

The Stetson Teacher-Scholar

STETSON UNIVERSITY
BROWN CENTER
 FOR FACULTY INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

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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.

"A life of reaction is a life of slavery, intellectually and spiritually. One must fight for a life of action, not reaction."

— Rita Mae Brown, author, screenwriter and poet

Fall Semester is Underway

With the school year in full swing, let's do our best to take care of ourselves. As a community, we continue to make progress toward the goal of the 70% verified vaccination rate. As of September 17th, the reported vaccination rate for the DeLand campus was 69.20% and 76.29% for the College of Law. Follow the Stetson University [COVID-19 Information Page: 7-Day Average](#) to keep track of the progress. There is light at the end of the tunnel. We're all in this together so let's keep doing what we do best — help one another, respect each other and above all, take care of ourselves and help our students.

Welcome to the Team

The Brown Center is excited to welcome Dr. Pamela Cappas-Toro to the team of Brown Center Faculty Fellows. Dr. Cappas-Toro will serve as the Brown Center Faculty Fellow for Community Engagement. Some important aspects of her work will involve collaborating with the Center Director to advance faculty development in the area of community engaged learning (CEL) and considering ways to help faculty and other members of the Stetson community better understand the benefits that community engagement provides students and faculty, and to encourage and support more faculty to integrate some level of CEL into their courses whenever possible.



Dr. Jamie Clark will continue to serve as Brown Center Faculty Fellow for New and Contingent Faculty.



Jamie's work was especially important last year when the pandemic forced essentially all engagement to occur virtually. A series of virtual happy hours served as important community building events. Collaborating with Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown, Jamie hosted a series of important sessions that focused pre-tenure issues and writing a FAR. Other helpful sessions focused on developing new courses and grant writing and research.

Dr. William (Bill) Sause will continue to serve as the Brown Center Faculty Fellow for Digital and Remote Learning. In this role, Bill consults with faculty colleagues on the transition to online delivery of classes and promotes faculty development in digital and remote learning. In collaboration with OOLET, he offered several Canvas webinars before the beginning of the school year. These webinars are available for viewing on the Brown Center Blog [Faculty Engage](#) page. A collection of helpful resources, including a list of FAQs with responses, is found on the Brown Center Blog [Digital and Remote Learning page](#).



Announcing Focused Inquiry Groups for 2021-2022

The Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence will support the creation of five Focused Inquiry Groups (FIGs) to explore an aspect related to one of the following:

- Integrating antiracist writing into the curriculum
- Incorporating the Arts with STEM to create STEAM
- Making community engagement more accessible across the curriculum
- Using technology to improve academic advising
- Cultivating cultures of respect in the academy



A FIG is a small working group of 4 – 5 members who meet in person or online to work together on a specific question with the goal of creating and implementing an action plan. The principal goal of this work is to foster the creation of a space that: 1) allows for the free-flowing exchange of ideas, 2) invites creative risk, and 3) yields an action plan that can be easily implemented and assessed for effectiveness. A FIG project should be manageable enough to complete over the course of a semester. A stipend of \$300 is available for participants. A group leader will receive a \$500 stipend. The group leader will be responsible for facilitating the group's work, coordinating meetings, and work with their group to prepare a presentation and write the final report. The stipend will be received at the end of the academic year after receipt of the group's report and presentation at the Brown Center's spring Colloquium workshop. Additionally, each FIG will receive up to \$500 to support the group's work. (e.g., purchase of books, supplies, basic meals, refreshments, etc.). Meetings (60 -90 minutes) may take place anytime. A FIG is expected to meet at least eight times. At least once before the end of the fall semester and at least twice a month during the spring semester between January and March. Presentation of the group's project at the colloquium in April 2022 represents the eighth and final meeting. A complete [description and application form](#) is found on the Brown Center Blog.

AY 2021-22 Summer Grants and Sabbaticals

A reminder: The Professional Development Committee (PDC) is pleased to announce the opening of the application period for Stetson summer grants for summer 2022 and for sabbatical applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Summer grant applications are due on 10/4/21 and sabbatical applications are due on 10/11/21. The PDC will hold a second informational session on 9/22 at 7 pm via Zoom. You may register for session through the [link provided](#). Once registered you will receive a link to the session through the email address you provide. If you have questions that you know in advance, please submit them to <mailto:PDC@Stetson.edu> before the meeting and your question(s) will be addressed in the

informational session. Applications for a [summer grant and sabbatical](#) are located on the Brown Center Blog.

Tipping Our Hats Podcast

The [Tipping Our Hats](#) podcast is gaining momentum! Host Dr. David Johnson, Brown Visiting Teacher-Scholar and Assistant Director, Writing Center along with student co-host Emery McClenny, Political Science Major, have recorded two-hours of interviews. The first interview features Dr. Meg Young from the school of Business. The second features our College of Law colleague Carmen Johnson, JD. Both three-part interviews are available on the podcast's [Spotify page](#). Episodes are planned throughout the school year. We will be reaching out to members of the Stetson community, but we would love for anyone who's interested to reach out to us. If you are interested, contact David Johnson at djohnson20@Stetson.edu, or Emery McClenny at emcclenny@stetson.edu. We hope you enjoy listening to *Tipping Our Hats*!



Covid-19: How has the Experience of the Last 18+ Months Impacted You?

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 successfully 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 if, heaven forbid, we were forced to respond to another pandemic?

Your experiences matter and sharing them can provide not only an archive of this period in time but prove useful to others and help them better navigate matters involving teaching, scholarship and well-being. So please, if you feel so inclined, provide written responses to one or more of the abovementioned questions. Send responses to the [Brown Center](#). Thank you. Your input really can make a difference.

Always Seeking Input

We need your input to learn if our programming is helpful. Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey or provide basic demographic information when feedback is solicited. The information we collect is very important and helps us plan and offer better programming, which in turn helps 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 or other activities? Do you seek peer mentorship or coaching? Do you want to talk about grants? Is there information you are seeking but cannot find on the Brown Center website? Do you just want to talk about designing or revamping a course? ***Please let us know what you need.*** Send your input to browncenter@stetson.edu and enter "Faculty Development: Seeking Input" on the title line, or contact the director, [Harry Price](#) directly. ***Remember, faculty development needs input like plants need water. We can't help you if you don't let us know what you need.***

Harry Price
Faculty Director
Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence