DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Faculty, alumnus develop Writing Well Academic Literacy Modules

MODULES SERVE AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Drs. Myrna Nurse, Donna Butler, Brody Bluemel and English graduate Mr. Darrell Hughson collaborated to establish Delaware State University’s Writing Well Academic Literacy Modules.

Dr. Nurse, Professor of English and Director of Women’s and Gender Studies, was the primary content creator for the three Basics of Writing modules. Dr. Butler, Adjunct Professor and English Specialist, developed the Advanced Academic Literacy modules. Dr. Bluemel, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Languages and Literatures, provided technology development and assistance. Mr. Hughson, Fall 2020 English graduate, assisted with the completion and extensive review of the modules.

The Writing Well Academic Literacy modules, available at desu.edu/writingwell, have been developed as a resource to assist writers in the mastery of core concepts of grammar and mechanics and to further develop academic literacy. These modules can be used by students and faculty from any discipline to focus on the drafting and revising of any piece of writing at any stage of the writing process.

The modules are organized into four sections. The first three sections address the basics of grammar and mechanics. Specific topics include Agreement, Parts of a Sentence, Comma Splices, Sentence Fragments, Fused/Run-on Sentences, and many more. Each multi-modal module can be completed in five to ten minutes, with some providing the user a review of the concept through simple practice exercises. These modules can be used as assignments or exercises associated with a class, as resources that instructors point students to when they are struggling with a particular concept, or in any other way that is helpful for students. Advanced writers can refresh their knowledge of the concepts.

In addition to the three sections on the basics of writing, a fourth section titled “Advanced Academic Literacy Modules” guides students through the writing process. Its four modules are particularly helpful for a student completing a term project, a final seminar capstone paper, a graduate-level thesis, or even a faculty member working on a publication. Each module includes a checklist of items that can be used to revise and self-edit to complete a professional, final product.

The campus community (and beyond) are encouraged to utilize this resource!

Click here to access desu.edu/writingwell

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Colleagues,

The month of February is known for several important celebratory milestones.

At DSU, it is a time to reflect on the history and rich culture as we celebrate Founders Day and those who paved the way for this moment in time. Across the nation, we celebrate Black History Month, which was founded by Carter G. Woodson to bring the hidden achievements of the black race to the world’s attention. Then, some also view February as the “love month” as we pay homage to those we love and care about in our lives.

With that said, it is no secret I love my DSU family and those who embrace our illustrious institution. Take a moment this month to show appreciation to those who have made or are making an impact in your life or the lives of others.

I challenge you to send an email to a co-worker, or reach out to a family member or friend you have not communicated with for awhile and let them know what they mean to you. I promise to join you in this challenge!

Sincerely,

Marquita Thomas Brown
Founder & Editor in Chief
Faculty present at the 107th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Colleges and Universities

Four Delaware State University faculty members recently presented at the Annual AAC&U Conference and the Virginia Tech Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy, highlighting the success of the University’s HHMI Online Course Conversion Training offered during the summer of 2020.

The participants were Dr. Joseph Fees, Assistant Professor of English; Dr. Tina Petrovic, Lecturer of English; Dr. Ordner Taylor, Visiting Assistant Professor of English; and Dr. Alexa Silver, Professor of History. Their presentation and poster — “How To: Internal Faculty Courses, Training, and Resources” — emphasized that colleges and universities can develop internal trainings for faculty that are more efficient, economical, and supportive of faculty professional development while contributing to a sense of community and shared purpose.

Eighty University faculty completed the summer training, designed to support the transition to teaching in an online and/or virtual environment. A survey of course completers undertaken after the fall 2020 semester (n=43) indicated that respondents believed that their teaching improved, that their students were more engaged, and that they were more comfortable utilizing technology as a result of the training.

The Center for Teaching and Learning also sponsored multiple workshops during the fall semester in which faculty shared their new approaches based on their Quality Matters and ACUE (Association of College and University Educators) training. Four faculty members shared Quality Matters insight on creating an online presence, orienting students to online learning, institutional policies and effective assessment. Twelve faculty presented ACUE Teaching Testimonials, thoughtfully sharing the ideas and activities they learned that have positively impacted their teaching. These many efforts show that DSU faculty have the skills, knowledge, and tools required for teaching excellence and that they willingly share their expertise with their colleagues.

UNIVERSITY JOINS IBM-HBCU QUANTUM CENTER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Delaware State University has expanded its involvement in quantum science by joining the IBM-HBCU Quantum Center, the nation’s first quantum education and research initiative for Historically Black Colleges and Universities aimed at driving quantum skills development and building a diverse and inclusive quantum workforce.

Del State is one of 10 newly added institutions that comprise the 23 HBCUs that have joined the Center to date. As part of the IBM-HBCU Quantum Center, the University will have access to IBM quantum computers on the cloud, as well as opportunities for joint collaboration on research, education, and community outreach programs.

Del State’s entry into the IBM-HBCU Quantum Center comes four months after University researchers obtained a five-year, $7.5 million U.S. Department of Defense grant to establish a DoD Center of Excellence in Advanced Quantum Sensing (CoE-AQS) on campus.

Read the full story

DR. PATTERSON INTERVIEWED ABOUT COVID-19 ACCESS, SOUTH AFRICA

Dr. Donna Patterson, Chair of the Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy, recently spoke to Geoffrey York, the Africa Bureau Chief for The Globe and Mail newspaper (Canada) about South Africa and COVID-19 vaccine access.

Click here to view the interview
APPOINTMENTS

YAH HUGHES
Assistant Dean of Student Engagement for the College of Business

Yah Hughes has been promoted to Assistant Dean of Student Engagement for the College of Business. In the role of Assistant Dean, Mrs. Hughes will provide leadership, strategic direction, budget management, and staff supervision for all operations related to student engagement services. These include student recruitment, retention, professional development, scholarships, internships, job and graduate placement for College of Business students. Additionally, she will develop the student engagement plan and engage in a collaborative examination of student success challenges, as well as develop ideas, initiatives and formulate interventions that enhance students’ academic and co-curricular success within the college. She will review assessment data and use data analytics to identify issues, solutions, and opportunities in student success and engagement. As the Assistant Dean, Mrs. Hughes will also engage with industry partners and the offices of Career Services, Development, Alumni Relations and Advancement Services to seek student scholarship, internship and career opportunities.

DR. BHUSHAN ARYAL
Assistant Professor of English and Director of the Composition and Speech Program

In August of last year, Delaware State University hired Dr. Bhushan Aryal to serve as an Assistant Professor of English and the Director of the Composition and Speech Program. Dr. Aryal brings to the University a rich transnational experience in teaching, curriculum innovation, and faculty development. His teaching and research interests converge at the intersection of rhetoric and composition, digital writing, and South Asian rhetoric. In his role as Composition Director, Dr. Aryal has been developing a new four-course pilot program that aims to streamline the first-year writing experience across the University, incorporate digital pedagogy, and enhance student retention rates. Dr. Aryal has expressed that he feels confident he has found a professional home at DSU. The Department is excited to welcome him to its team as he now seeks to devote his expertise and energy to the service of the University's historic mission.

Office of the Provost & Academic Affairs

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Your newsletter comments and feedback are welcome and encouraged by the 15th of each month at acadaffairs@desu.edu.

Marquita Thomas Brown, Founder & Editor in Chief

Delaware State University

Share your accomplishments!

Send information on your recent presentations, awards, grants and other accomplishments by the 15th of each month to acadaffairs@desu.edu.