The Stetson Teacher-Scholar

STETSON UNIVERSITY
BROWN CENTER
FOR FACULTY INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

April 2021

The Stetson Teacher-Scholar, published by the Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence, is a monthly electronic newsletter that contains important updates about programming and other professional development opportunities for members of the Stetson teaching community.

> *"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."*
> **— Albert Einstein**

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What has the Pandemic of 2020-2021 Taught Us?

It has been a year that no one will forget. A moment in time that was filled with uncertainty, tragedy and hope. Each of us in our own way adapted to the face the challenges resulting from the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The end of the 2020-21 academic year marks three semesters, not including summer term 2020, that this institution carried out the work of educating her students under the cloud of the virus. March 2020 seems so far in the past. So much has happened in the span of a year. As educators many of us were pushed to new limits as we learned to teach and engage students remotely. As we emerge from the pandemic thanks to the arrival of the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, now is as good a time as any to reflect about the past year. There are so many questions one can ask. Would you be willing to share your thoughts regarding one or more of the following questions?

- In terms of teaching, how were you impacted over the past year?

- What did you learn about teaching under these circumstances?
- Do you feel you were able to effectively engage your students?
- Were you able to achieve a reasonable work-life balance?
- How did you manage stress and avoid burnout?
- What would you do differently and what would you not change if, heaven forbid, we were forced to respond to another COVID-like pandemic?

The team at the Brown Center is interested in learning about your experiences so that we can work to provide the best programming to support your teaching, scholarship and well-being. So please, if you feel so inclined, send an email with your responses to these questions to BrownCenter@Stetson.edu and enter "Post-pandemic reflections" on the title line.
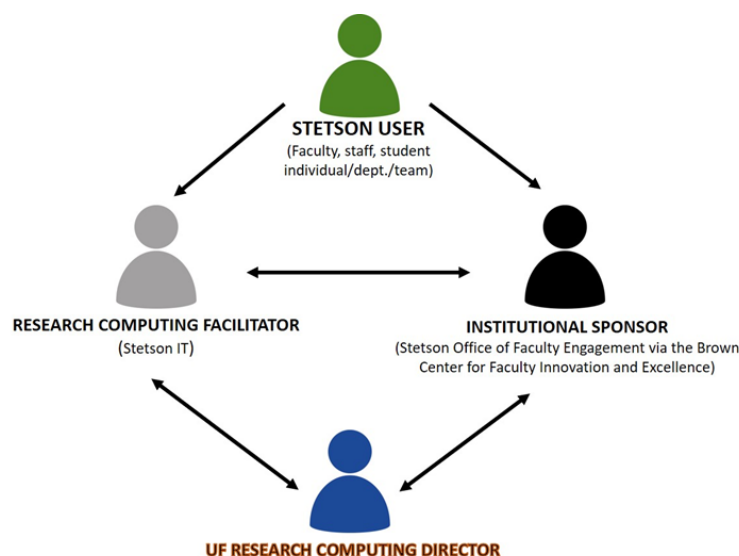
Switch to Canvas
The university will transition to the Canvas LMS platform in time for the beginning of summer classes. The Office of Online Learning and Educational Technology (OOLET) has created a Canvas resource webpage to post information about workshops and resources such as tutorials. Bookmark OOLET's Canvas resource page and check it regularly for updates and scheduling information. Contact the OOLET team to learn how to begin to familiarize yourself with Canvas. The College of Law has also created a wonderful guide to help faculty transition their courses to Canvas. Visit the College of Law's Blackboard Migration to Canvas site to learn more. The OOLET team will transfer existing content from Blackboard to Canvas, but the instructor still needs to check it and make any necessary changes. These resources will help make learning how to use Canvas easier. Thirty-six workshops are being offered Monday – Friday from April 5th to the 30th over a variety of times. Check out the workshop schedule and put a date on your calendar! The Brown Center plans to supplement OOLET's Canvas programming by creating a resource library of tutorials and recorded webinars. Keep an eye out for announcements about the availability of these resources.

Access to the University of Florida HiPerGator AI Supercomputer
Through its membership in the **F**lorida **R**esearch **D**evelopment **A**lliance (FloRDA), Stetson University will have limited access to the University of Florida HiPerGator AI supercomputer resource. Access was effective March 1, 2021. Initially, Stetson will receive a 6-month university-wide allocation of 64 CPU cores (NCU), 32 GPU cards (NGU) and 10 TB of storage. For more information about this computational resource refer to the HiPerGator webpage at the UF Computer Center. During the past several weeks work has been underway to accomplish the following:

1) Create a streamlined registration process for those members of the Stetson community interested in using this computational resource.

2) Provide a bridge between Stetson users and the UF computing center to facilitate set-up of an account and use of this resource.

Referred to as Stetson HiPerGator AI liaisons (See figure), the Research Computing Facilitator (RCF), Vikram Ahmed (vahmed@stetson.edu) will provide assistance to SU users to help them navigate the process of creating an account and effectively using the system. The Institutional Sponsor (IS), Harry Price (hprice@stetson.edu) provides administrative oversight of Stetson's HiPerGator account on behalf of the associate provost's office and will "sign off" on user applications. The IS will receive monthly reports about usage of the university's HiPerGator account.

STETSON USER
(Faculty, staff, student individual/dept./team)

RESEARCH COMPUTING FACILITATOR
(Stetson IT)

INSTITUTIONAL SPONSOR
(Stetson Office of Faculty Engagement via the Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence)

UF RESEARCH COMPUTING DIRECTOR

Once a HiPerGator AI account is activated, a Stetson user should not have to communicate directly with the UF computer Center. If you are interested in using the HiPerGator resource as part of a class, learn more about how to setup a course at the UF computer center's "Teaching Support" page. Want to find out which applications are currently supported? Go to the UF computer center's applications wiki. Contact either the RCF or IS to start the registration process.

Faculty Spotlight

Join Brown Center Faculty Fellow Melinda Hall as she hosts the Stetson Spotlight Series, a showcase of research, creative inquiry, and other scholarly engagement of the campus community. Keep an eye out for announcements which contain the link to access the online session. The presentations and conversations have been wonderful. Let's show our colleagues some love and support for their scholarly endeavors. Do your best to attend a Spotlight presentation and learn some cool things about their amazing work. You won't be disappointed! Upcoming sessions are scheduled for April 7th, 14th, and 21st. Presentations begin at 12:00PM and run until 1:00PM.

WORLD April Lunch and Learn: The Future of International Education

WORLD continues the Virtual WORLD Lunch and Learn series for the Spring 2021 term with an April event. Please join Paula Hentz, director of WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for her presentation: "The Future of International Education" on April 15th from 12-1 p.m. EST (US and Canada). Register in advance for this meeting at

https://stetson-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctfuGoqzIrGNeYHtoKEztICfewBruEu2yB

Let Us Know What You Need
As the spring semester draws to a close, remember we are interested to learn about your experiences during the school year. Were you able to take advantage of Brown Center offerings? If so, was it helpful? We need your input. Let us know what we can do to help you become a better educator and scholar. Do you need specific readings? Would you prefer video tutorials when learning about new approaches to teaching? Do you have ideas about workshops? Do you seek peer mentorship or coaching? Is there information you are seeking but cannot find on the Brown Center website? Your input allows us to refine existing programming and create new programming to better meet your needs. So, please let us know what you need. Send your input to browncenter@stetson.edu and enter "Faculty development feedback" on the title line. **_Remember, faculty development needs input like plants need water._**

Harry Price
Faculty Director
Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence