



Teaching Matters

December 3, 2021

Office of the Vice Provost for Instruction

A note from the Vice Provost

Dear faculty and staff,

In academic affairs, we persist (and it might be said that I obsess over the notion) in our idea that student/faculty engagement is the key to academic success. When faculty and students connect on a level where instruction moves from receiving information to acting on information, then the learning and teaching experiences are transformed. I choose the word transform intentionally because without engagement by both students and faculty, the lab or the classroom is often transactional in nature.... Not transformative. It is this emphasis on active engagement in the learning process that brings me to share a quick example of what learning, doing, and reflecting can do to transform the learning experience.



One of the delights of my work is the opportunity to provide support for the [Interdisciplinary Simulation Center](#) located on the third floor of the Harrison Education Commons building. Additionally, the College of Nursing provides another simulation center at their Athens campus (CONAT). In this space, various colleges provide instruction, case studies, standardized patient experiences and they do this work brilliantly. My responsibility, in partnership with Justin Owen and his team of Ben Maniccia and Sadiqa Diggs, is to offer the context, a setting, for remarkable simulations to occur. Providing context is one thing. Providing engaging experiences with the content and reflecting on those experiences is the important extra step to support remarkable learning. Recently, I spent time with five scholars who do this work as well as I have ever seen.

Dr. Bill Hamilton (CON), Dr. AJ Kleinheksel (MCG), Dr. Nicole Winston (MCG), Dr. Jennifer Castleberry (CONAT), Dr. Karen Walton (CON) invited me to learn of their commitment to Faculty Learning Communities where they invite conversations around simulations. These professionals are committed to the idea that health care done well is informed by a sense of equity and inclusion. We have all observed the differential impact that COVID-19 had on different demographic groups. We also are clear that access to care is a challenge to different groups and different regions. Certainly, our recent [Rural Health Symposium](#) amplified the devastating impact that geography can play in terms of access to care. These colleagues have committed to a simulation experience that challenges hidden biases and stereotypes. How does one engage with a patient who appears as one gender, identifies as another. Or, how might the interaction between a heterosexual patient and a homosexual health care provider be influenced by those distinctions. And finally, how is care impacted by the intersection of different ethnicities. To be sure, these issues are not new to our health care professions. Nevertheless, because of the work by these fine scholars, there are robust opportunities at Augusta University to educate, inform, and prepare our students for these interactions.

High Impact Practice? Experiential Learning? Culturally Responsive Pedagogies? You can find instruction that hits all those marks in the Interdisciplinary Simulation Center. I invite you to connect with Mr. Owen or these fine scholars and see instruction at Augusta University, like no other.

Sincerely,

Zach Kelehear

| Innovation Updates



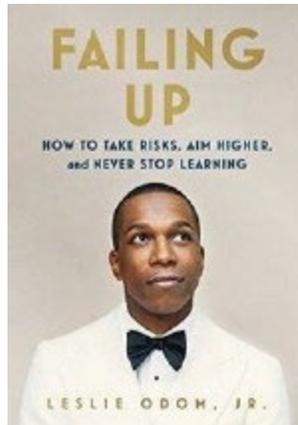
[International Education Week events a success](#)

AU students who attended the International Festival on Thursday, Nov. 11, had a chance to learn about other cultures, explore study abroad programs available, and taste some international food and treats. The festival was the final event of AU's celebration of International Education Week, a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education that encourages institutions worldwide to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange.

[Faculty Authors Reception](#)

The Augusta University Libraries hosted their 8th annual Faculty Authors Reception on October 14 at the Reese Library. We began hosting this reception in 2014 as a way to honor faculty throughout the university who have published or edited books or other creative works over the previous year. Forty-nine faculty members were recognized for publishing either a book or book chapter.





[Coming in January! "New Year, New Mindset"](#)

The Division of Instruction and Innovation are very excited about our upcoming "New Year, New Mindset" program for Spring 2022. 2021 has been a challenging year for all of us. We hope you will join us and start 2022 by building connections in our community. The month of January includes multiple events focused on mindset for faculty, staff and students hosted by multiple units from across campus.



[Join the National Society of Experiential Education \(NSEE\)](#)

Are you passionate about Experiential Education? Become a valued member of the National Society of Experiential Education. A key component of NSEE's mission is to advance experiential education as a field and profession while also supporting the professional development of its members.



[Phi Eta Sigma Induction Ceremony](#)

The Office of First and Second Year Experiences is pleased to announce the induction of 54 students into the Phi Eta Sigma National Freshman Honor Society at Augusta University. Eligibility for membership is based on a GPA of 3.5 or higher during a student's first year.



[Study Abroad/Away Proposals are due April 1, 2022:](#)

It's never too early to begin thinking about running a 2023 program! It can take several months to develop a new opportunity and I encourage all interested faculty to reach out by early spring to begin planning.

[Read more »](#)



[FYE/SYE Student Involvement](#)

Students participating in the FYE/SYE Spring Book Clubs will meet for 4 weeks (Jan – Feb) followed by our “Cocoa and Conversations” event to reflect and discuss on all that they learned about themselves and each other.

[Read more »](#)



[How Career Services Can Help](#)

Career Services can present to your class or student group on an array of topics regarding professionalism, managing a job search with today's technology, interviewing, resumes and more.

[Read more »](#)

View Previous Teaching Matters Issues

Need to refer to a previous issue of the Office of the Vice Provost's Teaching Matters? Each monthly issue of Teaching Matters has also been preserved in Scholarly Commons. A note by the Vice Provost for Instruction, Dr. Zach Kelehear, introduces the issue each month. Table of Contents include information in the areas of Innovation Updates, Faculty and Staff Updates, and Student Updates. See the complete collection on the [Augusta University Open Repository](#)

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Teaching Matters

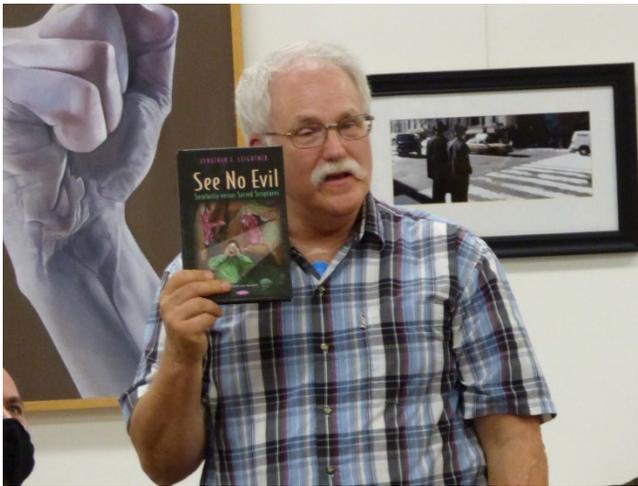
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