



CENTER FOR  
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

# September 2016 Newsletter



## New & Junior Faculty Social at Casa de Reyes

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Old Town's Casa de Reyes

Located in the heart of Old Town, Casa De Reyes is the ideal setting for USD's new and junior tenure-track faculty to meet and mingle. A special patio area has been reserved for us, complete with an appetizer buffet and refreshments.



Free parking is available in the lot adjacent to the restaurant. It is accessible from Juan Street, just north of Mason Street. [RSVP Here](#)

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## The ARRT of Writing Self Evaluation Letters

Friday, September 2, 2016

1:00 to 2:30 p.m., KIPJ-A

The self-evaluation letter can be one of the most important components of your ARRT file. It is your opportunity to reflect on your accomplishments and challenges as a faculty member and share your vision for your future at USD. It can also help to provide a context for any potential concerns.



This presentation will provide an opportunity to:

- ⇒ Hear from faculty who have written successful letters and those who have read many such letters
- ⇒ Receive some insights on the key components of the self-evaluation letter

Come join your colleagues who have previously gone through the ARRT process to glean some insights from their experience. [RSVP Here](#)

## Fabulous First Friday: Helping Students Succeed by Teaching Them to Understand How They Learn

Friday, September 2, 2016

10:00 to 11:00 a.m., MRH (SOLES) 135

Facilitated by: Dr. Rebekah Wanic, Psychological Sciences

Students come to the classroom with preconceived notions about how they learn and what study strategies work best along with ideas about how to be successful in their course work. Unfortunately, what worked to get them into college may not work to create success throughout college and the beliefs that students have about what works best may not align with what actually does. Cognitive psychology has given us a wealth of research about what actually works best for deep and sustained learning. Come participate in a conversation facilitated by Dr. Rebekah Wanic from the Department of Psychological Sciences about how we can utilize and incorporate cognitive psychological findings in our classrooms to educate students about effective learning strategies and support the success of our students. [RSVP Here](#)



### Center for Educational Excellence Contact & Registration Links

Phone: (619) 260-7402

Email: [cee@sandiego.edu](mailto:cee@sandiego.edu)

Website: [sandiego.edu/cee/](http://sandiego.edu/cee/)

Registration: [sandiego.edu/cee/events/registration.php](http://sandiego.edu/cee/events/registration.php)

## • More Great September Events •

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### The ABC's on FRG's: Proposal Basics

Thursday, September 22, 2016

12:30 to 2:30 p.m., MRH (SOLES) 135

The University of San Diego considers research to be an integral part of the faculty's work, and necessary to the liberal arts education offered to students. Faculty Research Grants are a primary means of supporting such scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences. During this session, members of the FRG committee and past grant recipients will clarify the research grant process and answer your questions. If you are interested in applying, this session will provide important information, including concrete examples and characteristics of stellar research proposals. For a detailed description of the FRG program, visit <http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/frg/guidelines.php> This Event is intended for CAS Faculty only. [RSVP Here](#)



### CEE & ATS Tech Talk: Scalar

Friday, September 30, 2016

2:00 to 3:00 p.m., MRH (SOLES) 133

Cosponsored by:

**Academic Technology Services and the Humanities Center**



Scalar is a free, open source authoring and publishing platform that's designed to make it easy for authors to write long-form, born-digital scholarship online. Scalar enables users to assemble media from multiple sources and juxtapose them with their own writing in a variety of ways, with minimal technical expertise required.

Join us as Paul Evans, Humanities Center Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Humanities, provides us with an introduction to how Scalar works, and demonstrates how it can be used to transform your classroom teaching and scholarly communication. [RSVP Here](#)

### CEE Faculty Writing Retreats are Back for the Fall!

Cosponsored by:

**femSTEM Faculty Cohort**

Monday, September 12, 2016

1:00 to 4:00 p.m., KIPJ Manchester Boardroom

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

9:00 am to 12:00 p.m., KIPJ Manchester Boardroom

Thursday, November 3, 2016

1:00 to 4:00 p.m., KIPJ Manchester Boardroom



Back by popular demand—The Center for Educational Excellence and *femSTEM* Faculty Cohort have organized a private space to foster the writing productivity for **ALL** interested faculty. The aim is to assign a block of time that will help faculty incorporate writing into their schedules. The format for these sessions is for faculty to work quietly on their own items, with plenty of coffee and snacks provided. Occurring once a month, this will be the first of three retreats this Fall. [RSVP Here](#)

## FALL CORE WORKSHOP SERIES

This is the final year before implementation of the new core curriculum. Last year we hosted a series of course design workshops that helped faculty revamp their course syllabi in order for them to be congruent with the new core learning outcomes. This year our core workshop offerings will sharpen their focus and each core area—competencies, foundations, and explorations—will have a dedicated course design workshop facilitated by appropriate area task force (ATF) members.

The fall core workshop series will help guide faculty in course and assignment design. Each core workshop will focus on one area of the core curriculum and while departments have submitted course level approvals, each instructor will need to align their syllabus to the core outcomes and the department level outcomes that have been approved. This double alignment process can be challenging and the workshops are intended to help you through that process. After the initial presentation and discussion period, attendees will work on their individual courses with guided feedback from members of the area task force.

All faculty who will be submitting courses for core approval are strongly encouraged to attend all workshops appropriate to their courses and field of study. Faculty should bring their laptops and course syllabi to each workshop attended.

### Core Workshop Calendar:

September 16	<b>Oral Communication</b> 10:30am-12pm, MRH 135 <b>Science &amp; Technological Inquiry</b> 1:00-3:00pm, MRH 135  <b>Quantitative Reasoning</b> 3:00-5:00pm, MRH 135	October 14	<b>Advanced Writing</b> 10:00am-12pm, MRH 135  <b>Ethics</b> 1:00-3:00pm, MRH 135  <b>First Year Writing</b> 3:00-5:00pm, MRH 135
September 23	<b>Integration</b> 10:00am-12:pm, MRH 135  <b>Artistic Inquiry</b> 1:00-3:00pm, MRH 135	October 28	<b>Literary Inquiry</b> 10:00am-12pm, MRH 135
September 29	<b>Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (Domestic)</b> 12:15-2:15pm, KIPJ-G	November 17	<b>Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (Global)</b> 12:15-2:15pm, KIPJ-C
September 30	<b>Social &amp; Behavioral Inquiry</b> 10:00am-12:pm, MRH 135  <b>Historical Inquiry/Critical Thinking</b> 3:00-5:00pm, MRH 135		
October 7	<b>First Year Writing</b> 1:00-3:00pm, MRH 135		

## From the Director's Chair—Welcome Back

The CEE staff want to welcome everyone back. This summer we ran a series of successful workshops on Team-Based Learning, continued the Writing Retreats and our Course Drop-In Sessions and Consultations. Additionally, we started our first summer book read called the “Slow Professor.” Inspired by the book, a group of faculty held engaging discussions on themes such as the culture of busyness in academia and the consequences of the corporatization of higher education. Our Adjunct and New Faculty Orientations helped provide an introduction to the culture of teaching and learning at USD and the core values of our institution. The end of summer and beginning of the new academic year will be bitter-sweet. We are also saying goodbye to our Associate Director Alyson Ma who has moved on to chair the Economics department in the School of Business. Alyson has played a pivotal role in moving the CEE forward and we have been able to accomplish great strides in our online resource offerings. We have benefited greatly from Alyson’s dedication and expertise and she will be greatly missed.

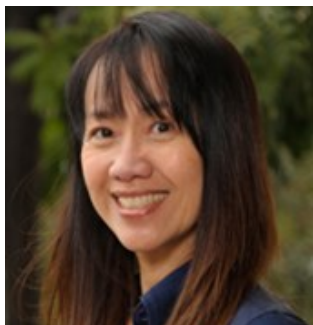


As we start another academic year at USD, I am excited to work with the fantastic faculty and staff and we at the CEE have been working hard through the summer to design many programs along with all our wonderful collaborators. Our goal is to help support the learning environment at USD and to celebrate all the innovative and engaging work that our faculty are doing to educate and ensure the success of all students at our institution. This year, we will be highlighting the science of learning in our Fabulous First Fridays pedagogical discussions. Neuroscience and cognitive psychology have provided educators with a wealth of research to help support methods that strengthen learning and we will be focusing on how the results of these studies can be implemented in our classrooms. Keep a look out for our monthly Tech Talks as well as our Inclusive Education Series. I am just scratching the surface for all the educational programming we have planned.

So we welcome you all to come visit us at our new office at Camino 1F and say hello –  
Our Doors Are Open!

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## The CEE Bids Farewell to Alyson Ma



The Center for Educational Excellence bids farewell to Alyson Ma after one great year of service to the center as Associate Director. Alyson will go on to chair the Department of Economics in the School of Business. We appreciate all the wonderful work that Alyson accomplished during her time at the CEE and she will be greatly missed. Alyson will still be around to help support and work with the CEE. The CEE wishes Alyson the best of luck her new role!

## The CEE is Proud to Welcome our New Associate Director for Faculty Development, Kristin Scialabba-Bartholomae

The CEE is pleased to welcome Kristin Scialabba Bartholomae, who will be joining our team as our new associate director to support and facilitate excellence in teaching at USD. To this end, her new position will focus on collaborating with USD's faculty to ensure that the rich insights they have gained from course planning, preparation, curriculum development, and student engagement are illuminated and incorporated into a new series of developmental and professional initiatives offered by the CEE.



By way of background, Kristin is a former admission counselor for Fordham University where her specialty was to focus on digital technology as a communication strategy for recruitment. Before coming to USD, she was a researcher for CNN in support of multicultural perspectives in news stories. As an adjunct instructor for USD, Kristin has been privileged to teach a range of undergraduate courses including Media Studies, Media Writing, Public Speaking, and Human Communication.

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## The CEE is Proud to Welcome our New Adjunct Faculty Liaison, Ryan Scrimger



The CEE is pleased to welcome Ryan Beattie Scrimger, MFA, who will be joining our team as an adjunct faculty liaison to support and facilitate excellence in teaching at USD. To this end, her new position will focus on engaging and collaborating with adjunct faculty to ensure their success here at USD.

Ryan is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Departments of Theatre and Music where she teaches Acting for Musical Theatre, Theatre Entrepreneurship, Theatre and Society, Acting, Opera Workshop, Voice and Speech, and directs plays and musicals. A theatre professional for over 30 years, Professor Scrimger brings her expertise in musicianship and movement, acting and audition techniques, voice training, career coaching, performance of classic, historical and contemporary literature, and arts integration in society and education. Ryan integrates the theatre skills of curiosity, detailed interrogation, exploration, collaboration, and decision-making into "real-world" settings to increase goal success.

If you see Ryan around campus, please give her a big and exciting welcome to the CEE!

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**A NOTE FROM OUR NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,  
KRISTIN SCIALABBA-BARTHOLOMAE**

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**The BIGGER Picture: Sharing a Perspective on Teaching**



Teaching is a lot like completing a puzzle. You have to build a framework, you have to come at it from different angles, and most important of all, you have to recognize that you cannot force the pieces to fit. The key thing to recognize is that the process takes time. One missing piece can literally drive you crazy (taunting and tempting you with visions of how good it would feel to toss the pieces into the air like confetti), but here's the catch: If the puzzle is engaging enough and if you are able to hold a vision of your puzzle-masterpiece foremost in your mind – you know you'll be back.

The vision of the “puzzle-masterpiece” is just what the role of the CEE is all about. We are here to support faculty in building the kind of curriculum content that meets the best vision of your discipline. We will support you in building an inclusive framework in your classroom by opening up your awareness to many different perspectives, including course design, learning outcomes, student success initiatives, service, scholarship, community building, and inspiring your own growth as a faculty member. Further, we are here to give you strategies that will help students to develop their own creativity and critical thinking skills and other important tools. Our Director, Dr. Sandra Sgoutas-Emch is here to share fascinating studies about the brain and learning in order to help you understand how certain strategies work – and why they are so conducive to learning. Need some inspiration? We have lecture series, workshops, drop-in course design sessions, and a variety of virtual and face-to-face resources.

Beyond that, our Faculty Highlights section of our monthly newsletter will tap into the expertise and wide range of teaching techniques used by our incredible and hard-working faculty with new interviews each month. These interviews will offer another way for us to exchange ideas, figure out how to fine-tune content, and illuminate “breakthrough” teaching moments by sharing the step-by-step approach of different instructors as they identify their “puzzle-masterpiece” moment.

We want to hear from you, too. If you would like to share your teaching strategies – and your “masterpiece moment,” email us at [CEE@SanDiego.edu](mailto:CEE@SanDiego.edu) and we will feature you in the upcoming Faculty Highlights section of our monthly newsletter.



## ADJUNCT FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

### Margaret (Peggy) Daley - Director, Liberal Studies Program

Peggy obtained her PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Alberta and moved to the United States in 2003 as a Canadian Institutes of Health Research postdoctoral fellow at the University of Washington. After completing her postdoc, she moved to San Diego and is now starting her tenth year teaching in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and her second year as the Director of the Liberal Studies program. She enjoys teaching various classes in Chemistry and Biochemistry, including upper-division labs and classes for non-science majors. Team-based learning is a collaborative learning strategy that Peggy is actively involved in exploring as part of the CEE and is using in her own classroom.



Peggy is passionate about teacher education and helping to prepare excellent teachers for the next generations of students at all levels. As the Liberal Studies program director, one of her tasks is to coordinate the courses in the Liberal Studies program to help ensure that future elementary teachers have the rigorous and interdisciplinary foundational subject coursework needed in today's classrooms. She is excited about a new program that she helped develop in collaboration with SOLES; a Combined BA/MEd Teacher Education Program launching this Fall in which Liberal Studies majors can earn their BA, teaching credential, and MEd in as little as five years. Overall, the part of Peggy's job that she enjoys the most is spending time with students, as their enthusiasm is so contagious. When she is not at USD, you can usually find Peggy spending time with her family, reading a book, or out on the soccer field.

## ADJUNCT FACULTY INTERVIEW



### Debbie Finocchio - Director, General Chemistry

**Tell us the Basics: What's your story? Describe a unique aspect of your everyday perspective that impacts your teaching.**

I graduated from USD in 1988 with a BA in Chemistry, and returned here to work in 1992. So, I've been with USD's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for a good portion of my life(!) and have firsthand knowledge of the benefits of being a student at USD. As Director of General Chemistry, I make sure that those lecture and lab courses are operating smoothly from both the faculty and the student angles. The director job helps me to anticipate problems before they arise, or to at least minimize them, and to consider and implement what will be the best experience for the student; being an alum gives me perspective to say, "Take advantage of the low student: teacher ratio and get to know your professors!", "Notice and enjoy the natural and architectural beauty of this school!", "Challenge yourselves in your core courses- your liberal arts education will impact your lives in ways you would not have imagined!"

**How do you get to know your students? Any suggestions?**

I work hard to learn every student's name as quickly as possible - it goes a long way to opening a door in establishing the relationship, and sets a good tone in the classroom. (I am naturally very bad at learning names, so this takes some effort. I try to have things to pass back to students early on, so that I can practice matching names with faces and voices.) I also encourage students to come to office hours early in the semester, even if they don't have a question, just to introduce themselves and to break down the various barriers students have to going to an office hour. In lab and in office hours is where I really get to know students, because you're working more one-on-one.

For full interview please visit our Adjunct Faculty Interview Series [webpage](#)

## NEW FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

### Christopher Carter - Assistant Professor, Theology and Religious Studies



Christopher Carter is a new Assistant Professor who teaches in the Theology and Religious Studies department...sort of. Last year he was one of USD's Diversity Postdoctoral Fellows in THRS, and this more permanent move is something that both he and the THRS department are very excited about. Dr. Carter's teaching and research focuses on theological and philosophical ethics, Black and Womanist theological ethics, environmental ethics, and animals and religion. He is active in the leadership of the American Academy of Religion where he serves as a steering committee member of both the Religion and Ecology and the Animals and Religion Group. Professor Carter is also a pastor within the United Methodist Church and has served churches in Battle Creek Michigan, Torrance, and Compton California.

This semester he is teaching two sections of a "Christian Social Ethics." It's been several years since this course was taught at USD and professor Carter is particularly excited about teaching this course because of its practical application. "Most students think theology or religious studies isn't useful in their every day life. But in this course we are going to examine contemporary moral issues such as war and peace, consumerism, and marriage and sexuality in light of Christian ethical reflection. These are everyday issues that impact the lives of our students and their communities." At the end of the course students will write a final paper where they describe their personal approach to ethical reflection. "I'm excited about this assignment because it allows students to examine who they are, to discern who they want to become, and to explain how their newfound notions of justice and fairness will impact their communities."

Professor Carter believes that while his postdoctoral experience was most beneficial in enhancing his teaching skills, it also gave him time to finish a book project and begin another. Professor Carter's co-edited volume [The Future of Meat Without Animals](#) provides historical, material, aesthetic, and philosophical explorations of plant-based and in vitro food products. Dr. Carter's chapter in the text, "Vegan Soul: Moving Beyond Animal Meat in Black Communities" explores the economic, socio-political, and capitalistic tension vegan advocates may face when trying to market their products to black people. Currently he is working on a book for the University of Illinois Press tentatively titled *The Spirit of Soul Food: Faith, Food Justice, and Liberation*.

## INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGY

### Paul Evans - Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Humanities

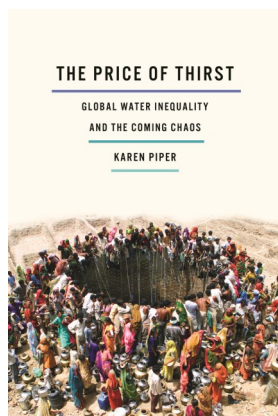


Paul is the Humanities Center Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Humanities. Paul is currently a PhD candidate (ABD) in Medieval Studies at The Catholic University of America, where his dissertation proposal was the first to be approved in the digital humanities. Previously, Paul was a graduate research assistant at the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH) at the University of Maryland, where he worked as a programmer on the NEH-funded ActiveOCR project.

Paul has played a instrumental role here at USD in implementing initiatives associated with the Digital Humanities and the soon to be opened Humanities Center. Paul recently sat down with the CEE to discuss these initiatives and how he found himself working within the budding field of digital humanities.

Full interview will be made available on the [Pedagogy Interview Series webpage](#)





## USD Just Read! Selected Title 2016 - 2017

### The Price of Thirst: Global Water Inequality and the Coming Chaos

By Karen Lynnea Piper

“Imagine a world where water is only for those who can afford it. We’re already there. Karen Piper leads us through the frightening landscape where thirst is political, drought is a business opportunity, and multinational corporations control our most necessary natural resource. Visiting the hot spots of water scarcity and the hotshots in water finance, Piper shows what happens when global businesses buy up the water supply and turn off the taps of people who cannot pay.” Credit: [University of Minnesota Press](#)

USD Just Read! encourages literacy and deep dialogue on social themes presented through outstanding literature. The program promotes active learning and reading within the USD community. Programming includes presentations, book and panel discussions, films, and other events.

USD has [unlimited](#) access to this book as an electronic resource (E-Book). Contact us if you are interested in possible programming, course and syllabus integration, or any other collaborative projects for next year.

## Dr. Karen Piper

### Keynote Presentation Confirmed!

**Thursday, November 10, 2016**  
**7:00-8:30 p.m. in Camino Hall's Shiley Theatre**

**\*Make sure to mark your syllabi and calendars\***



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## MORE JUST READ RESOURCES

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### Price of Thirst Blackboard Organization

A Blackboard Organization has been set up to reference and share resource materials related to this year's USD Just Read selection, *Price of Thirst*

All USD faculty and staff are welcome to become members. If you are interested in having access to this Blackboard Organization, contact the CEE by phone (619-260-7402) or email ([cee@sandiego.edu](mailto:cee@sandiego.edu)) and request to be enrolled. If already enrolled, steps on how to access the 2016 - 2017 USD Just Read! Blackboard Organization page can be found [here](#).

### Price of Thirst Website

A webpage has been set up to reference resource materials related to this year's USD Just Read selection, *Price of Thirst*. The 2016 - 2017 USD Just Read! Webpage can be found [here](#).

## USD Faculty can now reserve the CEE Conference Room

Need a space for collaborative projects, meetings, or to host special or confidential office hours?

The CEE conference room is now available for reservation by USD faculty members weekdays between the hours of 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. The room accommodates up to 10 people and has a built in TV screen for all of your presentation and projection needs. Reservations can be made by e-mailing [cee@sandiego.edu](mailto:cee@sandiego.edu)



## MISSED AN EVENT?

### CEE Blackboard Organization

Don't have access? E-mail us at [cee@sandiego.edu](mailto:cee@sandiego.edu) and we would be happy to add you to the BB org. An active USD e-mail address is all you need to gain access.



Please check the CEE Blackboard for event materials. Visit <http://www.sandiego.edu/cee/events/ceeblackboardorganization.php> for more information.

Come visit one of our faculty consultants to get some advice and ideas to make your semester more successful!!!

The CEE offers free and confidential consultations to all USD faculty regarding any and all aspects of Teaching & Learning and Faculty Development. This may include course and syllabus design, integration of various pedagogies in the classroom, the ARRT process, improving student evaluations, and so much more.

Faculty are welcome to stop by during these times to receive advice, guidance, or get questions answered by CEE staff:

**Wednesdays:**

- ◆ 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Fridays:**

- ◆ 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**OR**

E-mail the CEE ([cee@sandiego.edu](mailto:cee@sandiego.edu)) and set-up an appointment today! Please note that all information will be kept strictly confidential.

# WELCOME BACK!