

# CELT Newsletter: March 2022

Dear CELT Colleagues,

We hope that everyone is having a great semester teaching in all modalities – online, face-to-face, remote live, and hybrid! Let's continue our conversations about teaching and learning at our March and April workshops. Click for the [full schedule of Spring 2022 events](#).

Check out a new feature in our CELT newsletter – “CELT Teaching Corner”, featuring two colleagues per month. Turn to page 2 to get to know Cindy Braun and Steven Barnhart. If you would like to contribute, please reach out! If you have a suggestion for an alliterative or other exciting name for the CELT Teaching Corner (maybe using CELT as an acronym), please send it to [celt@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:celt@middlesexcc.edu). If we use your suggestion, you'll receive a Middlesex College coffee mug.

Have a great Spring Break!

## Adjunct Corner

Sign up for **Conversations in Teaching**, workshops specially designed for adjunct faculty. Click on the links below to register.

- [If they are Laughing, They are Learning](#), 3/9 @ 5 PM
- [Finishing out the Semester](#), 4/13 @ 5 PM

The **Annual Adjunct Faculty Development Day** on Saturday will be March 12 at 8:15 am with Keynote Speaker: Dr. Valentina Iturbe-LaGrave - Director, Inclusive Learning & Development at Google. Email [zlala@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:zlala@middlesexcc.edu) for more information.

## Interested in joining the CELT Executive Board?

The following positions are up for election:

- CELT Director (must be a full-time faculty member, 2 year term)
- Full-time faculty (3 positions, 2 year term)
- Adjunct faculty (2 positions, 1 year term)

If you are interested, please email a self-nomination, including a short statement describing how you will contribute to the CELT mission, to [CELT@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:CELT@middlesexcc.edu) by **Monday, March 21**.

## SOTL Research

As we make our way to midterms, here are some ideas and thoughts about online instruction.

- [Should We Leave Cameras on During Video Lectures?](#)
- [Managing Workload and Stress in Online and Remote Classes](#)
- [Virtual Instructional Strategies to Increase Engagement](#)



## Upcoming CELT Events

**March 10 @ 2 PM:** Tech Thursday CELT Open House – Join us in the ACE Space (JLC 230). Registration not required.

**March 14:** Attend the Rutgers Online Learning Conference with your CELT colleagues. [Register here](#) with CELT, and we'll take care of the rest.

**March 29 @ 2 PM:** Diving into Advising: A Holistic Approach. [Register here](#).

## MCC Scholarly and Creative Works Bibliography

The Library is currently working on the annual **Middlesex College Scholarly and Creative Works Bibliography**. The bibliography celebrates the scholarly and creative output by Middlesex College faculty and staff including artwork, white papers, podcasts and blogs, games, and more. [Last year's bibliography](#) had over 130 citations. This year's edition will be posted to both the library and CELT webpages.

The deadline for [submissions](#) to this year's issue is April 1, 2022.



### **Cindy Braun**

*Instructor, Hospitality, Culinary Arts and Dietetics*

**How many years have you taught?** I was an adjunct professor at MC for about 7 years before becoming full-time. I also taught a class in the Nutrition department at Rutgers.

**What classes do you teach?** Food and Cooking Fundamentals, Foodservice Sanitation, Baking, and Food Business Research and Planning.

**Three words that best describe your teaching style.**  
Relaxed, realistic, animated

**What is your teaching philosophy in 8 words or fewer?**  
Connect with students and treat all with respect. That was hard to contain in 8 words!

**What about teaching do you find most enjoyable?** I love to see students succeed, and when they share their successes outside of class. I also like to make them laugh and loosen up the class – especially with stories of my real-world experience.

**What's the best advice about teaching you've ever received?** Let the semester unfold, and develop or adjust your class as it moves along. Don't try to plan out the entire semester written in ink. – Dr. Maciolek

**Briefly describe a favorite assignment or in-class activity.**  
I like assigning site inspections for a Foodservice Sanitation project, because the students get a look at actual business practices, which include the good, the bad, and the ugly. The reports from those inspections are priceless - often quite funny as well.

**What teaching and learning techniques work best for you?** Hands-on, hands-down!

**What's your workspace like?** My kitchen table, mostly because it's easier to grab a snack. My MC office, because I feel comfortable there. I am still in awe that I am sitting in an office that one of my professors occupied when I was a student in this major, a long time ago.

**What are you currently reading for pleasure?** Cookbooks and Better Homes and Gardens magazine. I'm not so much a book reader.



### **Steven Barnhart**

*Professor, Psychology*

**How many years have you taught, and what classes do you teach?** 30 incredibly rewarding years. Introductory Psychology, Human Development, Educational Psychology, and Cognitive Psychology.

**Briefly tell us about your favorite lecture topic or course to teach.** I love bringing my students this insight from cognitive psychology: *We learn more easily when we already know a lot.* It's almost a catch-22. People with rich background knowledge use it to contextualize new ideas, facts and skills. Those without it are left behind.

It's why I find teaching at Middlesex an especially high calling – as professors, we're asked to advance our students' foundational expertise within our discipline. If we each succeed, and they leave here knowing a lot, they'll be ready to engage the world in a meaningful way, part of the conversation.

**What's the best advice about teaching you've ever received?** A wonderful teacher gave me this analogy early in my career: *a great class session works like a short story.* It opens with an intriguing situation or personality – some dilemma that grabs our attention and makes us want to keep going. Then a series of breakouts and discussions work like side characters and plot twists to draw us into related problems and crises. It all comes to a head with a final piece that pulls the strings together – leaving a few to dangle, burning in our minds. We come away with the feeling we have at the end of a great book, wondering about the characters, playing out different scenarios.

As simple as this framework seems, it works well for me.

P.S. As Rafe Esquith says, teach like your hair's on fire – give it everything you've got (Esquith, 2007).

**What are you currently reading for pleasure?** Two books: (1) *Dear Committee Members* by Julie Schumacher, a novel comprised entirely of recommendation letters from a beleaguered professor in a small college -- I think you'd like it. (2) *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortland – a deep reflective look at the character of Christ.