FACULTY / STAFF NEWSLETTER 08.19.24





Work by Aiyana Alvarado '25, Graphic Design.

Upcoming Events

Aug. 19-23 Welcome Week

Aug. 23 All-Campus Breakfast, 8-9 am

Aug. 23 All-Campus Picnic, noon-2 pm

Aug. 23 Opening of ALT building on the Rock Lititz campus

Aug. 26 First Day of Fall Semester classes

Sept. 2 Labor Day; no classes

Sept. 6 Ampersand Day and Club Fair

Sept. 6 Last Day to Add/Drop

Through Oct. 4 *Finding Karim*, the work of **Karim Gavins** '20, in the Main Gallery (see below)

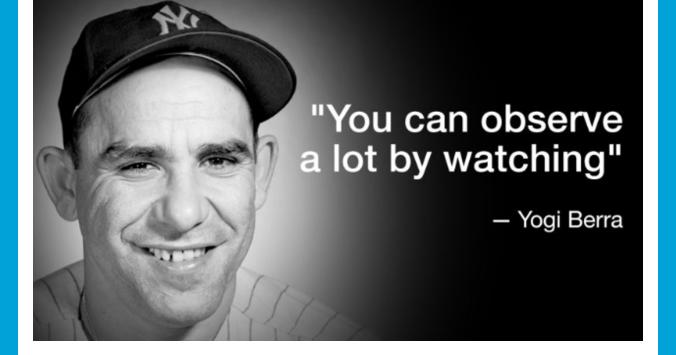
If you have news, an event, or an announcement you'd like to share, please email Jen Kopf, at jkopf@pcad.edu or share in this document.

Work by Karim Gavins '20 in the Main Gallery

The Main Gallery at PCA&D is proud to welcome visitors to *Finding Karim*, the work of 2023-2024 Fine Artist in Residence **Karim Gavins** '20, Photography & Video, through Oct. 4. The show consists of mixed media installation, primarily fafbric, archival digital prints, and drawing. A public reception will be held during Sept. 6 First Friday celebrations.

Free Workshop on Neurodiversity

With more discussion of neurodiversity in education, faculty may wonder how to structure class participation (and group work) while being inclusive of neurodivergent students. A free online workshop will be held Tuesday, Aug. 20, from noon to 1:30 pm. It will be hosted by Sarah Silverman, Ph.D., an instructional designer and instructor of Disability of Studies. As an autistic educator, she has a personal stake in Neurodiversity and also has extensive college teaching and faculty development experience. Register here.





CT&L Corner: Peer observation benefits the observer, too

From **Dr. Adam Smith**, Director of the Center for Teaching & Learning and Manager of the Learning Commons:

Yogi Berra is quoted as having said, "You can observe a lot by watching." The research on peer

observation would take that a step further: you can learn a lot by watching. Whereas traditional peer observation focuses on feedback and development of the instructor being observed, but "Evidence is emerging that the process of observation is just as if not more valuable..." (Hendry & Oliver, 2012). In my experience, instructors learn what is possible, identify challenges they have in common, and reflect on their own teaching practices after observing their peers. This learning can be transformative.

As a key part of the Center for Teaching & Learning's mission to cultivate an open teaching and learning community here at PCA&D, I want to initiate a culture of formative, non-evaluative peer observation. I invite instructors who are interested in observing their peers or being observed (or maybe both!) to fill out this interest form.

While we can learn a lot by observing, we can still learn a lot from being observed. As Director of the Center for Teaching & Learning, I bring years of experience in working with faculty in this respect: being in the classroom, developing feedback (with or without an observation protocol), and having a development follow-up discussion to identify potential areas of improvement. Atul Gawande, a physician, author, and public health official, has written extensively about the many benefits of having a "coach in the operating room." Opening the doors to your classroom can be a new experience for many, or it may feel like opening the door to evaluation and critique. I want this to feel like an opportunity to consider new approaches, identify your strengths as a

teacher, and, ultimately, have a conversation about what you'd like to achieve with your students.

Source: Hendry, G. D., & Oliver, G. R. (2012). Seeing is believing: The benefits of peer observation. *Journal of University Teaching & Learning Practice*, 9(1), 7. <u>Link to article</u>

Interested in a CCE class? Don't forget discounts and community scholarships

Faculty and staff: you can request your employee benefit for discounted Center for Creative Exploration classes for yourself as well as for your children or spouses. Email ce@pcad.edu to let them know the class or workshop you're interested in and they can work with you to get you a special code. Also, as educators, you can request scholarships for students in grades 1-12 for CCE classes. If you know a student in our community who would benefit, head here and complete the request form. Questions? Email ce@pcad.edu.

Hear of gig work, part-time or full-time jobs for students and alumni? Let Career Services know

Help fill our Student Portal Job Boards with opportunities for our students and alumni. They can range from gig work to part-time, and even some full-time jobs.

There is a high demand for work opportunities among our student body in both the creative and non-creative sectors.

If you hear any great opportunities please pass them along to the Career Services Team at <u>CareerServices@pcad.edu</u> so we can connect our students to employment opportunities.

Web resource: The Faculty/Staff Portal

You can find a <u>Faculty/Staff Portal</u> at the very bottom right corner of the <u>PCAD.edu</u> <u>homepage</u>. It links to all sorts of useful information, from retention reports and class schedules to the academic calendar, maintenance and events requests, and much more.







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