

Faculty Scholarship Collaborative: A Year in Review

Calendar year 2020 was both foundational and expansive for the newly named Faculty Scholarship Collaborative. Not only did the year bring us a new name, but building on our historic strengths, it produced new services and emphases that broadened our scope and refined our focus.

Our new name directly signals one of our primary goals and defining strengths: the collaborative, interdisciplinary, flexible nature of our engagements with LAS faculty. A sustaining tenet of the FSC has been our customized support to individual LAS faculty members in their research and scholarly pursuits (illustrated in part by the first chart below). That has been supplemented this past year by outreach efforts aimed at developing new partnerships and relationships with units throughout and beyond LAS (including the Steans Center, the Center for Community Health Equity, the Humanities Center, and Humanities X, among others) as well as targeted and general messages inviting faculty to utilize specific FSC services and resources at their disposal.

A major focus of 2020 has been the concerted development of a team approach in implementing our services. Here our 4-member staff offers some advantages. Each person has a different and distinct area of expertise—Jessi Bishop-Royse: research design and quantitative and qualitative research methodologies; Nandhini Gulasingam: GIS mapping, data analytics, and computer technology; Linda Levendusky: editorial services and administrative support. Beth Catlett's previous experience chairing a DPU department, as well as her substantial research and fund development proficiency, has been very useful in developing and steering an organizational agenda and strategies focused on identifying and meeting the College's evolving needs (identified among other means through a College-wide faculty survey we undertook which is described below) and highlighting the FSC's strong and unique assets to support faculty's scholarly endeavors.

The team approach utilizes staff strengths in an intentional and collaborative, step-by-step manner. For example, one staff member monitors our monthly "e-blasts" to learn which faculty members click on which funding or other opportunities, shares that information in our regularly-held staff meetings, which produces a search by another staff member for funding opportunities pertinent to the interested faculty member, who then receives notification from us.

Our collaborative team approach in serving the college also allows us the flexibility to respond quickly and directly to newly identified faculty needs or requests. That ranged this year from specialized individual faculty requests to new demands for help inputting data into Faculty 180 and hosting Zoom events in the remote work environment (new services illustrated in the second chart below), as well as the introduction of new faculty and scholarly partnerships (see the list below). Additional professional training, including grant development and writing and training in specialized software programs, continues to enhance our staff's ability to meet faculty where they are and to provide them with specialized and individualized attention. Staff take pride in our agility in rising to and anticipating the demands of the occasion, affirmed by DPU awards this year recognizing Nandhini and Jessi for outstanding service with the Spirit of DePaul Award and the St. Louise de Marillac Women of Spirit and Action Award, respectively.

Those who know us have continued to rely on our resources and services. To attract users less familiar with our services—another chief goal of the FSC—we utilized monthly, tracked e-mail blasts directing readers to specific services (whether specialized software capabilities available remotely through our computer lab or assistance in developing grant proposals with approaching deadlines); began building a

database of faculty interests to target and direct individuals to funding opportunities aligned with their areas of concentration; developed online demos and guides to help faculty maneuver new platforms (e.g., importing multiple citations into Faculty 180, how to host Zoom events, best practices for using qualitative data software, etc.); implemented enhanced documenting and tracking to see who we are reaching and how we can best support their scholarly interests; and met regularly with faculty members, academic units, Center/Institute Directors, and other administrative offices to discuss the most effective ways we can support College faculty collaboratively.

The restraints and quick pivoting imposed by the move off campus were eased by structures already in place pre-COVID that allowed us to provide uninterrupted services, including remote access to specialized software for qualitative analysis for researchers through our computer lab. Our ongoing facilitated writing sessions, Write-on-Site, transferred seamlessly to Zoom where they have remained a popular addition to our quarterly calendar. We have utilized our [re/search](#) blog to list select grant opportunities of particular interest to our faculty and to offer tips for getting the most from software, including writing profiles of faculty to illustrate their use of specific resources from FSC in their work, also highlighted in our monthly e-blasts to all LAS faculty. In addition to producing how-to guides to meet ongoing but new faculty needs, we have also anticipated and responded proactively to unique faculty requests for specialty software or methodological help.

The list below enumerates some accomplishments and activities introduced or enhanced this year:

- Conducted a survey of LAS faculty to identify research interests and needs. Of those who responded to the questionnaire in May, 77% said they would like to receive notification of funding opportunities related to their interests and 55% anticipated an upcoming need for professional services (transcription, data science, indexing, copy editing) within the next 6–18 months. Also worth noting, 52% expressed a lack of knowledge about specific external funding opportunities or funders and 37% said they lacked knowledge about the application processes.
- Sent out monthly e-blasts regarding specific, including time-sensitive, FSC services and opportunities available which we linked to further information and/or guidance. We monitored who opened the messages and who clicked the links through the JangoMail tracking service introduced this year for later follow-up.
- Assembled select funding opportunities aligned with DPU interests, posted and updated regularly on our [re/search](#) blog, along with other research-related information.
- Began compiling a database (via the project management system Trello) of the scholarly interests of all LAS faculty to directly target funding opportunities and other pertinent information to them, in keeping with the survey results noted above.
- Helped faculty maneuver through Faculty 180 and the hosting of Zoom events, supplemented by our production of an online demo on how to import multiple citations into Faculty 180 and an instructional guide for Zoom hosts.
- Conducted outreach within the College through individual and unit-level meetings with faculty members and reached out individually to all new LAS faculty members.
- Explored avenues of further FSC participation and relationships with representatives of DPU units throughout and beyond LAS, including Humanities X, the Humanities Center, the Steans Center, the Center for Community Health Equity, all other Centers and Institutes, and the Office of Research Services.
- Collaborated with CCE and Steans in establishing the Health Equity-Focused, Community-Engaged Faculty Fellowship. The FSC will provide the fellow with

methodological support and funding prospects over and beyond the course of the award. FSC's involvement with this faculty fellowship is intended to serve as a model for future collaborations and research supports.

- Assisted faculty members in developing internal grant proposals.
- Moved facilitated Write-on-Site to weekly Zoom sessions. The series was held every academic quarter including summer (first on-site, then remotely) without interruption.
- Awards for exemplary service were presented by DPU to staff members Nandhini Gulasingam (Spirit of DePaul Award) and Jessi Bishop-Royce (St. Louise de Marillac Women of Spirit Award).

