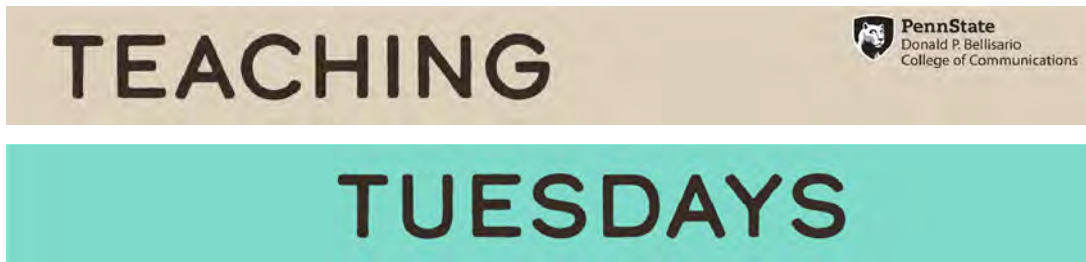


Bortree, Denise Sevick

From: Bortree, Denise Sevick
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 2:47 PM
To: L-COMM-FACULTY@LISTS.PSU.EDU
Subject: Teaching Tuesdays - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion by Jo and Charles Dumas



It's Teaching Tuesday in week 10 of the semester. We're 3-1/2 weeks from the University's move to remote, and below you'll find resources for CP and CM courses making the transition. This week Jo and Charles Dumas share inspiring words about **creating a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment** in the classroom. This is a priority for the College, and we're grateful for faculty and staff support as the college continues a dialogue on this issue. I hope you'll join Dean Hardin, Assistant Dean Gary Abdullah and Barbara Welshofer from the Office of Educational Equity to discuss diversity, equity and inclusion and the College's strategic plan on **Monday, Nov. 2 at 4 pm**. Zoom link: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/94794638664>

CommAgency students help drive voter registration campaign

The social media team at CommAgency worked with the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) to drive student voter registration and voting. A special thanks to faculty members who worked with the social media team. You can read more about student efforts here: <https://news.psu.edu/story/636329/2020/10/22/campus-life/communications-students-help-drive-information-efforts-student>

Transition to remote teaching

Faculty teaching in-person (CP) or mixed-mode (CM) courses may want to start planning for the move to remote teaching, including setting up a Zoom link (if you don't have one already) and planning assessment strategies. [These templates](#) can be used to prepare for the transition. In addition, a [Transition to Remote Symposium](#) will be held on Friday, Nov. 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Topics include remote experiential learning and academic integrity in remote teaching.

Engaging students, webinar series

Teaching & Learning with Technology (TLT) is making recordings of its webinar series available online. Topics range from creating community to assessment to engaging students with video content. The prerecorded webinars can be found here: <https://psu.pb.unizin.org/engagingstudents/>

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

By J. A. Dumas, associate teaching professor in media studies, and Charles Dumas, professor emeritus with the School of Theater

Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives are essential for our teaching, research, and service. A Penn State core value is "respect for human dignity of all." As faculty our utilization of DEI maintains our commitment to this core value. Our task is to prepare students for the multicultural world they inhabit and will join as professionals after graduation.

Our students are from different genders, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, ability conditions and other distinctive identities. It is therefore important that they are exposed to an inclusive environment that reflects their diverse identities. It places them in the world about which they learn. It assists them to create and navigate the diverse, equitable and inclusive environment at the Bellisario College and Penn State. To this end we try to foster meaningful relationships among students through our classroom activities, course design, syllabus, and materials



Sharing knowledge begins with inclusive exploration and identification of diverse scholar voices who share their knowledge with students. The communications field is as diverse as our world of global cultures. Using an open-minded pedagogy and empathetic hearts, we challenge our students to broaden their perspective and expand their experience. DEI is essential to that process. Students share a strong desire to learn and succeed in their field. As faculty we can assist this process by celebrating our own classroom diversity.

Students are nurtured by inclusive pedagogy. Communications scholarship abounds with diverse and transnational perspectives. Universities around the globe produce knowledge to enhance our students learning process, so our materials need to reflect global diversity.

Our country is immersed in a crisis which is confronting white supremacy. It calls for us, as educators, to advance principles which support equity, justice and humanity. We can use resources which draw on scholarship and experience being generated in real time. For example, faculty can now easily host class Zoom visits from global scholars outside the U. S.



Commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion calls us to engage beyond our identity cognitive comfort zones. While teaching in South Africa, a nation with many indigenous cultures and eleven official languages, our diverse student

cohort was a daily testament to the creative power of equitable inclusion to produce deeply moving outcomes and knowledge building processes.

These are some teaching principles that guide our DEI efforts:

1. Listen to the distinctive voice of each student and strive to understand their perspective.
2. Be equitable in your student expectations for distinctive excellence from each student.
3. Respond to student inquiry with open minded gratitude.
4. Learn from each student's expression of truth and knowledge, sometimes with revised teaching.
5. Always seek diverse scholar perspectives to share with students through coursework.

Beyond our teaching and classroom environment, we should all collectively consider aspirations identified in our Bellisario College diversity statement (2016) and Dean Hardin's charges for DEI growth in our departments. We should address challenges identified in the Bellisario College community survey results; barriers to recruitment, retention and graduation embedded in the curriculum; special strengths within our departments; curricular offering contributions for those with interest in racism, diversity and social justice; and barriers to recruitment, retention and promotion of employees who bring diversity to the College.

Hope you enjoyed this issue. Keep an eye out for Teaching Tuesdays every Tuesday this semester. Want to read an earlier issue? You can find it in the Faculty/Staff Resources: <https://www.bellisario.psu.edu/faculty-staff-resources/teaching-tuesdays>

TEACHING TUESDAYS – Issue #9

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