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Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 1:19:23 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: CATL

To: Jill McSweeney



Happy New Year and welcome to 2026! As we begin Winter Term and look ahead to Spring, CATL is here to support your teaching with resources, consultations, and ideas. This academic year marks 20 years of CATL supporting teaching and learning at Elon, and 2026 offers continued opportunities for collaboration.

Read on for exciting happenings in the world of CATL!

CATL January Updates

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Spring Course Refresh

Wednesday, January 14 & Thursday, January 15 | 9:00am-3:00pm | Belk Library 113 | [Register](#)

Start the new semester with fresh ideas and renewed focus. Join Becky Kloepper (Teaching and Learning Technologies) and Marna Winter (CATL) for a two-day Course Refresh designed to help you prepare and enhance your Spring 2026 courses.

Each day includes morning and afternoon sessions featuring a brief grounding presentation on the session topic, followed by dedicated time to apply new strategies, revise materials, and receive feedback and consultation.

Whether you're updating your course design, refining assignments, or curious about a new tech tool, our goal is to help you start the semester strong.

Winter Term CATL Office Hours

Looking to add something new to your spring courses or hoping to debrief after a busy Winter Term? We're here to support you!

CATL will be hosting Winter Term open office hours, and we welcome you to stop by for informal consultations and conversations at the Oak House on the dates and times listed below. If those times don't fit your schedule, please feel free to reach out—We're always happy to set up an individual appointment. Hope to see you there!

- Tuesday Jan. 6th 9-11am
- Wednesday, Jan. 7th 12-3pm
- Tuesday, Jan. 20th 9-11am
- Wednesday, Jan. 21st 12-3:00pm

Wellness by Design: The Wellness Pedagogy Lab

Join us for a three-part wellness pedagogy collaboration with Dr. Svetlana Nepocatych, Dr. Danielle Lake, & Dr. Jill McSweeney. This series is designed to support reflection, connection, and meaningful changes to your teaching that prioritize both student and faculty well-being.

Date/Time:

- **Wednesday, Feb 4, 3:45 - 5:15** (Center for Design Thinking)
- **Wednesday, March 18, 4:00 - 5:00** (The Oak House)
- **Wednesday, April 22, 3:45 - 5:15** (Center for Design Thinking)

You may [register](#) for one or all sessions, though we encourage full participation to help build a strong, supportive community.

- **Session 1:** A 90-minute workshop focused on reflecting on wellness in your teaching and student learning, with the goal of creating a spring wellness teaching plan.
- **Session 2:** A casual 60-minute gathering at The Oak House to share how your wellness plans are unfolding, swap ideas, and reconnect with colleagues.
- **Session 3:** A 90-minute wrap-up workshop to refine your wellness approach, reflect on successes, and plan for sustainable integration of wellness practices into your courses.

We hope you'll consider joining us in this meaningful exploration of wellness in teaching.

Transatlantic Teaching Exchange Sessions

Join faculty, staff, students, and educational developers from Elon University, University of Warwick, University of Leeds, and partner institutions for a six-session virtual collaboration exploring critical questions in higher education teaching.

This partnership brings together:

- Elon's Center for the Advancement of Teaching & Learning (**CATL**)
- Warwick's International Higher Education Academy (WIHEA) and Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (IATL)
- Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence (LITE)

Each session features a short presentation from one of the partner institutions, followed by facilitated small group discussions and sharing across institutions. All sessions run 11am-12pm EST (4pm-5pm GMT) via Microsoft Teams. Join us for individual sessions or participate in the full series.

Schedule:

- **February 11:** What makes teaching "excellent" in your context?
- **March 4:** Belonging and exclusion – frameworks for understanding and action

- **March 25:** How do we teach for a sustainable future – embedding sustainability across disciplines?
- **April 16:** Teaching in the age of AI – opportunities and boundaries
- **May 7:** How can assessment drive learning – not just measure it?
- **May 21:** Building transatlantic partnerships – what could we create together?

Register for sessions [here](#)

First Year Experience Series: Sustaining Motivation and Engagement in First-Year Classrooms

Thursday, February 5 | 4:15pm-5:15pm | Belk Pavilion 208 | [Register](#)

By this time in the year, students face waning motivation, packed schedules, and growing academic demands. This workshop offers strategies to support first-year students in becoming active, self-aware learners and how to design activities and assessments that sustain motivation beyond the excitement of the fall. Faculty will leave with tools to encourage student voice, build classroom community, and prioritize learning throughout the semester.

Course-Embedded Research Panel

Wednesday, February 25 | 4:15pm-5:30pm | Belk Pavilion 208 | [Register](#)

Co-facilitated by CATL and the Undergraduate Research Program, come learn from your colleagues across disciplines about how and why they have infused course-embedded research pedagogies into their courses, across disciplines and course-levels. The goals of the session are to learn about how CER pedagogies are currently being employed across campus, and to spark ideas about how you might build CER into your own courses and curriculum. Snacks provided. Please register by February 20th at this [RSVP link](#).

Spring Community of Practice: Research Methods

Though many of us across disciplines who teach research methods face

similar pedagogical questions and challenges, we rarely come together to discuss and explore our shared and unique experiences . To build community and exchange ideas, we're launching a Research Methods Community of Practice (RM CoP) for anyone who teaches or mentors students in research methods, in any discipline or format.

The RM CoP will include a mix of structured presentations and workshops, alongside ample opportunities to connect, network, and learn from one another. Together, we'll share resources and assignments, discuss pedagogy and tools, and support each other as we continue to strengthen how we teach research.

We plan to meet five to six times during Spring 2026, with meeting times determined by participant availability. Space will be limited to 12 participants to keep the group engaging and interactive. If you're interested, please complete [this form](#) to share your availability and areas of focus.

For questions or more information, contact Ellen Cline (ecline5@elon.edu), Jesse Akman (jakman2@elon.edu), or Jessica Navarro (jnavarro2@elon.edu).

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GRANTS

Mini Grants (up to \$500)

Deadline: February 2, 2026, by 5pm

Now is the time to apply for Spring Term courses!

Supports course-related student engagement, and can be used to fund materials or experiences for innovative, active or engaged learning.

Scholarly Teaching & SoTL Professional Development

(up to \$1,500)

Deadline: February 2, 2026, by 5pm

Supplements travel costs associated with attending conferences or workshops aimed at developing pedagogical skills or capacity to engage in SoTL.

SoTL Dissemination Grant

(up to \$1,500)

Deadline: February 21, 2026, by 5pm

Supplement fund travel costs associated with presenting research on SoTL.

To learn more about these opportunities, including the link to submit your application, please see [here](#).



Announcing the New Pedagogical Partnership Program (EP3)!

CATL and the Koenigsberger Learning Center are pleased to announce the launch of the Elon Pedagogical Partnership Program (EP3)!

Beginning this Winter Term, eight faculty members and eight students will participate in this inaugural cohort, partnering to reflect on and enhance teaching and learning through observation, dialogue, and collaboration.

EP3 centers student perspectives in conversations about pedagogy and fosters meaningful faculty–student partnerships focused on learning, growth, and shared inquiry.

CATL 20th Anniversary: Did you know?

In Fall 2005, Peter Felten welcomed the Elon community to the newly established Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (CATL), as its inaugural Director.

Reflecting on the past 20 years, Peter notes “Long before CATL came along, a lot of Elon faculty already were great teachers. CATL didn’t have to come in and create something new. Instead, CATL’s work has always been to support faculty in doing the things they want to do in their teaching in even more engaging, inclusive, and scholarly ways.”

Join us over the next few months to celebrate CATL’s 20 years at Elon and reflect on the exceptional teaching that continues to shape, and has long impacted, our classrooms.



Save the Date! Join us at the CATL 20th

Anniversary Celebration on May 1st after the Faculty Meeting!



Beyond Memorization: Strategies for Long-Term Retention

As Winter Term begins, this *Faculty Focus* article offers a timely reminder to move beyond memorization and focus on strategies that support long-term retention. Especially in a short, intensive term, these approaches can help learning last beyond the final day of class.



[Teaching for Equity & Inclusion](#)
[Course and Program Design](#)
[Assessing Student Learning](#)

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