



Upcoming Events

January

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8 [Virtual Classrooms: Using WebEx Training Center](#)

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February

9 [Master Class 1 – Teaching with Canvas](#)

19 [Lunch&Learn – Promoting Critical Thinking](#)

Register Today!

Winter Faculty Development Opportunities Around

This year, the winter faculty development event will be held on **Friday, January 11 from 11:00 to 2:00** in Alumni Hall following the Faculty Assembly. [Please register here.](#)

The event will be our **First Annual Cracker Barrel** with interactive presentations from ten of your faculty colleagues. The presentations include:

- *Randomizing Groups for Active Learning* – Paul Bible
- *Covering Less, Learning More: A Practiced-Based Approach to Engaging Students and Building Mastery* – Julia Baumgardt
- *Student Choice in Learner-Centered Teaching* – Collen Doci
- *Closing the Loop: Transparency in teaching Evaluations with Learners* – Lyree Mikhail
- *Exam Autopsies* – Inaia Phoenix
- *Enhancing Students' Return on Investment through Business Competitions* – Lori Rumreich & Kathy Marra
- *Six Keys to Student Engagement* – Jen Regelski
- *Using Kahoot! to promote Classroom Engagement* – Drew Stewart
- *Engaging Students with Library Resources through Canvas* – Jessica Trinoskey
- *Conceptual Modeling to Promote Knowledge Integration* – Kristy Wilson

And to warm you up on the cold winter day, a gourmet grilled cheese bar, with two types of soups, various salads, and individual parfaits will be provided for lunch. This will be a fast paced, interactive event you won't want to miss. [Please plan on joining us.](#)

Webex and Canvas Unite!

The wait is over. We have successfully integrated WebEx into Canvas. You can now use this tool within your Canvas courses to hold synchronous sessions, manage breakout rooms during online presentations, hold online office hours that students can schedule, collaborate with students in new and interactive ways and much more. There will be four training sessions the week of January 7th. They will be recorded, but try to attend, so your questions can be answered.

The sessions are:

- [Meetings 101: WebEx for Meetings and Advising](#) - Tuesday, January 8 at 10 am
- [Virtual Classrooms: Using WebEx Training Center](#) – Tuesday, January 8 at 1:30 pm
- [Virtual Classrooms: Using WebEx Training Center](#) – Thursday, January 10 at 10 am (repeated session)
- [Collaboration 101: WebEx Teams in Canvas](#) – Thursday, January 10 at 1:30 pm

University Self-Care and Wellness Event

This event, catered to Marian's faculty and staff, focuses on fostering an environment of self-care and wellness. Come hear your colleagues address the many aspects of self-care, including setting boundaries, mindfulness, gratitude, self-talk, spiritual direction, yoga, and more. Long with a healthy lunch, you will have resources to get you started on a more healthy semester. [Register today.](#)

Launch of Teaching Squares

This is a fun and low commitment professional development opportunity that involves visiting each other's classrooms in order to reflect on your own teaching style. A Teaching Square last five weeks, beginning with an Organizing Session and concluding with a Reflection & Group Share Party.

We will have two separate sessions this spring. [Session one](#) starts Friday, January 25 and concludes on Friday, February 22. [Session two](#) starts Friday, March 22 and concludes on Friday, April 26. Feel free to join one or both. You will get a lot from the experience including meeting colleagues from across campus.

Focus on Critical Thinking Skills

Critical thinking is an often misunderstood cognitive skill. Faculty might think they are teaching it when, in fact, they are not. Thus, the four Lunch and Learn events this spring will focus on effectively incorporating critical thinking skills into your classroom. Reserve your spot today!

- [How Can I Design Critical Thinking into My Course](#) (Wednesday, Jan. 30 at noon)
- [What Activities and Assignments Promote Critical Thinking](#) (Tuesday, Feb. 19 at noon)
- [How Can I Assess Critical Thinking with Objective Items?](#) (Wednesday, March 6 at noon)
- [How Can I Assess Critical Thinking with Student-Created Work?](#) (Thursday, April 11 at noon)

Expansion of the Master Class Offerings

A second series was added to our Master Class offerings late last term. Faculty now have two Master Class Series in which to participate.

Our flagship Master Class series – **Teaching with Canvas** – is comprised of three classes:

- MC 1.1 – Effective Course Design
- MC 1.2 – Developing Courses for Learning
- MC 1.3 – Facilitating Learning

Our second Master Class series – **Teaching for Learning** – is comprised of two classes:

- MC 2.1 – Developing Student Mastery
- MC 2.2 – Supporting Self-Directed Learners

During the past twelve months, 67 instructors have completed our flagship series, **Teaching with Canvas**. Of these, 34 also completed the work required to demonstrate their mastery of the content and “graduate” with a certificate of achievement.

This semester, the majority of this flagship series – Teaching with Canvas – will move online. Only the first class will be continued to be taught face-to-face. This will allow time for Mona to facilitate our second series – **Teaching for Learning**. You can expect a third series to launch within the next 18 months.

If you are interested in participating in either Master Class series, [indicate your interest through this link](#).

Article of the Month

Teaching the Students We Have, Not the Students We Wish We Had

Today’s college students are radically different from the students occupying college classrooms even a decade ago. A Chronicle survey is cited where faculty members claim students are “harder to teach” these days, with an overall theme that we should feel sorry for faculty. There is an alternative explanation . . . [Read more](#)

