

Keeping Connected

The Power of Positivity

As a new year begins, we look ahead toward a fresh start, potential COVID vaccines on the horizon, the anticipation of spring, and a new semester with our colleagues and students - welcome to 2021! As we look ahead to new beginnings and the incredible resilience we've all demonstrated this past year, we also look to the power of positivity, hope, and the opportunity to build upon all that we've learned during these unique times. Happiness and positivity are equally contagious and represent the kind of transmission we need right now, so let's spread it like crazy! We hope you enjoy this material, and look forward to sharing innovative teaching and learning ideas with you throughout the new year.



The Happiness Advantage: Linking Positive Brains to Performance

TEDxBloomington - Shawn Achor

Shawn Achor is the winner of over a dozen distinguished teaching awards at

Harvard University, where he delivered lectures on positive psychology in the most popular class at Harvard. In Shawn's TEDxBloomington presentation, he says that most modern research focuses on the average, but that "if we focus on the average, we will remain merely average." He wants to study the positive outliers, and learn how not only to bring people up to the average, but to move the entire average up. To learn more about Shawn's study, we encourage you to watch the video below or [CLICK HERE](#) to view.



World Happiness Report 2020

created by Gallup, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, the Centre for Economic Performance at the LSE, the Vancouver School of Economics at UBC, and the Wellbeing Research Centre at Oxford

The World Happiness Report is a landmark survey of the state of global happiness that ranks 156 countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be. The World Happiness Report 2020 for the first time ranks cities around the world by their subjective well-being and digs more deeply into how the social, urban and natural environments combine to affect our happiness. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the full report.

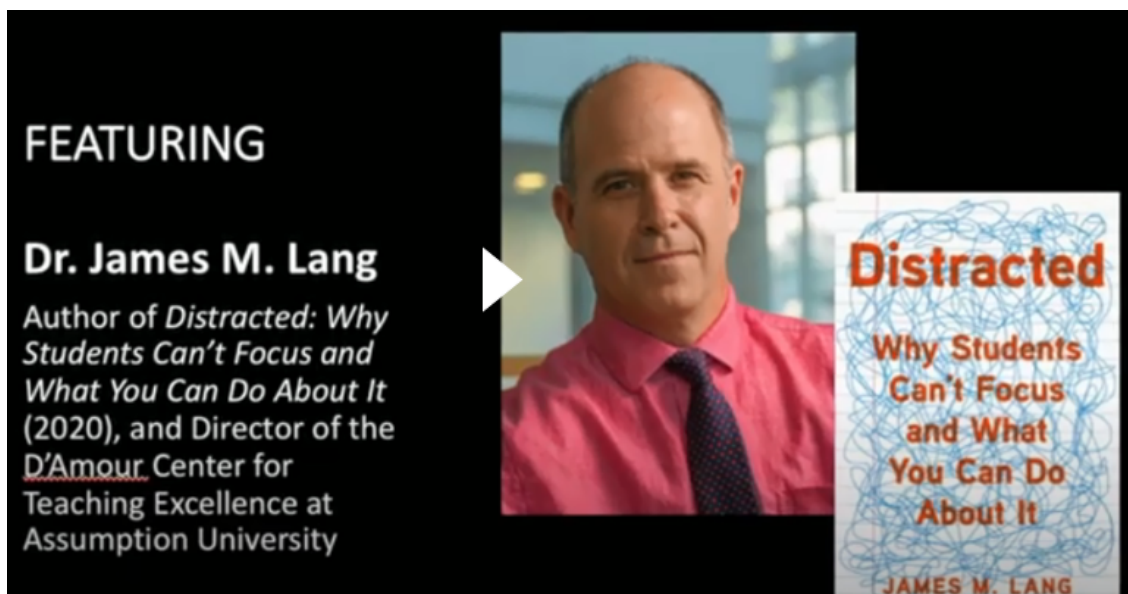


2021 *Virtual Academic Conference* Registration

On March 13th, 2021, Park instructors, faculty, and staff will come together for the second annual ***Virtual Academic Conference*** to explore best teaching practices at our university. From 9:00am to 12:00pm, CST, we will consider ways to create focus and reach students remotely. For more information, please visit the [*Virtual Academic Conference website*](#), or for additional questions, please email innovate@park.edu.

We look forward to seeing you on March 13th!

Register for the Conference [HERE](#)



Upcoming FCI Programming

We hope you will join us for this month's exciting opportunities that allow you to take a break from the daily grind, connect with your colleagues, and ignite your curiosity to learn something new. Join us for any (or all) of the following sessions below.

- **Retain without the Mundane** - Wed., Jan. 13th (12-12:30pm, CST) [JOIN HERE](#) (Note. Please be sure to watch the recording **before** the live session, as it will serve as the foundation for the discussion.)
- **Virtual Coffee House** - Fri., Jan. 22nd (11:30am-12pm, CST) [JOIN HERE](#)
- **How to Win Students & Influence Faculty** - Wed., Jan. 27th (12-12:30pm, CST) [JOIN HERE](#) (Note. Please be sure to watch the recording **before** the live session, as it will serve as the foundation for the discussion.)
- **Teaching Essentials Roundtable Discussion (Module 1)** - Wed., Jan. 27th (7:30-8:30pm, CST) [JOIN HERE](#) (Note. Please be sure to complete Module 1: Planning Class Sessions in Bridge [ENROLL HERE](#) before the discussion.)

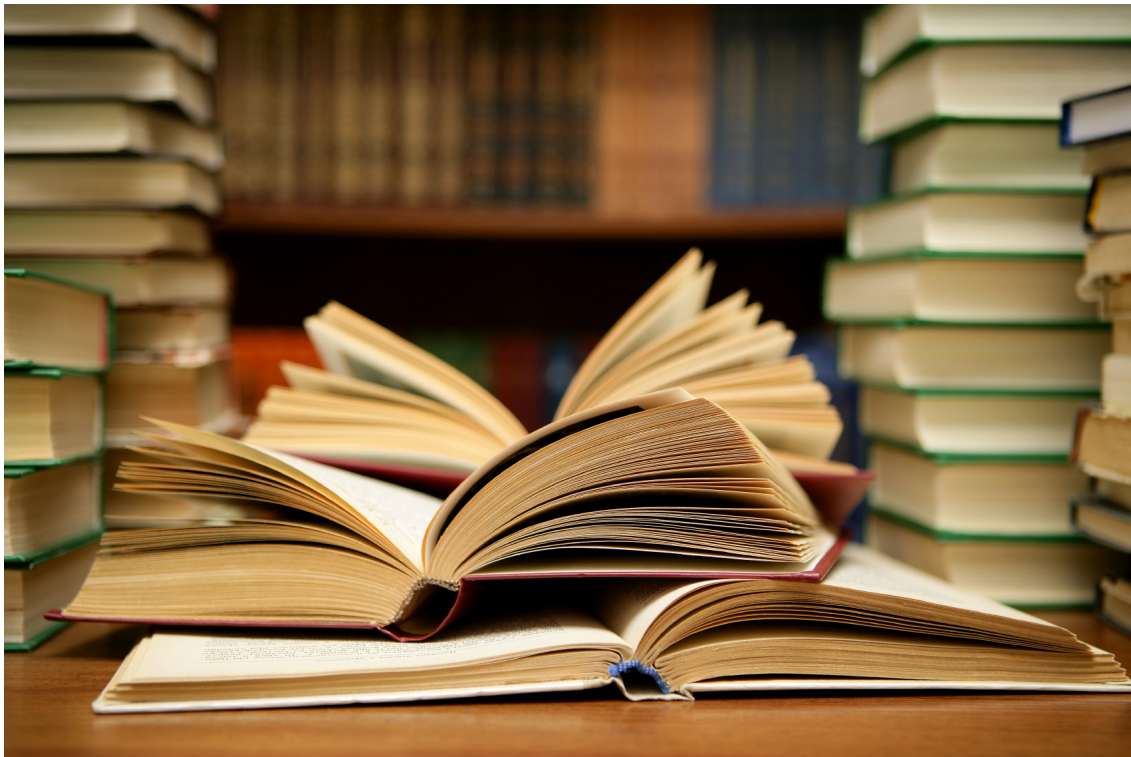


Scholarly InSights

The Faculty Center for Innovation (FCI) is excited to highlight scholarly work published by FCI's academic journal, [*InSight: A Journal of Scholarly Teaching*](#). This month, we are showcasing Ehrlich et al.'s (2020) article, [*Storytelling in a First-Year Seminar*](#), which reviews the value of storytelling in the classroom and how storytelling impacts students' learning.

InSight AND...InStruct Call for Papers

Are you interested in potentially publishing your scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) work? Check out [*InSight's call for papers*](#)! The journal is also delighted to share with you *InSight's* new section, *InStruct*, which provides a space to celebrate and display pedagogical content that demonstrates the practical application of SoTL principles. To learn more about *InStruct* manuscript submissions, please view [*InStruct's call for papers*](#). For information about the journal, including viewing current and past volumes, please visit [*InSight's website*](#); all inquiries should be emailed to FCI at [*innovate@park.edu*](mailto:innovate@park.edu).



iHub (Instructor Hub) Resource Share - 5 Tips for Writing Clear Directions

Have you ever thought that you provided clear directions to your students and your students come up with very different responses than what you had anticipated? If this has happened to you, we encourage you to check out this quick 5-tip video on how to write clear directions created by one of Park's Instructional Designers, Lauren Lovvorn. To view more course design strategies, Canvas or educational technology quick tips, self-enroll in [FCI's Canvas Instructor Hub \(iHub\)](#) and check out all of the on-demand recordings. For additional questions, please contact the [Digital Learning Team](#) for course design, [Melanie Kinney](#) for educational technology, [Jared Flaherty](#) for Canvas, and [FCI](#) for teaching and learning strategies and faculty development.



Virtual Coffee House: January 22nd

FCI will be hosting our Virtual Coffee House once a month. All faculty are welcome to join us on **Friday, January 22nd, from 11:30am-12pm, CST** for an informal social gathering and to discuss a variety of topics - wherever the conversation might lead! To join, [CLICK HERE](#). Hope to see you there!



Just for Fun: Laugh Out Loud Today!

Goodbye 2020, hello 2021! It's time for another laugh from the Holderness Family to see what "suggestions?" they have in store.



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8700 NW River Park Drive, Parkville, MO 64152

(816) 584-6770 -- innovatepark.org

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