

News for Faculty – Friday, August 25, 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).

LATEST NEWS

2022 Faculty Exit Report Available

All tenured and tenure-line faculty who depart Penn State have the opportunity to complete an exit survey and to participate in an exit interview. This initiative, a partnership between the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (OVPFA) and the Office of Planning, Assessment, and Institutional Research (OPAIR), includes a Faculty Exit Study, which is published biennially. The 2022 exit study, which summarizes data from faculty who departed in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years, is available [here](#). The results of the study are used to better understand faculty members' experiences at Penn State in order to develop systems, processes, and resources that support faculty and to enhance retention.

More information about the exit interview process, including a list of exit interview officers by unit, is available [here](#). OVPFA and OPAIR are currently developing an exit survey for non-tenure-line faculty, which will be piloted in select units during the 2023-24 academic year.

Hosting a Visiting Scholar?

The “visiting scholar” designation is a privilege accorded to individuals temporarily in residence at Penn State to conduct research or provide supervised instruction in a University facility; collaborate with University faculty on specific projects; and observe faculty instruction, administration, or research. If you are interested in hosting someone who meets the definition of a Visiting Scholar, please review Policy AC01 and visit <https://sites.psu.edu/visitingscholars/> for guidelines relating to the designation, approval, roles, requirements, responsibilities, and privileges of visiting scholars at the University. Please contact the Office of Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (vpfa@psu.edu) for more information.

The Travel Safety Network is Now the Global Safety Network

Global Safety continues to be a resource for you, the Penn State traveler. We aspire to empower you to explore, learn, and thrive in diverse global settings, while prioritizing your safety and security. As part of that objective, we have changed the name of our travel registry system from the Travel Safety Network to the Global Safety Network (GSN). We recognize that the purpose of your travel is to fulfill Penn State’s vision of enhanced global engagement. The name change to GSN reflects that purpose and is

the first step to a simplified and more efficient process of travel registration. You can continue to use your existing login and passwords. Access to GSN is made at [Global Safety Network \(GSN\)](#). Your journey starts when you decide to travel. We look forward to being part of your planning through the [GSN](#). For more information about Global Safety or the GSN, please contact us at globalsafety@psu.edu or 814-863-8788.

Ally Canvas Tool

In Fall 2023, the [Anthology Ally tool](#) will be integrated into Canvas to provide students with on-demand alternatives to digital course content and guide instructors in making all course content more inclusive. More inclusive and accessible content enhances the learning experience for all students, including students with disabilities, and supports Penn State's commitment to fostering diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

Several colleges and campuses across the University piloted the tool, commonly known as Ally, during the Spring 2023 semester. Resources can be found on the [Penn State Anthology Ally webpage](#).

Schreyer Honors College Reviewers

The Schreyer Honors College charter requires that scholars be selected by faculty, so we are seeking more faculty to help read our applications. We have a great need to engage new faculty and desire to significantly expand the number and diversity of the committee to accommodate our applications, which continue to grow in both number and diversity.

This commitment will consume about 40 to 60 hours of time from mid-November to mid-January and will involve reading and rating about 40 applications. Reader training will be made available by video at the end of October.

If you would like to join the committee, please email Deyo Olorunnisola at mzd1@psu.edu by October 6, 2023.

Big Ten Open Books Project

In [partnership with six member university presses](#), the University Librarians of the Big Ten Academic Alliance announce the launch of the [Big Ten Open Books](#) project, a collaboration between the university presses and libraries of the Big Ten Academic Alliance. The first 100-title collection centered on gender and sexuality studies is now published. The works included in the collection have all been previously published in print by the partnering university presses and are now being made openly available in digital form to read and reuse at no cost.

Policies on Religious Holidays

Please be [reminded of Penn State's policies](#) regarding students' requests for absence from class for the purpose of observing a religious holiday. The University Faculty Senate Policy on Class Attendance ([42-27](#)) reminds instructors to provide, within reason, opportunity to make up work for students who are obliged to miss classes for legitimate, unavoidable reasons, such as illness, injury, military service, family

emergency, or religious observance. In addition, the Academic Administrative Policy on Religious Holidays ([R-4](#)) reminds the community that while the University makes every effort to avoid conflicts with religious holidays, when conflicts are unavoidable, reasonable accommodations should be made for affected students.

A Message from the Office of the University Registrar

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) protects the privacy of student education records. All educational institutions that receive federal funding must comply with FERPA. FERPA gives students four basic rights with respect to their educational records: 1) the right to control disclosure of their educational records, 2) the right to review their educational records, 3) the right to seek amendment to their educational records, and 4) the right to file complaints for non-compliance. Information such as grades, GPA, Personally Identifiable Information, class schedules, and other educational records are all covered by FERPA. The following link will provide access to [OUR's confidentiality page](#) which contains in-depth information regarding the university's operational procedures and policies regarding FERPA.

Passings

Andrew (Drew) Tatusko passed away on Sunday, August 13. Tatusko was with Penn State for over 11 years, recently serving as assistant director of World Campus Faculty Development. Renata Engel, vice provost for online education, writes, "He will be missed as a valued colleague for his expertise, thoughtful approach, kind heart, and collaborative style. He will also be missed as a friend."

EVENTS AND TRAINING

Career Services Open House

Penn State Career Services will host an [open house for students, faculty, and staff](#) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, August 29 at the Bank of America Career Services Building at University Park.

Fall 2023 Activity Insight Training

Come and learn some tips and tricks on entering your data into Activity Insight. This training is offered by the University Libraries, Faculty Activity Management Services team. Training will be held on the following days in the [Paterno Library's Foster Auditorium](#) and on Zoom:

PLEASE DO NOT CLICK ON THE ZOOM LINK UNTIL THE DAY OF THE TRAINING.

Monday, September 11th, 9:00am to 10:30am - <https://psu.zoom.us/j/94701101927>

Tuesday, September 12th, 9:00am to 10:30am - <https://psu.zoom.us/j/93133829620>

Wednesday, September 13th, 3:30pm to 5:00pm - <https://psu.zoom.us/j/97579084303>

Thursday, September 14th, 3:30pm to 5:00pm - <https://psu.zoom.us/j/99906931814>

Penn State Forum Speaker Series Presents Jennifer Pharr Davis: September 15

The 2022-23 Penn State Forum Speaker Series continues this fall, with speaker Jennifer Pharr Davis. She will be presenting, "Trailblazer: Hard Earned Lessons from the Appalachian Trail and Beyond. Pharr Davis is a hiker, entrepreneur, author, and speaker. She will be sharing her experiences along the Appalachian Trail, which runs 2,190 miles from Georgia to Maine. She has hiked it three separate times and has collected countless stories and lessons along the way—stories that convey the importance of maintaining vision and direction, of communicating clearly and directly with your team, and of embracing temporary discomfort to achieve the end goal. You don't have to hike America's most iconic trail to gain these takeaways. Jennifer will bring the Appalachian Trail to us, inspiring us with wisdom that will be remembered for years to come. [Visit the registration page to purchase tickets/ tables](#)

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching

- The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SITE), Penn State's university-wide teaching center, offers a variety of [events and programs](#). We also offer [customized programs](#) for academic units from any campus or college—all you need to do is contact the [SITE Liaison](#) for your unit! All instructors are welcome to request a [teaching consultation](#) with a faculty consultant. Instructors may be particularly interested in these upcoming events:
 - [Designing Assignments for Learning in an Age of Artificial Intelligence](#), Wed., 8/30/23 at 2:30-3:30 pm, via Zoom.
 - [Accessibility and Belonging](#), Wed., 9/13/23, Noon-1:15 pm, via Zoom.
- 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](#)

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](#)