

The Stetson Teacher-Scholar

STETSON UNIVERSITY
BROWN CENTER
 FOR FACULTY INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

October 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.

"The most valuable possession you can own is an open heart. The most powerful weapon you can be is an instrument of peace."

—Carlos Santana

A Journey to Community Engaged Learning



Thinking about integrating community engaged learning into your teaching but not sure how to start? Dr. Pamela Cappas-Toro, Brown Faculty Fellow for Community Engagement, shares in the following narrative a bit of her background and three key lessons she learned about the importance of CEL as a pedagogical tool.

I am a languages, cultures, and literary studies professor who utilizes community-engaged learning (CEL) as a pedagogical tool to further enhance student learning. I was first exposed to community-based learning as a graduate assistant in a course titled, "Spanish in the Community." Students were introduced to Spanish-speaking communities in Urbana-Champaign, a population that mostly lives in the margins of this university town. I'm extremely grateful this experience taught me how to intentionally integrate community-based needs with course academic learning objectives. Nevertheless, it would take some time for me to comprehend the pedagogical potential of this method.

I would like to share three important lessons that helped me better understand the power and potential of community-engaged learning:

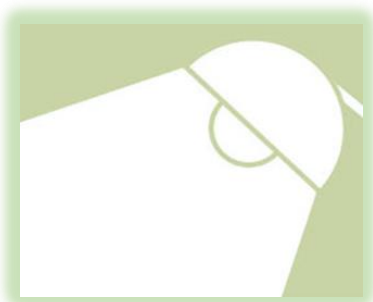
(1) Theoretically grounded - Early in my graduate career, some professors encouraged me to refrain from doing community work as they didn't believe it would contribute to my studies or prospects for employment in academia afterward. Instead, I began reading scholarship on service-learning (S-L) and community-engaged learning (CEL). These works inspired me to grow into the work and engage more thoughtfully and critically. I encountered Dr. Tania D. Mitchell's article, "Traditional vs. Critical Service-Learning: Engaging the Literature to Differentiate Two Models," which I now share with Stetson students.

(2) Working in community- In 2010, I joined the Education Justice Project (EJP), a higher education in prison program directed by Dr. Rebecca Ginsburg (University of Illinois). Part of our work within the program was to learn about the histories of incarceration and to constantly interrogate structures of inequality and power as we worked with incarcerated students. At EJP, we engaged in ongoing reflections in community, seeking to collectively address a particular violent aspect of mass incarceration, limited access to higher education. The lessons learned through our multidirectional exchanges and the knowledge creation forged with incarcerated students were among the most value experiences I had as a graduate student.

(3) The power of language acquisition - Language instruction can be utilized to learn, strategize, organize, and mobilize together. This was most powerfully presented to me by incarcerated persons who trained to become English as Second Language (ESL) instructors. They were both teachers and mentors to ESL learners in the prison, finding a way to better the lives of others under the most trying of conditions.

These lessons from graduate school: theoretical grounding, working in community, and the power of language acquisition, are centered in my teaching at Stetson. They inform my approaches as the Director of La Casa Cultural Latina and Co-Director of the Community Education Project, Stetson's college-in-prison program. As importantly, these lessons shape who I am and how I engage with others as a member of this community.

Faculty Spotlight



The Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence is delighted to host the Spotlight Series, a weekly showcase of research, creative inquiry, and other scholarly engagement of the campus community beginning in October and continuing thru April. This year's presentations will be virtual and available through [registration](#). Visit the Brown Center Spotlight Series page for regular updates about [Spotlight presentations](#). Here's a list of presentations scheduled for the fall semester.

- Oct 15| 2:00PM – 3:15PM Dr. Rachel Core, Sociology
- Oct 29| 2:00PM – 3:15PM Dr. Matthew Shannon, Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Nov 8| 12:00PM – 1:15PM Dr. Corie Charpentier, Biology
- Nov 12| 2:00PM – 3:15PM Dr. Tony Abbott, Environmental Science and Geography
- Nov 15| 12:00PM – 1:15PM Dr. Michael Eskenazi, Psychology
Dr. Paul Sibbald, Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Nov 19| 2:00PM – 3:15PM Dr. Kelly Smith, Political Science

A New Quality Enhancement Plan is on the Way!!!



A message from Megan O'Neill, QEP Director, Associate Professor in English.

Greetings, colleagues,

This is the first in a series of regular updates for faculty about the upcoming Quality Enhancement Plan, “Bridging the G-A-P: Building Information Literacy Skills for Critical Thinking.” As your (very excited) QEP Director, I’ll be keeping you informed about progress, accomplishments, and upcoming events. At the moment, with our topic clearly identified and our 10 year timeline laid out, three teams are working on vital components of the plan:

Communications (working with University Marketing) to make sure the campus is aware and involved; Development and Implementation, tasked with identifying the specifics of how the plan will work; and the Writing Committee, whose charge is to compile the critical QEP Report that will be submitted to our accrediting body, SACSCOC, in December. I meet with each of the three teams weekly, and we are taking big steps toward being ready to host the SACSCOC team on campus in April 2022 and to launch the QEP in Fall of 2022. A webpage is coming soon, where you’ll find all kinds of information, resources, examples, and ideas, as well as everything you need to participate in the enhancement of our students’ critical thinking abilities. Expect to hear more each month-- a series of Marketing announcements will soon be starting to keep faculty up to date on developments, and I’ll see you regularly at University meetings for updates.

I’m always available by email (mboneill@stetson.edu)—don’t hesitate to ask questions!

Thanks, Megan

Presidential Inauguration: Academic Showcase

As part of the celebration of Dr. Chris Roellke’s inauguration, an academic showcase will take place on Friday, November 5th, 2021 from 1-5PM in the Rinker Welcome Center. The showcase will feature oral and poster presentations by

- Hala ElAarag, Math and Computer Science
- Chris De Badisco, Economics
- Peter Smucker, Music
- Luca Molnar, Art,
- Lynn Kee, Biology
- Mayhill Fowler, History
- Kim Reiter, History
- Matthew Shannon, Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Faculty from the College of Law via a pre-recorded short video

Tables highlighting community engagement focused work will be hosted by The Center for Community Engagement and the Community Education Project (CEP). Please stop by the Welcome Center on November 5th and support the wonderful work of our colleagues.

Reconnecting: A Brown Center Sponsored Lunchtime Event

As a result of Stetson reaching and surpassing the 70% threshold of verified vaccinations, the Brown Center is now able to host size-limited in-person events that follow the Safer Stetson [Tier 3 guidelines](#) and will host a monthly casual lunchtime event for faculty and staff called *Reconnecting*. Envisioned as an opportunity to restore a sense of community. The first lunch was held October 4th and was enjoyed by all who had the chance to stop by for a short visit!! The next *Reconnecting* lunch will be held on Monday, November 1st @ 11am-1pm in the Faculty and Staff Lounge. Coffee, water, tea and a light snack such hummus with pita chips will be served. Feel free to bring your own lunch too. While not required, please [RSVP](#) if you can so that we have a rough estimate of how much food and drink to order along with notifying us of any dietary needs. We hope to see there!!!

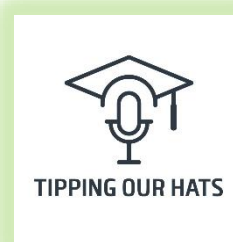
The Brown Center Welcomes Colene Hamilton to Our Team!



The Brown Center is proud to introduce the new Finance Coordinator Colene Hamilton. Colene comes to us from the University of Central Arkansas where she earned her degree in Management information systems *cum laude*. She is currently working toward a Master's in Business Administration here at Stetson University. At the University of Central Arkansas, she played on the beach volleyball team and served as the team's captain for 3 seasons. Colene is continuing her beach volleyball career at Stetson and is excited to be a Hatter! After she graduates, she hopes to get a position designing and developing websites.

Tipping Our Hats Podcast

Please continue to listen to the [Tipping Our Hats](#) podcast as host Dr. David Johnson, Brown Visiting Teacher-Scholar and Assistant Director, Writing Center along with student co-host Emery McClenny, Political Science Major, engage in wonderful conversations with our colleagues. Don't miss the upcoming conversation with Dr. Pamela Cappas-Toro. It promises to be captivating! All 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*!



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