Keeping Connected

Fostering a faculty culture of continuous learning and engagement

Fall 2, 2023

Park University is home to faculty, students, and staff located around the country who learn and work in multiple modalities. In this issue, we focus on creating a connected culture - in our classes and on our campuses.

During the Fall 2 term, we have invited both internal and external experts to help us unpack practices and strategies for building a connected culture among our learners and our colleagues. We hope you find these opportunities helpful and engaging.

Sincerely,
Your FCI Team

New Program: Thank a Park Instructor

The Faculty Center for Innovation is pleased to announce the launch of a new program: *Thank A Park Instructor*.

All students will be invited to share their gratitude with Park University instructor(s) who have impacted their learning or college experience. When a student submits their appreciation, you (as the faculty member) will:

> Receive an email notification with the thank you message,
> Be recognized through the Faculty Center for Innovation's website and Park's social media channel(s).

It is one small way to collectively demonstrate the impact each of you make in the lives of our students. For more information, please click HERE.

Creating a Connected Culture with Dispersed Learners & Faculty

Scholars@Work Roundtable

Join a panel of Park University faculty and students as they discuss experiences, insights and ideas on ways to build a connected culture with geographically dispersed faculty and students. The panel will include *Scholars@Work* - Brant Winn, Brandi Handley, and Jolene Lampton, in addition to Sophia Martin, a senior majoring in elementary education. This engaging conversation will be moderated by Anne Accardi to include audience participation and Q&A. Let's unpack what we learn together!

Scholars@Work Roundtable Discussion
Date & Time: November 6th (12:00-12:45pm, CST), Norrington/ Zoom link
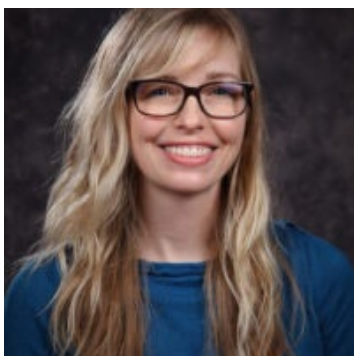
Connect with Your Colleagues: Scholars@Work
Fall 2 Scholar Spotlights
Park University is a teaching-intensive university with incredible faculty who also engage in continuous learning as *researchers*. We aim to celebrate the scholarly contributions in this ***collective digital bibliography*** of all Park faculty scholarship and to profile such Scholars@Work to learn more about each other and the exciting ways we are sharing expertise within and beyond Park University. Congratulations and kudos to all scholars!

Learn About Brandi Handley
Assistant Teaching Professor of English
Along with teaching at Park for five years, Brandi is currently working on a novel and is passionate about creative writing. Watch the video or view her PROFILE to learn more about Brandi's work writing short stories and creative nonfiction essays.

Learn About Brant Winn
Associate Professor of Education & Director

of Field Experience

Learn about Brant's passion for connecting with students who are preparing to be K-12 teachers in the community, and learn about his work in trauma-informed mindfulness, resilience, and much more in his PROFILE and video interview.

Learn About Jolene Lampton
Professor of Management/Accounting
Jolene has taught at Park University for 20 years and her research interests focus on ethics and management accounting. Watch the video or view her PROFILE to learn more about her work.

Cultivate Your Community

We learn best together! It's not too late to join the Faculty Book Club today to build your own community of practice and reignite your passion for teaching. The Book Club meets 3 times during the Fall Semester (Sept 6th, Nov. 1st, and Dec. 6th from 12:00-1:00pm CST). If you missed the first session, check out Anne Accardi's awesome infographic of takeaways from the discussion (see below), or REGISTER here to join the next session.

Also, registration is now open for the Spring special interest groups! Register below or visit the SIG webpage to learn more.

- Artificial Intelligence (led by Marina Layvand) - REGISTER
- Truth or Consequences (led by Candace Windel) - REGISTER
- Wellness Matters (led by Andrew Munsterman) - REGISTER

Perils & Possibilities of AI in Higher Education (Part 2)

Lunch N Learn

Join James Nelson and Amber Dailey-Hebert in the follow-up discussion to last spring's presentation on Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education. In this session (Part 2), learn about the latest developments since last spring and hear from Park faculty (Eugene Matthews, Diana Carmenaty, and Tamera Jenkins) about their lessons learned while using AI in their own practice and the teaching tips they can off you!
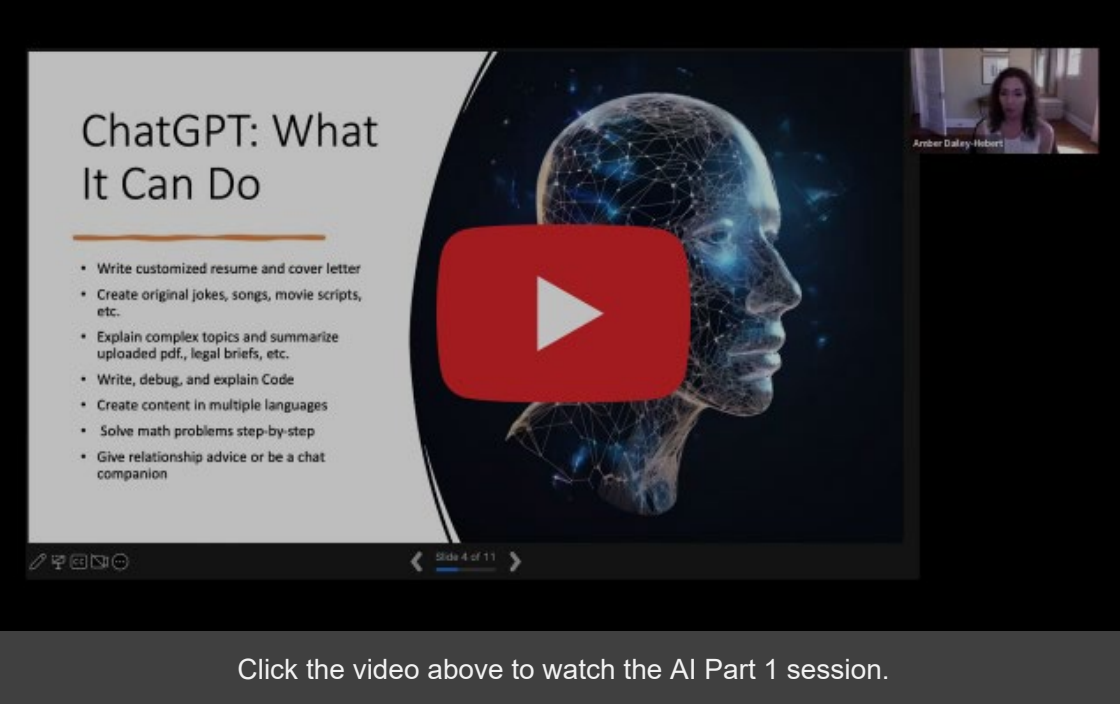
Perils & Possibilities of AI in Higher Education: Part 2
Presenters: James Nelson & Amber Dailey (with featured faculty)
Date & Time: October 25th (12:00-12:45pm, CST) via Zoom
REGISTER HERE

Additionally, feel free to watch the AI Part 1 video below, or CLICK HERE to access the video and additional AI resources.

Click the video above to watch the AI Part 1 session.

Transformative Teaching Practices

- ***New Certification: Designing Meaningful Learning Online***
  Check out the new certification to support all Park faculty who are interested in learning about evidence-based practice for developing an online course. This certification is self-paced and free to all Park instructors with the opportunity to earn a digital badge upon completion and submission of a guidebook. Learn more HERE.

- ***Park Practices: Learning From Each Other***
  We are pleased to announce a new webpage for sharing specific activities and assignments (created by Park faculty) which can be applied across the disciplines and integrated to engage learners. Be sure to check out these activities HERE and to share your own with us to potentially be featured!

- ***Innovative Strategies for Building Community Among Faculty Who***

Teach in Virtual Environments (Schwartz et al., 2018)
This research articles shares practices to build community among remote faculty in your own departments/programs by: 1) holding virtual academic retreats, 2) having hybrid faculty meetings, 3) creating a virtual water cooler, and more. Explore the full recommendations HERE. Or visit this fantastic summary of 6 Strategies for Building Communities in Online courses, packed with great ideas and practical strategies to try in your own course today!

InSight: A Journal of Scholarly Teaching

Are you interested in potentially publishing your scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) work? Check out *InSight's* Call for Papers or view the current and past editions of *InSight* HERE. Also, you can now follow us on LinkedIn and Facebook!

This term, we showcase Danley et al.'s (2016) article, *Exit Tickets Open the Door to University Learning,* which was recently referenced in Mowreader's (2023) Inside Higher Ed article.