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ELON
UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR THE
Advancement of
Teaching and Learning

Happy Fall!

We hope everyone has had an amazing first few weeks of the academic year. We can't believe that September is almost over! Whether you are approaching mid-semester or beginning a new semester in your curriculum, we wanted to share upcoming CATL programming and supports to help you in your teaching practice.

As always, please reach out to CATL at catl@elon.edu for consultation, collaboration, and support.

CATL Fall Programming & More

Learn more about upcoming CATL offerings.

Understanding Our First-Year Students: Supporting First-Year Students Through the Mid-Semester Slump

Thursday, October 2nd, 4:15 – 5:15pm, Belk Library 205 | [Register](#)

As the energy of the new semester fades, many first-year students begin to face challenges with motivation, wellness, and academic demands. This session will explore how faculty can create classroom environments that support students' well-being, executive functioning, and decision-making skills. Join Jill McSweeney (CATL) and [Paul Tongsri](#) (Assistant Dean for Student Success and Retention) to discuss proactive strategies to help students manage expectations, stay engaged, and build essential habits—beyond simply referring them to campus resources.

**This series is a collaboration of Living & Learning, CORE, FYE, and CATL.*

Representing Your Teaching Series: Making Sense of SPoTs

Monday, October 6th, 4:15 – 5:15pm, Lindner 206 | [Register](#)

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPoTs) offer a source of information about students' experiences in the classroom. Making sense of this feedback from students can be challenging, particularly when student responses are inconsistent, incomplete, or unclear. This workshop will help you increase your strategies for making sense of both the quantitative and qualitative data found in SPoTs, as well as provide you with tools for connecting SPoTs with more direct forms of evidence of teaching effectiveness to make more informed decisions about our teaching practices. Join Marna Winter (CATL) and Jill McSweeney (CATL) as we explore ways to contextualize institutional evaluation questions within your unique pedagogical approaches, and ways to use the personalized questions for targeted feedback. By the end of the session, you'll be better equipped to use student feedback as a constructive tool for self-reflection and representation

[Learn more about the Representing Your Teaching Series and the upcoming November 19th workshop "Telling Your Story".](#)

SoTL'oquium

October 23rd, 10:30 - 11:30am, Belk 200 | [Register](#)

Join us for a monthly SoTL colloquium, or "SoTL'oquium", dedicated to exploring and sharing SoTL projects in process! This month, [Brandon Sheridan](#) (Associate Professor of Economics and CATL Pedagogy Fellow) will share his SoTL work in progress!

Don't forget to sign-up for our November session, where we will hear from [Steve Friedland](#) (Professor of Law and Senior Scholar/Director of the Center for Engaged Learning in the Law)!

Are you looking for feedback and refinement of your own SoTL work? Sign-up for our Spring sessions by contacting catl@elon.edu.

LGBTQIA2S+ History and Memory at Elon

Monday, October 27th, 10:00 – 11:00am, Moseley Center 215 | [Register](#)

Join members of the Committee on Elon's History and Memory for an initial conversation about the history of LGBTQIA2S+ faculty, staff, and students on campus. Our goals include initiating the process of identifying organizations, movements, and experiences essential for understanding this history and generating possible methods for collecting and sharing this information. Coffee and snacks will be served.

Mid-Semester Student Focus Groups

CATL is now accepting requests for midterm student focus groups (Small Group Instructional Diagnosis, or SGID). This structured process provides faculty with valuable midterm feedback from students, helping to improve student learning and satisfaction in your course. A CATL will gather and synthesize student input during a 20–30 minute session during the class, and then meet with you to discuss themes and strategies for responding.

Please note: CATL can accommodate one course request per faculty member each semester. Requests for Fall 2025 are open until **October 15, 2025**. Complete [this form](#) to request a focus group.

SIGN UP

CATL
GRANTS

CATL Scholars Program

(Applications due Friday, September 26th at 5pm)

The CATL Scholars program fosters innovative and scholarly teaching and learning by providing support so that teaching faculty can devote significant time to innovative, scholarly teaching and learning projects and scholarship and to make plans to “go public” with the results.



Learn more about the program and how to apply by [visiting here](#).

Inclusive Teaching Transformation Grants

Deadline: October 24th, 2025, by 5PM

Supports teams of faculty developing evidence-based and inclusive teaching practices.

SoTL Project Grant (up to \$5000)

Deadline: October 24th, 2025, by 5PM

Supports faculty in piloting innovative research-based teaching and learning projects.

CATL

SCHOLARSHIP & COLLABORATIONS



Professor Marna Winter presented four engaging sessions at Kennesaw State University's 32nd annual **Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Summit** last week. This work included a session on her recently **published article** on play in the classroom, a session on inviting curiosity into the classroom (see her article in **College Teaching**!) and a collaborative session with Dr. Evan Small on their experience transitioning from participant to facilitator in their faculty-led **Community of Practice on inclusive teaching**!



5 Moments that Matter to engaging students in your classroom

Western students have compiled a helpful guide of practices and approaches to engage students in our teaching. Check out a range of tips for inspiring students,



bringing learning to life, and demystifying assessments!



Looking for more? Check out the Faculty Development Website

Check out the new [Faculty Development website](#), your one-stop hub for resources, supports, and opportunities for Elon Teacher-Scholar-Mentors. The site features a [calendar](#) of faculty development events pulled from Phoenix Spaces, plus info on teaching, professional activity, funding, and more.



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



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