

News for Faculty – Friday, March 31, 2023

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Penn State Faculty Digest

The Faculty Digest provides faculty and instructors with relevant news and information about programs and resources that promote faculty success. Watch for these emails on the last Friday of every month (or earlier when there is a campus closure).

EVENTS AND TRAINING

Penn State Forum Speaker Series Presents Derek Lee and Monica Bond, “True Tall Tales from Tanzania: Giraffe Science and Reasons for Hope in the Biodiversity and Climate Crises,” April 20, 2023

Derek Lee is a wildlife biologist, a principal scientist at Wild Nature Institute, and associate research professor of biology at Penn State. Lee and his partner, Monica Bond, live and work full time in Tanzania studying the ecology of endangered wildlife. In 2011, they established the first long-term study of wild giraffes, and recently created a giraffe-themed environmental education curriculum of materials and learning activities that have been used by more than 200 teachers and have reached more than 25,000 children across Tanzania. They will share their journey of becoming giraffe biologists using high tech and big data tools in one of the world’s largest wildlife conservation research programs. [Visit the registration page to purchase tickets/tables.](#)

“Strategies for Class Participation” workshop

Author and educator Derek Bruff will present [“Strategies for Class Participation”](#) in an in-person workshop open to Penn State faculty, teaching assistants, instructional/learning designers, and administrators at all campuses and colleges. [Register here](#) for this session, which takes place on April 13 from noon to 1 p.m.

2023 Values, Ethics and Compliance Training

The [2023 Values, Ethics and Compliance training](#) was released on Tuesday, March 28, as part of Penn State’s compliance training plan. All employees, both full and part time, as well as graduate assistants and graduate fellows, are required to complete this annual training by May 15.

Capital Day

For University Park, Advocate Penn State’s [Capital Day On Campus](#) will take place from 12-4 p.m., April 14, at the HUB Monumental Staircase (“Musical” Steps) near the HUB Deck entrance. Commonwealth Campuses are working to hold “Capital Day On Campus” events at their campuses, but dates will vary so they can best engage their community. Please check with your campus Chancellor or DSA to see how they are planning to advocate.

The new event is an effort to engage students in advocacy and gives faculty and staff an opportunity to advocate alongside the students we serve. Advocacy is vital to the future success of Penn State as we strive to always provide the most accessible and affordable education to all who seek it. Please feel free to contact advocacy and communications specialist Jimi Werner (jyw5254@psu.edu) with any questions.

LATEST NEWS

Scholarly Publishing and Open Access

The University Libraries have [agreements with several publishers](#) entitling PSU corresponding authors to waivers of, or discounts on, journal open access fees. Identify yourself as a Penn State affiliate when publishing to take advantage of these deals. For more information on support for open access at Penn State, including support for open access monographs, no-fee OA journals, and sharing your accepted manuscript free of charge, see [Open Access at PSU](#).

The Libraries' [guide on Predatory Publishing](#) can help you identify and avoid predatory publishing opportunities and other scams directed at scholars.

Penn State Laureate Named

Lori Hepner, professor of Integrative Arts at Penn State Greater Allegheny has been named the [Penn State Laureate for the 2023-24 academic year](#).

Distinguished Honors Faculty Program

The Schreyer Honors College invites applications from interested faculty members to be a part of the [Distinguished Honors Faculty Program](#) (DHFP) for 2023-2025. The DHFP implements the College's mission of achieving academic excellence with integrity, building a global perspective, and creating opportunities for leadership and civic engagement. The DHFP faculty engage with Scholars in an out-of-classroom setting. DHFP programming should relate the faculty member's scholarly interests to issues of broad societal concern, to appeal to students in a wide range of majors, and to demonstrate the relevance of scholarship to the world outside the university.

To be considered for the Distinguished Honors Faculty Program, please send a brief description of your proposed programming along with a copy of your curriculum vita by April 24 to Rhonda Demchak at rrr11@psu.edu.

COVID extension deadline approaching

April 1 is the deadline for tenure-line faculty in the penultimate year of their probationary period to accept a one-year extension to their probationary period due to COVID-19. By completing the online form "[Confirmation of Extension of the Probationary Period Due to COVID-19](#)," the faculty member's probationary period will be extended by one year. Detailed information is available [here](#).

Faculty Senate February Meeting

At its [February 28 meeting](#), the Faculty Senate passed legislation to extend its active term and to change its General Education recertification procedures. The group also heard updates from President Neeli Bendapudi on her goals and wider vision for the University and passed recommendations stemming from the student sustainability survey results.

Spring Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching

- Penn State's university-wide teaching center, the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SITE), offers customized [programming](#) for groups from any campus or college—all you need to do is [reach out!](#) We sponsor a number of [grants](#) and [consult with instructors](#) to discuss any aspects of their teaching.
- Penn State's [Teaching and Learning with Technology](#) (TLT) units, [Creative Learning Initiatives](#), [IT Learning and Development](#), and the [Learning Design Team](#), offer workshops, programs, and individual consultations for faculty looking to enhance their teaching and learning through technology.
- SITE and TLT offer many continuous learning opportunities and professional development resources for Penn State faculty: [Faculty Professional Development Opportunities - Continuously Updated.docx](#)

COVID-19 Resources

The University continues to provide resources to help individuals stay safe and healthy and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Read more about University resources pertaining to masking, testing, vaccines, and more [here](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To obtain comprehensive, updated information at any time, please review:

- The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs [website](#)
- The University's comprehensive [COVID-19 resources](#)
- Previous issues of this [Digest](#)