

THE BUZZ: Academic Affairs Weekly Newsletter



Pandemic Planning Committee

Community Testing Events and Influenza - 12/14 and 12/15: Prior to winter break, CSB/SJU will be partnering with Ridgewood Lab Diagnostics to bring community testing events to campus. With many students, staff and faculty leaving campus and sharing time with family and friends at home, we want to offer testing so you can safely reunite. [More Information](#)

Booster Shots: The Minnesota Department of Health has noted that waning immunity from earlier vaccines (specifically six or more months after the two-shot vaccines) is a driver of breakthrough COVID-19 cases, so please consider signing up for a booster shot. We recommend using vaccines.gov to find a COVID-19 vaccine nearby.

Update Your Vaccination Record: We've added booster shots to our [COVID-19 Vaccination Record Submission Form](#). Please update your booster information after you get the shot.

From the Deans

Retirement Party: Please join the members of the biology department in gathering **Monday, Dec. 13th from 4:00-6:00** in the President's Dining Room in the Gorecki Center at CSB to honor our colleague Dr. Steve Saupe as he officially retires at the end of this semester. Snacks, beverages and a cash bar will be available.

S/U and incomplete grading update: Faculty governance passed changes to the S/U policy for AY2021-22 last week. *see email sent from Academic Affairs on 12/13/21*

Influenza on the Rise: Unfortunately, as we head into the last two days of classes and finals, we have seen a rise in influenza cases across the two campuses. While the symptoms and impact may vary, there are some students who are sick for a day or two. You are likely experiencing this in some of your classes. Thank you for your empathy in working with ill students during what is always a stressful week. In addition, we make the following recommendations as you work with ill students:

- Please discourage students to come to class if they have a fever and/or are actively ill. This is often a time during illness when transmissibility is at its highest.
- We ask that you work with students to make up work as directed in your syllabus and as you would for any illness or absence.

- It is at the faculty's discretion on whether to provide a zoom option for a course for a student who must be absent. In some cases, it may not be possible. In others, it may be a way for the student to stay "on track" as we reach the end of the semester. Generally, when a student is absent, it is not expected that a faculty member completely modify a class period to meet a student's needs who is attending via zoom. However, if you have a significant number of students absent due to illness and they are able to attend via zoom, it may be helpful to consider modifying the class period to meet multiple student needs. Again, this is at the discretion of the faculty. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Barb at bmay@csbsju.edu.

Academic Program Prioritization

Final Documents: Watch for an email from Academic Affairs on Monday, December 13, 2021 that includes the final criteria from the Steering Committee and the final operationalization of the criteria from the Data Committee. These documents will be stored in the APP Canvas site once they are released.

A Reminder from the APP Data Committee: The majority of the items listed in the operationalization of the criteria document (12/13/2021) will be collected by the Data Committee and we are NOT asking for responses at this moment. The instructions and request for programs to provide information will be announced early in the spring semester. When it is time for programs to provide structured program responses, the Data Committee will provide specific information, including word counts, instructions, and deadlines. Programs will not be responsible for data collection, except where explicitly noted. We will make data available to programs so that errors and omissions may be corrected before we begin our analysis. In other words—please enjoy your break! If you have questions about when your program needs to do what, please contact Pam Bacon before doing anything.

Research and Grants Office

Writing Retreat, January 3-5: We need at least 3 more faculty members to sign up for the January 3-5 writing retreat at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Retreat Center in Spicer. Start 2022 off with unstructured writing/work time in a beautiful location with good colleagues and good food. The cost is free, and all are welcome! If overnight doesn't work for you, come for a day. If you have question contact Karlyn Forner kforner001@csbsju.edu. Learn more and register here: <https://www.csbsju.edu/research-and-grants-office/supporting-research/faculty-writing-retreats>

Innovation Fund News

Congratulations: An additional Innovation Fund Award was given to John Geissler, Troy Fritz and Derek Larson, who proposed to develop and identify funds for a Center for the Environment.

Collaboration Request-- Interdisciplinary Minor and/or certificate in Criminal Justice: Aubrey Immelman, Jacob Jantzer, and Michael Livingston are looking for colleagues who would be interested in working with them on the development of a proposal for an interdisciplinary minor and/or certificate in

Criminal Justice. Please contact Michael Livingston mlivingston@csbsju.edu if you have any interest OR if you teach a course that you think would fit such a minor. We plan on applying for Innovation Funds to facilitate the development of this proposal.

Innovation Fund information: We continue to accept applications and they will be reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis. Submissions: <https://www.csbsju.edu/forms/OMPXL2BOKI>. See complete information in 11/8 email sent from Academic Affairs

Faculty Resources

Reacting Consortium Subscription: The College of St. Benedict and St. John's University recently purchased an institutional subscription to the Reacting Consortium (Reacting to the Past games). If you are unfamiliar with the consortium and their resources, you can learn more by visiting their website: <https://reactingconsortium.org> Our membership is good for the spring and fall semesters of 2022. If you would like access to the Reacting Consortium resources for your own classes, please contact [Shane Miller](#) or [Laura Schmitz](#) so that you can be added to the institutional membership.

Libraries

Library Licensed Course Materials Requests: Please send librarian David Wuolu (dwuolu@csbsju.edu) a list of films you'd like streamed for next semester before January 1 to make sure films are ready to go by the first week of classes. Since most streaming videos are acquired with short term licenses, let the Library know if you intend to continue using a film shown in the past -- they are not automatically renewed. David can also determine availability of multi-user ebooks for your courses. Please contact your liaison librarian or David Wuolu if you'd like assistance in identifying library licensed course materials for the Spring.

New on Book Shots Podcast: Join Kelly Groth as she interviews Malik Stewart, Director of Multicultural Center, at College of St. Benedict/St. John's University as he talks about his favorite book, "Oryx and Crake" by Margaret Atwood. <https://soundcloud.com/sarah-gewirtz-174402520/book-shots-1>

Information Technology

Basecamp Software End of Availability: Our contract with Basecamp (project management software) ends January 2022 and will not be renewed. Microsoft Teams can be used for project management and is included with our Microsoft site license. If you used Basecamp in the past, login to your account and make sure you no longer need any of the data associated with these old projects and move that data, if necessary. Data will be deleted once the CSB/SJU Basecamp account is inactivated. For more details, click More Information. [More Information](#)

Instructional Technology Day—January 6, 2022: This year, sessions will be held virtually via Zoom. Visit the link below for more information about sessions offered and to register! Join us for an informative and interesting day of professional development! [More Information](#)

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<https://www.csbsju.edu/research-and-grants-office/supporting-research/faculty-writing-retreats>

Undergraduate Research

UR Talk January 5: The Office of Undergraduate Research & Scholars, along with the UR Faculty Advisory Committee, invite faculty and Staff to join us our upcoming UR Talk on January 5, 2022: Reparative Equity by Design: Reconstructing the Research and Mentorship Space to Sustain Access for Historically Excluded Minority Students. Dr. Buffie Longmire-Avital, Associate Professor of Psychology and Director of the Black Lumen Project: An Equity Initiative at Elon University, will offer a talk and interactive discussion **January 5, 2022 from 12:00 pm-1:30 pm** via Zoom. We are pleased to share that this event is part of the Becoming Community Certificate Series! Registration is required. Learn more here:

<https://www.csbsju.edu/undergraduate-research-and-creative-work/featured-talk-with-dr-buffie-longmire-avital>

Seeking Faculty Applications for Interdisciplinary Collaborative Grant and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Collaborative Grants - Deadline January 21! As part of Undergraduate Research's Summer Collaborative Grant is dedicated to two specialty grants for 2022:

- **DEI Grants:** Undergraduate Research is committed to exploring DEI in research and creative work. Two lines of our Summer Collaborative Grant will be dedicated to projects with an emphasis on diversity, equity, and/or inclusion.
- **Interdisciplinary Grants:** This grant will fund 2 faculty and 2 students to collaborate on an interdisciplinary research project [More Information](#)

Seeking Faculty proposals for summer research microgrants for a Summer 2022 pilot:

We are excited about this opportunity as we believe it supports Undergraduate Research's goals of increasing access to research and creative work opportunities for students in a way that best fits into their lives while still supporting their growth as scholars. Faculty from all disciplines are eligible and encouraged to apply by **January 31, 2022**.

Details of the microgrant:

- Microgrant funding can be used May 1 – June 30, 2022
- Microgrant proposals can fund a student researcher from 2 – 10 hours per week; you may request to hire more than one student for a project.
- Microgrant funding does not include a student room & board stipend

For more information, please view our website and the official call for proposals! <https://www.csbsju.edu/undergraduate-research-and-creative-work/programs-and-funding/summer-microgrants>

- **Scholarship & Creativity Day April 21, 2022:** Each year, CSC Day recognizes and honors the achievements of students, faculty, and staff who have undertaken significant research, scholarship, or creative works throughout the past year! Presentations will begin on **Thursday, April 21 from 8:15 a.m.** and run throughout the day both campuses. Faculty: As you plan your courses for spring semester, we hope you will consider incorporating CSC Day participation for your students. Room Reservations will begin on **January 28**. Registration will open on **February 28**. For more information, visit <https://www.csbsju.edu/undergraduate-research-and-creative-work/celebrating-scholarship-and-creativity-day>

Faculty Governance

Joint Faculty Senate (JFS) meeting: Tuesday, January 18 4:30 -6:00 p.m.

Joint faculty Assembly (JFA) meeting: Thursday, January 27 4:30-5:30 p.m.

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

Becoming Community

MLK Week 2022 Virtual Book Club: Dr. Chris P. Lehman will give the keynote lecture on his book *Slavery's Reach: Southern Slaveholders in the North Star State* for the 2022 MLK Week at CSB|SJU. You are invited to join a virtual book club to read *Slavery's Reach* prior to his lecture on **Jan. 20**. The book groups will meet online on **Wednesdays from 5-6 on 12/8, 1/15, 1/19, 1/26**. If you are interested in receiving a free book and joining a book club before the keynote lecture, use the registration link below. Books can be picked up between 9 AM - 4:30 PM at the Multicultural Center. Zoom links will be sent to participants after registration. Sponsored by Becoming Community and the Multicultural Center. Find more information about the book

here: <https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/52180106-slavery-s-reach> Sign up

here: <https://www.csbsju.edu/forms/9QOIM56LDX>

Benedictine Institute of Saint John's

Benedictine Perspectives on DEIJ (Save the Date): Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, February 2 and Thursday, February 3** to attend, or have your students attend, one or more presentations regarding a *Benedictine Perspectives on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice (DEIJ)*. All presentations will focus on helping “non-experts” understand what it can look like to approach DEIJ issues from a Benedictine point of view. Guest speakers include Nicholas Tangen, Cindy Gonzalez, and Eric LeCompte. Tangen is a writer, coach, educator, and congregational organizer in Minneapolis. His work focuses on community life, community organizing, social action, and the life of faith through a Benedictine lens. Gonzalez is a 2014 graduate of the College of Saint Benedict and a 2019 graduate of Saint John’s School of Theology. She recently spoke for the 2021 Diocesan Ministry Day celebration focusing on “the importance of co-creating a community that sees, listens, and advocates for one another.” LeCompte is a 1999 alumnus of Saint John’s University and for more than 25 years had led religious groups in the fight to alleviate poverty, address global conflict, and promote human rights.

Preliminary schedule of events:

Wed., February 2: Talk #1 at 4-5 p.m. in Quad 264

Wed., February 2: Talk #2 at 7-8 p.m. in Quad 264

Thurs., February 3: Talk #3 at 4-5 p.m. in Quad 264

Thurs., February 3: Speaker Panel Discussion moderated by Jessie Bazan at 7-8:30 p.m. in SBH Theater. Bazan graduated from the School of Theology in 2017 and works for the Collegeville Institute on two grants aimed at helping Christian congregations deepen their sense of calling. Jessie is passionate about social justice issues, especially related to women, church life, and young adults.

Additionally, these speakers are available to attend some classrooms as guest speakers, perhaps especially in Raven and/or CSDS courses. Contact [Rodger Narloch](#) to arrange.

Benedictine Raven Mini-Grant: The Benedictine Institute is offering stipend support in the amount of \$400 for faculty time needed for their professional development in preparation to integrate a Benedictine perspective into one or more of their courses. The goal is to generate a course proposal that would fulfill the Benedictine Raven designation in the Integrations Curriculum. Proposals will be reviewed and granted on a rolling basis until June 10, 2022. Visit the Benedictine Institute website at <https://www.csbsju.edu/benedictine-institute/mini-grants-for-benedictine-raven-faculty-development> for detailed proposal requirements and application information.

Benedictine Raven Resources: Benedictine Raven Resources is a compendium of video and text resources. Look here for material to use for your class as part of the Benedictine Raven requirement. <https://www.csbsju.edu/benedictine-institute/benedictine-raven-resources>

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](#)