

The Joy Shechtman Mankoff  
Center for Teaching & Learning presents ...

# Talking Teaching

## Fall 2023



### PLEASE SAVE THE DATES & JOIN US FOR GREAT CONVERSATIONS!

Talking Teaching is a series of informal discussions of teaching-related topics—typically suggested by our colleagues. Talking Teaching provides an opportunity to build community and to stop & reflect on our teaching and on our students' learning experiences. Topics are listed below, with dates & times and preliminary descriptions.

For each conversation, eight to ten discussants will bring their thoughts or questions to spark the collective exchange of ideas. **We are still seeking additional discussants for these events.** Interest in the topic, not extended preparation, is the only requirement to be a discussant.

Please contact Maria Rosa, Ariella Rotramel or Cheryl Banker if you are interested in attending or serving as a discussant.

We hope to see you at these events!

## Bridging the Divide: Getting to Know Colleagues Across the College

Talking Teaching Community Building\*

Friday 15 September 2023 from Noon to 2 PM, lunch 11:50 AM, in Hood

Staff and faculty too often do not get to interact and get to know each other. We miss opportunities to know more about the good, bad, and ugly of our work and understand each other as colleagues. This facilitated, community building event will enable us to connect in a low-stakes manner to make or renew collegial connections together. Join us for an active, fun session!

*Participants include Cheryl Banker, Ingrid Bushwack, Luci Chaplin, Merrill Collins, Ron Flores, Ruth Grahn, Eva Kovach, Jillian Marshal, Paula Orbe, Ben Parent, Rob Richter, Maria Rosa, and Ariella Rotramel.*

# The “Pandemic Brain,” Student Performance, and What We Can Do about It

A Talking Teaching Workshop\*

Thursday 28 September 2023, from 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM in Ernst;  
Breakfast at 8:15 AM

In recent years, many of our colleagues have noted how students' critical thinking and higher-level cognitive abilities seem to have diminished compared to previous classes. While anecdotal, faculty and staff at Conn have seen the effects of the pandemic on our students' learnings. New research suggests that “Pandemic Brain” may be the culprit. Join us for a workshop on what the science says regarding the effects of trauma on student learning, and a discussion on ways we may be able to support colleagues and students as we navigate this “new normal.”

Suggested reading: [“Pandemic Brain’ May Be Affecting College Students' Performance”](https://www.technologynetworks.com/neuroscience/news/pandemic-brain-may-be-affecting-college-students-performance-373493) ([www.technologynetworks.com/neuroscience/news/pandemic-brain-may-be-affecting-college-students-performance-373493](https://www.technologynetworks.com/neuroscience/news/pandemic-brain-may-be-affecting-college-students-performance-373493))

*Facilitated by Joseph Schroeder; Discussants include Mays Imad and Jillian Marshall.*

# Politics in the Classroom and Beyond

A Talking Teaching Workshop\*

Thursday 5 October 2023, from 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM in Ernst;  
Breakfast at 8:15 AM

Global and national politics can show up in expected and surprising ways during teaching and mentoring of students. What are the tools that can enable us to support engagement without getting bogged down in distracting or unhelpful conflicts? This workshop introduces strategies for engaging with relevant topics as well as resetting conversations when subjects are raised that are not within the bounds of the current discussion. We also identify and consider ways to navigate current hot button issues as we move into the 2024 US election cycle.

*Discussants include Lindsay Crawford, Ron Flores, and Mara Suttman Lea.*

# **Working Together: Collaborative Teaching, Scholarship, and Programming**

Talking Teaching Community Building\*

Tuesday 10 October 2023, from 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM in Ernst;

Breakfast at 8:15 AM

Are you interested in learning about the resources available to support collaboration between faculty and staff colleagues? From having a colleague come to your class, to co-teaching a course, to publishing together, there's a world of possibilities. Learn about the ways you can re-invigorate your teaching and scholarship by incorporating diverse colleague perspectives. Resources to facilitate these collaborations will also be discussed and shared.

*Discussants include Yan Zhuang, Jessica McCullough, Marc Forster, & Taegan McMahon.*

# **Teaching & Advising Your First-Year Seminar: How Are Things Going?**

A Discussion for Faculty Instructors & Staff Advisors

Talking Teaching Curricular Development & Discussion\*

Thursday 19 October 2023, from 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM in Ernst;

Breakfast at 8:15 AM

How is your First Year Seminar going this semester? What is working well and what has been challenging?

This session, for FYS faculty instructors and staff advisors, as well as anyone else interested in first-year seminars, will provide the opportunity for those teaching and advising a FYS this semester (or next) to share their experiences and insights. We will discuss what this year's class is like; share teaching-related strategies; talk about the successes and challenges you are having as an advising team; and discuss anything else of interest related to our FYSs. During part of the session we will divide into two groups, allowing faculty and staff advisors to focus on issues particularly relevant to their roles.

*Discussants include Joe Alchermes, Rachel Boggia, Christina Flowers, Karen Pezzetti, Melissa Ryan, Sufia Uddin, Keleigh Wagner, and others.*

# Addressing Climate Change Across-the-Curriculum

A Talking Teaching Too\*

Thursday 9 November 2023, from 8:30 AM To 10:15 AM in Ernst;  
Breakfast at 8:15 AM

Climate Change is impacting everything in our everyday lives, communities and world. Join a conversation on how you can easily integrate discussions and thoughts of climate change in your teaching across disciplines.

*Discussants include Joyce Bennett, Rachel Black, Margaret Bounds, Stan Ching, Chad Jones, Michelle Neely, Doug Thompson, and Sufia Uddin, as well as Climate Collective students Sarah Hall & Ilan Listgarten.*

# CTL Talking Teaching: Hot Chocolate, Hot Cider, & Conversation

A Talking Teaching Community Building Event\*

Monday 4 December 2023, from 4 PM to 5:30 PM in Cro's Nest (second floor Crozier Williams Student Center)

Hot! Hot! Hot! Join the Center for Teaching & Learning and the Talking Teaching coordinators as they host a HOT CHOCOLATE BAR and HOT CIDER to warm-up prior to the end of the semester crush. Snacks, casual fun, and conversation--including fun questions to answer. A variety of fixings and stir-ins for your hot chocolate and hot cider will be provided!

## **\*A note about Talking Teaching:**

In order to better define what participants should expect during our different Talking Teaching events, we designate each even according to its focus:

**Workshop:** These sessions draw upon colleagues' expertise and seek to engage participants in learning more about a topic in a more structured environment than typical Talking Teachings.

**Discussion:** These sessions invite participants to come together with a set of discussants who have a particular interest in a topic.

**Community Building:** These sessions focus on supporting our engagement with each other around a topic.

**Curricular Development:** These sessions focus on an aspect of our curriculum and bring together different voices to both share their experiences and thoughts and learn from each other.

**Talking Teaching Too:** These sessions include students and emphasize the exchange of ideas about teaching & learning between and among students and faculty & staff members.