi.

Friday, April 28th: Inspired by her 2021 talk, Dr. Soto returns to lead a hands-on workshop In person, Faculty Center 2-4 pm

Dr. Soto is an Associate Professor of English and Latin American and Latinx Studies at William Paterson University. She earned her PhD in English Language & Literature with a specialization in Cultural Studies from the University of Florida, and her MA from the University of Toledo and her BA from Florida State University. Her scholarship focuses on questions of identity and hybridity in Latinx Cultural Studies, with publications including: "Performing Citizenship: Puerto Ricans and their Hybrid "American" Identities," "An Ethnographic Analysis of U.S. Culture and Caribbean Food Practices," and "Made to be a Maid? An Examination of the Latina as Maid in Mainstream Film and Television". She has also won two National Endowment of the Humanities Summer Fellowships (one to study



the environment and borderland protection in New Mexico, Mexico and Arizona in 2008 and one to study Jose Marti and Cuban Cigar Factories in Ybor City, Florida in 2019). She is interested in Humanities on a National and State level and promoted such interests by being a Board Member of the New Jersey Council of the Humanities. Dr. Soto's expertise and teaching is in the fields of Latinx Literature & Cultural Studies, Latin American Studies, African-American Studies, American Literature, Gender Studies and more. She is focused on Intersectionality, Microaggressions and Radical Teaching. She is currently a member of the Council for Equity, Diversity and Justice at her university.

She is an avid traveler who has traveled to over 23 different countries (including Iceland, Peru, Scotland and Ecuador to name a few) and 5 different continents and spends quite a bit of time traveling to National Parks in the United States.



New Faculty Spotlight: Carter J. Carter, Ph.D, LICSW

Dr. Carter J. Carter is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology at MCLA. His courses focus on the theory and practice of clinical psychology and clinical social work, with a special focus on psychoanalysis. In addition to teaching this material at MCLA, Carter is actively involved in clinical supervision of other psychotherapists and supervising doctoral student research, as well as continuing to see patients, which helps him prepare MCLA psychology students for the worlds of clinical work and scholarship that they are pursuing beyond college. Carter serves on the Board of Directors of Division 39 of the APA, receiving their Diversity Award this year for his work supporting BIPOC and advocating against discrimination in the profession. Carter is working with MCLA students in what is half-jokingly called 'The Sad Lab' to extend his research on the role of Whiteness in school shootings. Carter also has an active program of theory-building in psychoanalysis related to issues of Whiteness, authoritarianism, and character development, as well as the qualitative method of portraiture. Outside of work, Carter is a dyed-in-the-wool New Englander. He lives on a small farm in Ashfield with his wife and two little kids raising heritage breed cows and ducks and geese and trying to do his part environmentally.

"MCLA was my top choice for a tenure-track position, and I'm so happy that I landed here. It's been an absolute joy teaching here so far. I've been lucky enough to work with a cohort of incredible students who are on their way to being exceptional mental health professionals and scholars—and, more importantly, who are delightful human beings who make me excited to come to work every day. My colleagues have been incredibly gracious, welcoming and supportive—our psychology department is a gem. And it's difficult to overstate how happy I am to be working in a union job, and how grateful I am for our union. We're doing really important work in the world at MCLA, and it's an honor to be a part of it. I look forward to retiring from here in approximately 35-40 years."

Check out the Updated List of Grant Opportunities from Advancement

This [digest prepared by MCLA's Grants Resource Center](#) is a monthly listing of various funding opportunities across academic disciplines. If you are looking for funding for ongoing projects, we are able to set up alerts through the Grants Resource Center that will notify you when grants and fellowships related to your work become available. For more information, please contact our Grants and Research Associate, at Madeleine.McKeon@mcla.edu.

NECHE Standard of the Month

From now until our upcoming site visit in Fall 2023, we will be highlighting different NECHE standards we hope to demonstrate.

Standard 2: Planning and Evaluation

The institution undertakes planning and evaluation to accomplish and improve the achievement of its mission and purposes. It identifies its planning and evaluation priorities and pursues them effectively. The institution demonstrates its success in strategic, academic, financial, and other resource planning and the evaluation of its educational effectiveness. [\[read the Full Standard\]](#)

How does MCLA plan for and evaluate the success of our initiatives?

Save the Date!

MIND'S EYE Works in Progress Lecture:

Logo Maps and Geo-Bodies: Hindutva State and the Postcolonial Empire in India

Tuesday, April 18, 2022 at 5:30pm, CSI Atrium
This lecture traces the rise of the Hindutva state in India which claims an anti-colonial mantle yet relies on an imperial form of nationalism. Dr. Junaid shows how rightwing Hindu nationalism asserts a discourse of indigenous sovereignty while promoting settler colonial practices, raising conceptual questions about contemporary theories of decoloniality.

Portfolio Workshop

Wednesday, May 10, Location TBA

Research & Writing Retreat

Monday, May 15, Location TBA

TechFest

Tuesday, May 16, Murdoch Hall
Join Academic Technology on Tuesday 16 May for our annual campus-wide celebration of the intersections of tech and teaching. This year's theme: Authentic Intelligence. Watch for more details soon! Want to present a session? [Submit your proposal.](#)

MCLA Racial Justice Summit

Wednesday, May 17, Location TBA



In Their Own Words: MCLA Students Talk Writing

Tuesday, April 25, 12-1 pm, Faculty Center

Are you interested in getting students' perspectives on writing instruction and support? Then join the WAC working group for a conversation with MCLA students about what they value when it comes to writing, what works for them as writers and thinkers, what doesn't, and why.

To help participating students prepare, please consider [writing down an anonymous question or two](#) about anything from what they value in writing prompts, to whether they think students are using ChatGPT, to what kind of feedback they value in the margins of their texts!

FEATURED FACULTY PROJECT

Outsider Art Curriculum—The Jessica Park Project

By Tony Gengarely, Ph.D.

Founded in 2004 as an educational outreach program for the Fine and Performing Arts Department, [The Jessica Park Project at MCLA](#) has studied and promoted the exceptional work of Outsider Artists, especially that of Jessica Park, an artist on the autism spectrum with an international reputation who lives and works in Williamstown. Since 2019 the Project and its Director Tony Gengarely, MCLA Emeritus Professor of Fine Arts, along with two of its Advisory Committee members, Professors Greg Scheckler and Dale Borman Fink, have



worked under the auspices of three Faculty Fellowship grants from the Institute for the Arts and Humanities to create an Outsider Art Curriculum based on personal discovery and experiential learning. Guided by IDEA values of Inclusion and Diversity, Equity and Access, the Curriculum helps to facilitate, through the arts, connection and community, understanding and compassion --building respect for difference that values a society with multiple dimensions and opportunities. As we continue to develop our Curriculum Archive for educators as a helpful resource, we invite others at MCLA to participate in this endeavor. As a working Partner with MCLA Arts and Culture, we are reaching out to the broader community as well. Currently, we are organizing an exhibition on neurodiversity at MCLA Gallery51 for the spring of 2025. **You can find the Jessica Park Project and the Outsider Art Project: Exploring Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access, 2020 at www.mcla.edu/JessicaPark**

Open Educational Resources for Equity, Presented by Emily Alling, Associate Dean for Library Services

This conversation explored how open educational resources (OER) and other strategies can make access to course materials more equitable. We talked about the results of recent surveys of MCLA students and faculty regarding experiences with course materials; and examined some options that may exist for removing barriers our students might encounter when trying to access course materials including ideas for creating your own OER resources. **Missed the conversation? [See the attached slides](#)**

AI For Educators, Presented by Dr. Amber Engleson (English) and Dr. Gerol Petruzella (Academic Technology)

This conversation explored the evolution of AI and implications for teaching and learning. **Missed the talk? [See the AI for Educators presentation](#)**. Note that the last slide includes resources from the fields of Academic Technology and Rhetoric & Writing Studies. These resources contain an excellent mix of philosophical and technological questions to consider and of hands-on ways to address AI in your classrooms, from syllabus statements, to university policies, to specific assignments.

Have content for the newsletter? Contact [Lisa Donovan](#) or [Anna Jaysane-Darr](#).