New Chair of the Faculty Fellows

Lisa Balabanlilar was appointed as the CTE Fellows’ Faculty Chair in 2019. Lisa received her PhD in 2007 from The Ohio State University and is an Associate Professor of History at Rice University. Her classes include a history of South Asia, a global history of imperial pleasure gardens, a history of the Mongol Empire in Central Asia, and a comparative study of early modern Islamic empires: Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal. Her first book Imperial Identity in the Mughal Empire: Memory and Dynastic Politics in Early Modern South and Central Asia was published by I.B. Tauris in 2012 and her second book, The Emperor Jahangir: Power and Kingship in Mughal India, is being published in April of 2020, also by I.B.Tauris (now Bloomsbury).

Lisa has won several teaching awards at Rice, including the Phi Beta Kappa Sophie Meyer Farb Prize for Teaching Excellence in 2010, the George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching in 2014 and in 2018, and the George R. Brown Award for Teaching Excellence in 2016. Lisa was among the founding fellows of the CTE when it was begun in 2012. Now, as the chair of the faculty fellows, she will work closely with the CTE staff and provide leadership on faculty fellows’ initiatives.

The CTE Teaching & Innovation Colloquy

The CTE will run its 4th annual Teaching & Innovation Colloquy during the Spring 2019 semester. A small cohort of nine faculty members were selected through a competitive application process to participate in the semester-long pedagogy workshop focused on the theme of “Creating Strategic Learners: Developing Students’ Learning Skills.” Participants will use Linda Nilson’s book “Creating Self-Regulated Learners: Strategies to Strengthen Students’ Self-Awareness and Learning Skills” to integrate learning skills into a course of their choice and the following year they will report their results to the CTE.
Who We Are

In addition to the professional staff, the CTE is comprised of sixteen CTE Faculty Fellows and four CTE Graduate Fellows. The CTE Faculty Fellows represent all schools at Rice and work to advance teaching excellence through advocacy, collaboration, and service. This year the Faculty Fellows' efforts are organized through four working groups: Love of Learning; NTT Faculty; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and Instructional Support. The CTE Graduate Fellows mentor fellow graduate students and contribute to CTE graduate student programming.

Thank you, Josh!

This summer brought significant change to the CTE as the founding Director, Josh Eyler, left for the University of Mississippi to become the Director of Faculty Development and the QEP. Josh played a central role in shaping the Center since the very beginning and because of his leadership the CTE has become fully established as an integral part of Rice. Among Josh’s many notable contributions are the experimental classroom in Herring 129, the Umbrella IRB for teaching-related research, and Faculty Owl Days. The mark that Josh has left on Rice will live on and benefit both students and faculty for years to come.

Congratulations, Robin!

We are thrilled to welcome Robin Paige as the new CTE Director. Robin served as an Assistant Director from 2014-2016, Associate Director from 2016-2018, and Senior Associate Director from 2018-2019. She brings to the Directorship extensive experience in faculty development, evidence-based pedagogy, and curricular and program development across different disciplines. Robin received her doctorate in Development Sociology from Cornell University in 2008. She teaches in the Department of Sociology and holds the title of Adjunct Professor. She is also engaged in many collaborative projects across campus and is active in residential college life. From 2013-2017 Robin was the Head Resident Fellow at Lovett College and since 2017 she has been a Faculty Associate at the College. In her new role, Robin looks forward to supporting all university efforts to provide a transformative education and to cultivating an inspired, curious, and engaged teaching community.