

CELT Newsletter: May 2022

Dear CELT Colleagues,

We hope that you have a smooth end to the Spring semester!

The CELT Executive Board is working on plans for the last week in August and the 2022-2023 academic year, and we want to hear from you!

Developing a workshop (on your own or with another faculty member) is a fun and engaging experience. Please email us at CELT@middlesexcc.edu with your ideas for workshops for the upcoming year.

Check out the second page of the newsletter to meet the two recipients of the Excellence in Teaching award and start thinking about who you might nominate for next year. Nominations will be due in late 2022 or early 2023.

We hope that you have a restful and rejuvenating summer, and we look forward to hearing all about it when we gather in August!

~ The CELT Executive Board

2022 – 2023 CELT Executive Board

Director: Susan Altman

Full-time Faculty Board Members: Jennifer Applebee, Adriana Mamay, Shannon Pullaro, Crystal Quillen, Sheri-Rose Rubin, and Stefanie Rufo

Part-time Faculty Board Members: Melissa Ellis and William Lipkin

CELT Mentoring Team: Chris Drew, Brian Lavey, and Clairie Vassiliadis

We give a heartfelt thank you to Chris Drew, Lorna Joasil, and April Johnson for their service as CELT Executive Board Members!

Ideas to Ponder

As faculty members, we spend a lot of time talking about and thinking about teaching. Here are some recent ideas discussed on [Faculty Focus](#).

- [A Nautical Framework for Providing Student Feedback](#)
- [Effectively Conveying Assignment Expectations](#)
- [Nurturing Ourselves](#)

Playful SOTL Research

Not yet ready to commit to a full book on playful pedagogy? Here are quick ways to learn what it's all about.

- [How to Use Gameplay to Enhance Classroom Learning](#)
- [The Process of Play in Learning in Higher Education: A Phenomenological Study](#)
- [Playful Learning in Higher Education](#)
- [Pedagogy of Play](#)



CELT Theme 2022 – 2023

Game On: Playful Pedagogy

We will be exploring how play and playfulness spark joy in our classes and enhance student learning. We look forward to seeing you at our events next year!

Tentative Date for the Playful Pedagogy Keynote Speaker:

Tuesday 8/30 @ 11 AM

Playful Summer Reading

Looking to get a jump start on enacting playful pedagogy? Here are some books to bring to the beach or the mountains to get the ideas flowing.

Game on? Play On! The Surprising Relationship between Play and Gray (Matter) by Lindsay Portnoy

- Learn to bring play's power into your classroom through games

Fully Engaged: Playful Pedagogy for Real Results by Michael Matera and John Meehan

- Join the authors on the lesson-planning adventure of a lifetime!

EDrenaline Rush: Game-changing Student Engagement Inspired by Theme Parks, Mud Runs, and Escape Rooms by John Meehan

- Create classrooms where students willingly step outside of their comfort zones and boldly dare to attempt the impossible.

CELT Teaching Corner: 2021 – 2022 Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients



Denise Rompilla

Adjunct Instructor, Visual,
Performing, and Media Arts

How many years have you taught, and what do you teach?

I've been teaching for over a decade; Modern and Contemporary Art, History of Art Survey, and History of Women.

What about teaching do you find most enjoyable? I love being part of a community of learners. There is something electric about being in a room with all these different individuals with their unique personalities and ways of looking at the world. Every time you show up in a classroom something new and unexpected may happen. We are creating meaning, in real time, together.

Briefly tell us about a favorite assignment. My Modern and Contemporary Art students are working on curatorial projects with the theme of "The New American Monuments". Each student has to include a personal object in their exhibition that speaks to their perspective of "America", and many of these objects relate to their or their families' immigrant experience. I've been incredibly moved by their selections and hope to turn this into a real exhibition on campus.

What is your teaching philosophy in 8 words or fewer?

Trust in the power of your own observation.

What is something your students/colleagues would be surprised to learn about you? I was painfully shy as an undergrad in college and had a severe phobia of public speaking, so much so that I would drop any class that listed "oral presentation" as a requirement. As a professor I am now very mindful of students who may feel the same.

What's the best teaching advice you've ever received?

Never be afraid to say "I don't know."

What are you currently reading? I've been doing the Good Reads annual reading challenge for several years. This year I decided to focus solely on American women authors, so right now I'm making my way through Edith Wharton.

What are your summer plans? A research trip to New Orleans to track enslaved women who were sold from New Jersey to Louisiana; a road trip through California with my son; and lots of surfing!



Jennifer Applebee

Professor, Mathematics

How many years have you taught? I am just wrapping up my 10th year as a full-time faculty member at Middlesex. I have taught for about 20 years in total both at the community college and high school.

What classes do you teach? I teach Statistics I & II, Calculus I, and developmental math classes.

Briefly tell us about your favorite lecture topic or course to teach. In Statistics I, I particularly enjoy teaching the first lesson on confidence intervals. There are many applications of confidence intervals, and it provides an opportunity for students to consolidate what they have learned throughout the semester. Additionally, students get to see *why* they have learned much of the prior concepts in the class, which satisfies that age-old math class question of "Why are we learning this?" Plus, I get to include a fun analogy about fishing and nets! This lesson also provides a nice launch pad into analyzing authentic data through both an academic lens and mainstream media lens. Lastly, I try to use this lesson and subsequent classes on confidence intervals and hypothesis testing to convince students to continue in Statistics II.

How has your teaching changed because of the Covid19 pandemic? I have become more flexible with due dates since the pandemic. Students have encountered a myriad of challenges over the past two years so I try to provide structure while also allowing them to submit late assignments without special permission or documentation. Thus far, the majority of students have submitted most of their work on time so I plan to continue with this practice moving forward. As with all teaching practices, I am sure this flexibility practice will continue to evolve.

What are you currently reading for pleasure? I have begun listening to audio books, and my favorite so far has been Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman. The narrator was fantastic! Since it is now the end of the semester, I am currently escaping with to the much more mindless world of Golden Girl by Elin Hilderbrand.