

Chairs Update January 2018

Message from Chair Fellow:

"Make the best use of what's in your power and take the rest as it happens."

- Epictetus (circa 55-135 AD)

Two years ago, I had the good fortune of travelling to Greece. We centered our visit in Athens and some of the closest islands. A common site in each town we visited was the bright red pomegranate. As we travelled, we learned that the pomegranate is a symbol of prosperity and good luck. Especially at the new year, families display bright red pomegranates at the doors, on their tables, and even as gifts. As one part of the New Year's celebration *Kalo Podariko*, it is traditional to smash a ripe pomegranate on the front door or porch.

I loved this ritual; along with its mess, there's something fun and freeing about tossing ripe fruit with abandon! The symbolic gesture of letting go, embracing the new year with excitement and open arms is echoed in Epictetus' advice on life. A Greek scholar, born a slave and exiled to Rome for a portion of his life, Epictetus' encouraged others work hard where they could, but avoid aggravation and concern over future events outside our control. As my grandmother used to say, "Jennifer, don't borrow tomorrow's worry!"

As we enter the new year and a new semester, I'd encourage to greet our new semester with open arms. As Epictetus advises: *make the best use of what's in your power*. Join us for one of our three Chair Forums this semester as we discuss diversity, difficult conversations, and planning for the upcoming semesters. Links to the registration for our winter Chair Forum events are included below. Faculty events include conversations with Provost James Lentini and our President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, managing classroom behavior, learning accessibility and ADA compliance, and over-coming post-tenure and mid-career dissatisfaction. Please share these opportunities widely within your departments and programs. More information on upcoming faculty events can be located under "Workshops" on the CETL website

<https://wwwp.oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development/workshops/>

Finally, equipped with excitement and powerful resources for your journey in the new year, I hope you will follow Epictetus and my grandmother's advice: let go and enjoy. It's not too late to smash a pomegranate on your office door in celebration of this upcoming semester (but promise to give me a call if you do).

Wishes for success in the new year,
Jenn Heisler

Chair Events and Resources:

1. Chair Forums will continue in the winter semester. Please join us for lunch and discussion from 12:00-1:30pm in 200A Elliott Hall. Upcoming topics will include:

- **Friday, January 26th: Dealing with Difficult People**

As chairs, we must deal with difficult people, difficult situations and difficult conversations. Join us as we discuss the challenges chairs confront, identify helpful communication strategies to effectively address these situation, and share our experiences addressing these difficult moments.

- **Monday March 5th: Diversity Mindset**

Diversity is more than just a recruitment strategy; a diversity mindset offers the ability to think and see the value of diversity in different situations, understand different points of view, and actively pursue stories from a variety of voices. This forum engages the role of chairs in supporting diversity and the characteristic opportunities and challenges. Join us to discuss what a diversity mindset means for our departments, college, and classrooms.

- **Friday, April 6th: Looking Back; Looking Ahead**

This session will encourage new and seasoned chairs to reflect on their past year and plan for their future. New chairs will reflect on their first year(s) and identify areas for future planning. Seasoned chairs will discuss their reentry into faculty life.

For more information and registration: <https://wwwp.oakland.edu/cetl/chairs-corner/>

2. **What about YOU?** CETL will soon be soliciting applications for the Chair Fellow position in 2018-2019. A one-year term beginning in June, the Chair Fellow works with departmental chairpersons and program directors across the university as needed. Traditional responsibilities have included oversight of professional development (such as Chair Forums and the annual retreat), creation and update of resources housed in the Chairs' Corner, and engagement with the OU community regarding chairs' needs and issues. For more information, please contact CETL Director Judy Ableser or current Chair Fellow Jennifer Heisler. (<https://www.oakland.edu/cetl/top-links/contact-us/#tab-3>)

Other Events and Resources for Chairs and Faculty:

1. Great Lakes Regional Student Success Conference

CETL is delighted to announce that the Great Lakes Regional Student Success Conference is now expanding to include a Faculty Teaching and Learning Track. This exciting and important conference will replace the OU-Windsor Teaching and Learning Conference for 2018.

For information and registration: <https://www.oakland.edu/studentsuccess/conference/>

2. Lilly Lighting Session

The Lilly Conference for Teaching and Learning is an annual event held in Traverse City, MI. Join us to hear from Oakland University faculty who attended and presented very popular sessions at this long-standing conference.

<https://www2.oakland.edu/secure/workshops/enroll/index.cfm?depts=3&SERIESID=22&ID=1432>

3. Coffee and Conversation with the Provost and President

<https://wwwp.oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development/workshops/>

4. Full List of CETL Winter Workshops and Events

<https://wwwp.oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development/workshops/>

Respectfully,

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