

THE BUZZ: Academic Affairs Weekly Newsletter



Academic Program Prioritization

Data Committee Update: The Data Committee is working on a draft of the operationalization of the criteria and anticipates having a draft to share with the community on **November 8, 2021**. We anticipate providing the community with multiple opportunities to share feedback with the committee. One feedback opportunity that is scheduled already is a JFA on **November 11**.

Steering Committee Update: The Steering Committee collected data through various listening sessions, a JFA meeting, a survey, and work with the Data Committee. The Steering Committee has made adjustments and present the working criteria in the attached document. You can also find this on the Academic Program Prioritization [Canvas page](#). The Data Committee has begun their work to operationalize the criteria and will be presenting a draft to the community for feedback in early November. The list of academic programs to be evaluated during this process are available via Canvas. *See email sent on 10/22/21 from Academic Affairs*

From the Deans

2022-2023 Scholarship and Creative Work Awards: Due November 29. You can find more information about the Scholarship & Creative Work Awards and links to the Department Chair Approval Form and Submission Link on the [Research and Grants Office website](#). Applications for 2022-2023 awards are due **Monday, November 29, 2021**. *Please see the email sent by Academic Affairs on 10/28/21 for more information.*

Congratulations to the 2021-2022 Scholarship and Creative Work Award Recipients: Award recipients will receive a one-sixth reassigned time in Spring 2022 to pursue their scholarship and creative work. See the list of award recipients and the titles of their projects below.

Pedro dos Santos, Associate Professor of Political Science

“I am a Tough Woman Surrounded by Tender Men.” Dilma Rousseff and the Gendered Double Bind

Jean Keller, Professor of Philosophy

“When Your Heart Walks Outside Yourself: A Virtue Theory of Parenting”

Emily Berg Paup, Assistant Professor of Communication

“The Era of “Momala”: The Rhetorical Implications of a Maternalist Ethos in American Presidential Politics”

Christen Strollo, Associate Professor of Chemistry

“Construction of environmental chamber for smog studies”

Masking requirement signage: The policy requiring that masks be worn in the classroom will end on Saturday, October 30th. Faculty who wish to continue to require masks in their individual classroom may do so. A sign will be available on every classroom door beginning on Monday. This sign states, “Masks are required in this classroom.” We anticipate this sign may help support faculty who still wish to require masks in the classroom. This sign will be hung on a hook so that you can easily remove it or hang it based on your own preference around masking during your class period.

In addition, you may visit this website <https://www.csbsju.edu/covid-19/signage> to obtain a sign that states, “masks are encouraged indoors.” We recognize there are some common spaces where masking is now optional but it is preferred by those working in these spaces. Feel free to use this sign to encourage masking in these areas.

Pandemic Planning Committee Update

Update from 10-28-21: The Pandemic Planning Committee has met to discuss the current conditions around COVID-19. We have had two student positive cases in the past eighteen days and one employee positive case in the past week. We have also reached 90% vaccinated for our students as well as our employees.

Because of this, our policy remains as announced on Oct. 1: <https://www.csbsju.edu/covid-19/campus-communications/100121-mask-update>. **Masking will move to strongly encouraged, but not required, in classrooms on Oct. 30.**

Masks are still required:

- On buses, public transportation, and in counseling and health services facilities due to federal regulation
- In our large performance venues (CSB Escher Auditorium, CSB Colman Theater, CSB Gorecki Family Theater, and SJU Humphrey Theater)
- For spectators during indoor athletic contests
- For unvaccinated visitors to campus in indoor locations

Faculty can still choose to require masks in their individual classrooms. There will be signs available on every classroom door that faculty can add or remove to help communicate their expectations around masking in the classroom.

Our Benedictine values stand as reminders to respect all persons and care for our community. As such, it’s important to remember that:

- Mask wearing is fully supported and encouraged for any individuals who choose, and especially for those who have any upper respiratory symptoms.
- There is a higher rate of transmission in Stearns County than on our campuses. We encourage our students and employees to mask indoors when off-campus in order to help protect our entire CSB/SJU community.

Academic Affairs New Hires

Welcome to our new Student Accessibility Services Coordinator: Pam Immelman is the new Student Accessibility Office Coordinator and will be working closely with Tom Sagerhorn and Erinn Hawkins.

Welcome to our new Fine Arts Programming Box Office Manager: Millie Annis is the new Box Office Manager and will play an integral role in serving the CSB/SJU Fine Arts Series, music and theater departments and other campus events.

Integrations Curriculum

Faculty Advisors: if you are looking for some guidance in advising students in the Integrations Curriculum, check out the [Advising Resources page](#) on the Integrations website. This page has tutorials and links to other helpful resources to aid you and your students in the advising process.

Available Courses: As you work with students during advising (particularly the current sophomores), we wanted to draw your attention to two Thematic Focus courses that are being offered this spring, both of which are co-taught and will carry two Ways of Thinking. Amy Grinsteiner and Christina Tourino will be offering MUSC 378, Rock Music and Literature, which carries both an HE and AE way of thinking. Emily Heying and Ted Gordon will be offering NUTR 377A, Native Food Sovereignty which carries both the NW and SW ways of thinking.

The HIVE

System Maintenance: Please be aware on **Friday, October 29, 2021 at 10:59pm CST – October 30, 2021 at 4:59am CST** system maintenance will be done in The HIVE. This will impact the availability of The HIVE. **Downtime of approximately 60 minutes is expected.** The downtime may occur at any time during the time window. You may experience slowness while all imports complete after the update.

There will also be maintenance windows on the following dates with anticipated 60 minute downtime as noted above:

- Friday, November 12, 2021 at 10:59pm CST – November 13, 2021 at 4:59am CST
- Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 10:59pm CST – November 17, 2021 at 4:59am CST
- Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 10:59pm CST – November 25, 2021 at 4:59am CST

Libraries

Please join us to discuss ALOK Vaid-Menon's "Beyond the Gender Binary", an event co-sponsored by Becoming Community, CSB/SJU Libraries and Q+. The first 20 people who sign up will receive a free copy of the book. To sign up simply fill out the form: <https://www.csbsju.edu/forms/E59KVHO085>. If you have any questions, please email Sarah Gewirtz (sgewirtz@csbsju.edu).

Instructional Technology

A new workshop <https://www.csbsju.edu/instructional-technology/technology-training/training-workshops> is now being offered on "ePortfolios for Student Reflection." This session digs into ePortfolios as a high impact practice to spur reflective thinking about learning. Please sign up if you're interested and if you have any feedback on other potential topics for workshops contact Miranda Novak mnovak@csbsju.edu.

XPD & Development Opportunity

Bonner opportunity to incorporate community engagement and racial justice into courses:

CSB/SJU is in the process of applying for a third round of funding through the Bonner Foundation to support the creation of a cohort of faculty who are interested in incorporating community engagement and themes of racial justice into new or existing courses. This initiative will be led by Adia Zeman Theis, Associate Director of XPD and Ted Gordon, Visiting Assistant Professor.

Courses may be taught in any department and may be new or revisions to existing courses. Each participating faculty member will receive a stipend and an additional stipend to award to the community partner or organization with whom they choose to partner. This group will meet via zoom once in December as well as once per month in Spring 2021.

All faculty are invited to apply. To be considered, please complete the following form to share your past experience and future interests in this topic: <https://www.csbsju.edu/forms/KBP38Q47HH>. **Submissions will be collected through November 8th.** Any questions about the initiative can be directed to **Adia Zeman Theis**, azemantheis@csbsju.edu or **Ted Gordon**, tgordon@csbsju.edu.

Faculty Governance

Joint Faculty Assembly (JFA) meeting; Thursday, November 11 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Joint Faculty Senate (JFS) meeting: Tuesday, November 16 4:30 -6:00 p.m.

For more information regarding these meeting watch for emails from jfachairandvicechair@csbsju.edu

News from Student Development

Student Emergency Fund: The student emergency fund is available to CSB and SJU students who find themselves facing financial hardships from medical, academic, transportation and/or other personal emergencies. CSB and SJU Institutional Advancement offices have worked with donors to make these funds available so that CSB and SJU can support students facing these hardships. If you are facing financial hardship and needing assistance, please complete this short form. A member of the Student Development staff will then connect with you to discuss your circumstances.

<https://www.csbsju.edu/forms/4Z4OWUHECT>

CSB Thanksgiving Break Information: The following information was shared with CSB students. If you encounter a student who plans to stay in CSB housing over Thanksgiving break who has questions about meals, please share the following information. CSB culinary is offering meal pre-orders for November 25th & 26th. **ORDERING DEADLINE: Friday, November 19** <https://www.csbsju.edu/forms/0KD4N5TZIG>

How does my meal plan work during Thanksgiving break?

<https://www.csbsju.edu/csb-culinary-services/campus-meal-plans/meal-plan-availability>

If you need financial assistance during this time for meals, please complete this form:

<https://www.csbsju.edu/forms/4Z4OWUHECT>

If you need resources for food assistance: <https://www.csbsju.edu/joint-student-development/resources-for-food-assistance>

We developed this page a few years ago from the work of the food insecurity committee.

Human Resources

Employees Eligible for the Tuition Consortia Opportunity: Tuition Consortia Applications for scholarships are now being accepted for the 2022-23 academic year. If your dependent is considering a college in one of the two consortia programs (TE or CCCTE), please submit your completed consortia application for scholarship to Human Resources - Benefits BENEFITS@CSBSJU.EDU by **Wednesday, December 1, 2021**. Applications must be received by this date to receive consideration.

This list of available schools and the consortia application form(s) are available online under HR Intranet- [Tuition Consortia Program and Tuition Remission page](#).

Please Note:

- Complete one **Tuition Consortia Request Form**.
- Complete a **TE Application form**. You may list up to 5 schools per application form to which you are applying.
- Complete a **CCCTE Application form**. You must complete an application form for each school to which you are applying.
- Prior to completing a consortia application, please ensure your dependent has **applied** for admission to the college.
- If your dependent is currently in one of the tuition consortia programs and will be attending the same college next year, please request re-certification by contacting Human Resources - Benefits BENEFITS@CSBSJU.EDU.

Employees Eligible for the Traveling Tuition Remission (TTR) Benefit: In accordance with the TTR policy changes adopted in FY11, an eligible employee with a dependent entering college, at a location other than CSB/SJU, is required to notify the Human Resources department annually, by **December 1st**, of intent to use the benefit effective the following academic year. An employee's dependent who chooses to attend a school participating in the TE/CCCTE consortia programs must apply for, and if accepted, use the consortia program.

- [Traveling Tuition Remission Form](#)

Employees Eligible for the CSB/SJU Tuition Remission Benefit:

[CSB/SJU Tuition Remission form](#) This form needs to be completed for the student's initial year of attendance and does not need to be completed annually. Please submit the CSB/SJU Tuition Remission form to Human Resources - Benefits BENEFITS@CSBSJU.EDU as soon as possible if your dependent is considering attending CSB/SJU fall 2023.

Questions, check out the [FAQ's](#) regarding these programs may be directed to Human Resources - Benefits BENEFITS@CSBSJU.EDU

The Buzz on Campus

Gender and Work: Myth vs. Reality: An interactive conversation with Dr Sucharita Mukherjee, on the topic of Gender and Work. Dr. Mukherjee will use data to examine how patterns of gender segregation and maternal wage gap have intensified in the past 1.5 years due to COVID. **Thursday, October 28, 4:30pm, Gorecki 120, CSB**

The Great Pumpkin Concert: Come to a Halloween concert, named for Peanuts and Charlie Brown, THE GREAT PUMPKIN CONCERT, **October 29, at 9:00 PM in the Abbey and University Church.** Hear the newly expanded pipe organ in the Saint John's Abbey & University Church bring music to life, featuring: Phantom of the Opera, Stars and Stripes Forever, A Beatles Fanfare, Linus and Lucy, The Great Pumpkin Waltz, & more! George Maurer (piano), Matt Haider (cello), & Fr. Bob Koopmann (organ), OSB. Free & open to the public. [More Information](#)

The 3rd Grand Illuminations Lecture - "Christian Slavery": Please join us for the 3rd Grand Illuminations lecture on **Wednesday, Nov. 3rd at 4 P.M. in the Sacred Heart Chapel Gathering Place (CSB).** Katharine Gerbner, a U of M historian, will deliver "Christian Slavery: Faith, Hypocrisy, and History." Educated as a Quaker in Philadelphia, Dr. Gerbner discovered that Quakers had a hand in Caribbean slavery, a revelation that required her to reconcile her research with the incomplete stories she'd grown up with, ones on which she'd based her identity. [More Information](#)

Jeremy Messersmith kicks off the Fine Arts Series Nov 6 @ 7:30 pm: The Fine Arts Series officially kicks off with Jeremy Messersmith on Nov 6th! Messersmith is an indie pop singer-songwriter who has released 5 full-length records over the last dozen years. A thoughtful, clever lyricist with a tender voice, the Minneapolis-based troubadour crafts songs that are catchy and relatable, and span the emotional gamut from poignancy to whimsy.

Jeremy will also host a Ukulele Play-Along on November 6 @ 3:30 pm at the SBH. [More Information](#)

The Literary Arts Institute Presents Author Kiese Laymon: A Reading and a Conversation: Tuesday, November 9 at 7-8 p.m. Upper Gorecki, CSB Kiese Laymon is a powerhouse of a writer, whose fierce honesty necessitates that readers open their hearts and their eyes. Laymon is a Black southern writer from Jackson, Mississippi, who is the author of the genre-bending novel, Long Division, the essay collection, How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America, and the bestselling memoir, Heavy. In Heavy, Laymon "fearlessly explores what the weight of a lifetime of secrets, lies, and deception does to a black body, a black family, and a nation teetering on the brink of moral collapse." Learn more about Kiese Laymon [here](#). Masks Required.

Resilience & Reconciliation: Native American Boarding Schools and the Actions Crucial for Healing: CSB Campus Ministry, the McCarthy Center, and the IWL are excited to welcome Jamie Arsenault, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the White Earth Nation. Jamie will discuss the movement for reconciliation with Native Nations and the crucial work being done with St. Benedict's Monastery. Joining her is Sister Pat Kennedy, archivist for the Monastery. **Thursday, Nov. 11th at 7 pm in Upper Gorecki.** If you have a question for our panelists, use the link here: [More Information](#)

Do you have information for The Buzz?

If you have information you would like included in The Buzz please submit to this link: [The BUZZ information](#)