

**November 2020  
Issue 11  
News Update  
Center for Teaching  
and Learning**

### **GC Journeys Virtual Info Sessions**

Want to know more about GC Journeys? This 30-minute information session, led by Drs.

Cynthia Alby and Jordan Cofer, will offer an overview of the GC Journeys program, discuss Transformative Experiences and Essential Skills, and answer any questions you might have.

One more virtual GC Journeys Info Sessions is scheduled for 2020: the final session for this year will be held on November 18, 3:00 p.m.

[Register for the final virtual Info Session here!](#)

## **Focus on Faculty**



**Dr. Cynthia Alby**

As a highlight of this month's newsletter, the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) would like to share an interview with Dr. Cynthia Alby, Professor of Education and Director of GC Journeys. Dr. Alby co-wrote the soon-to-be-released book, [Learning that Matters: A Field Guide to Course Design for Transformative Education](#), with colleagues Dr. Zehnder, Dr. Kleine, and Dr. Metzker, all current and former GC faculty.

### **What inspired you to explore the topics covered in your book?**

I was inspired by the faculty at Georgia College, as were my three co-authors who have all also been on the faculty here: Caralyn Zehnder, Julia Metzker, and Karynne Kleine. Georgia College

faculty embody what it means to design courses that are transformative, and the book is dedicated to them. When I was teaching "Design for Transformative Learning" at GC or the "Governor's Teaching Fellows Program" for the state, this is the book that I wanted as the text. There are a few other texts about course design out there, but none fully integrate teaching for social justice or culturally affirming pedagogy - we had to write our own!

### **What have you learned by writing this book?**

Course design can be just as meaningful and creative as designing a sculpture, a dance, a house, or a song. Most of the faculty I know are highly creative (even if they don't think of themselves that way), and by combining that creativity with research and theory, course design can be elevated to an art form that allows us to both express our creativity and serve others.

### **How can instructors help students learn more effectively?**

Instructors need to have a strong foundation in theories of motivation, providing focus and clarity through backward design, and the research on human learning. We made sure our book introduces all those topics to help instructors support the most significant learning possible.

### **What did you and your co-authors hope to accomplish by publishing this book?**

We hope that it brings faculty together and encourages them to talk about their teaching and their courses. Bouncing ideas off one another, considering new possibilities, and taking some risks can be deeply invigorating. The book provides a wealth of ideas and a structure for planning that faculty can use over and over to keep their courses fresh and exciting. We're hoping loads of professional learning communities form around this book!

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## How do you see this book helping instructors?

It is problematic that most professors get advanced degrees in their field but often receive very little preparation in how to teach - and yet for many, teaching is at the center of their whole career. So, we designed the book to be ultra-practical. The goal is for instructors to be able to work their way through it and come out with the bones of a new or revised course at the end. And we worked hard to ensure that it would be a valuable support for both newer and more veteran instructors.

Note: [Learning that Matters: A Field Guide to Course Design for Transformative Education](#) is designed to be used in professional learning communities. Wouldn't it be fun to be in a PLC with one of the authors? The Center for Teaching and Learning will purchase a copy of the book for each of the first twenty people to register for one of the learning communities. [Sign up for a Spring semester virtual PLC today!](#) If you purchase your own copy, you can receive 30% off this title at Myers Education Press (see hyperlinked title for web address), using the code MEP30 at checkout (limited time offer).

## News from the CTL

### Fall Semester: Student Rating of Instruction Survey (SRIS) Objective Selection Form Available for Input

The Objective Selection Form (OSF) is open for the Fall 2020 Semester through November 30. Please complete your OSF through [Campus Labs](#) by November 30 for each course selected for the SRIS. The survey results will be distributed after the end of the grading submission period and made available to instructors, chairs, and deans, following the organizational chart for the university.

Please contact [sris@gcsu.edu](mailto:sris@gcsu.edu) with any questions or concerns.

### Fall Semester: Student Rating of Instruction Survey (SRIS)

The Student Rating of Instruction Survey (SRIS) is available for students to complete through November 30. Please encourage your students to complete the survey. We need a 65% completion rate for usable data. To locate updates to your class's response rate, log in to [Campus Labs](#) using your Unify credentials.

Research and best practice consistently show the single greatest factor to increase participation in online student rating surveys is for instructors to express and demonstrate how the results are important and used in making meaningful change. The next most influential factor is to set aside time during studies to complete the surveys.

We understand time to complete coursework can be limited. However, when applicable, if you allow approximately 20 minutes for your students to complete surveys during their studies, research shows response rates improve. Mobile devices with an Internet connection such as smartphones, tablets, iPads, etc. can all be used to access the [survey here](#). Students may log in with their Unify credentials.

Students will also be receiving a notification and e-mail reminders to complete their surveys. Even so, reminders from instructors are very helpful. The student access link does not change and can be used from one term to the next.

Please contact [sris@gcsu.edu](mailto:sris@gcsu.edu) with any questions or concerns.

### Faculty Excellence Award Nominations Now Open

The Teaching Excellence awards recognize faculty, departments, and programs, for their contributions to Georgia College. Colleges select nominees for the awards and forward these nominees to the University Faculty Awards Committee, who selects the recipient for each award category. Award recipients remain a "secret" until the Celebration of Faculty and Staff Excellence ceremony, which will be held during April 2021.

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Keep Up with the  
Center for Teaching  
and Learning  
on Social Media!



Internal college nominations due: **November 23, 2020**

College selections notified by college: **November 30, 2020**

College nominees' final applications due to the Center for Teaching and Learning: **March 1, 2021**

The Center for Teaching and Learning submits the finalist for each award to the Provost's Office: **April 5, 2021**

### Center for Teaching and Learning Collection

The CTL has partnered with the Ina Dillard Russell Library to provide Georgia College with access to books on teaching, learning, the scholarship of teaching and learning, research, and more. To locate more of these books, follow the instructions below:

1. Go to [gil.gcsu.edu](http://gil.gcsu.edu).
2. Search for "center for teaching and learning collection".
3. When the results are retrieved, scroll down until you see "Location" listed on the lefthand menu. Below "Location" will be the link with the text "Center for Teaching & Learning" with a number beside it. Click that link.
4. When you find a book that you would like to check out, take it to the Circulation Desk to borrow as you would any other library book.

We are ordering additional books almost every week. Come and browse our collection! Many thanks to the Library for helping us catalog and share our resources.

## CTL Teaching Tip

### Keeping Students Engaged: How to Rethink Your Assessments Amidst the Shift to Online Learning

Are you rethinking course assessments and need some ideas? Offering multiple, varied assessments in the online modality is a mark of a quality course. Consider the following categories for crafting outcome-focused, online assessments that keep students engaged.

- Introductory assessments or diagnostics
- During or after online content engagement
- Self-assessments
- Reflexivity in assessments
- Writing or oral assessments
- Authentic assessments
- Selected-response assessments
- Group assessments
- Summarizing assessments

For more information, check out [Keeping Students Engaged: How to Rethink Your Assessments Amidst the Shift to Online Learning](#) by Amanda Major and Roslyn Miller.

## Digital Teaching Toolkit

The Digital Teaching Toolkit, offered by the Center for Teaching and Learning, includes an ongoing webinar track focusing on various aspects of digital teaching and learning. Keep an eye out for the complete webinar schedule on Front Page and the [CTL events calendar](#). You'll be able to register for the scheduled webinars using our [event registration form](#).

The Toolkit will also include video tutorials on using GeorgiaVIEW. Check the [Center for Teaching and Learning Faculty Resources](#) course in GeorgiaVIEW for released videos. More videos coming soon!

## Upcoming CTL Workshops

**Engaging Students and Facilitating Interaction Using Technology** - November 17, 3:00 p.m. Explore different applications and software that can be incorporated into teaching and learning experiences.

Please use our [registration form](#) to register for any of these workshops! Registrants will be sent the link to attend the webinar. Recordings will be released.

## GeorgiaVIEW Updates

Course Content Statistics - now includes statistics for last visited, number of visits, total time spent, and average time spent

Total Points Display in Manage Grades - now includes total points for grade categories and final calculated grade

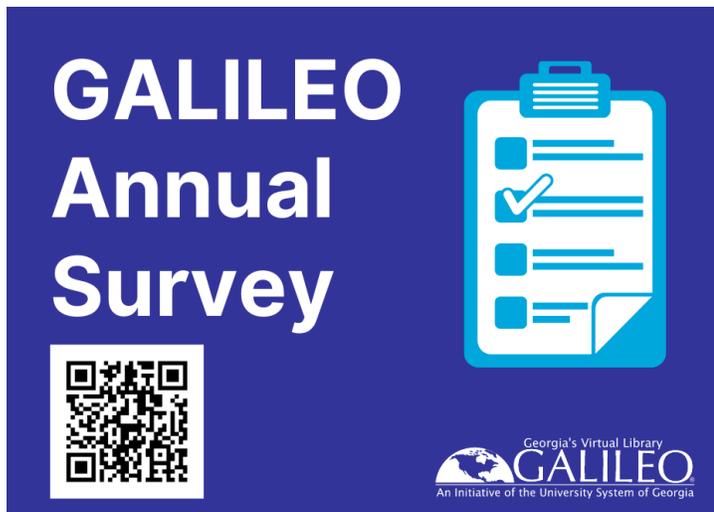
Quiz preview - view a preview of your quiz from the Quiz Builder

Quizzes - students can now retake incorrect questions in subsequent attempts

[See November 2020 Updates.](#)

# News from the Library

## 2020 GALILEO Annual User Survey Now Open

A blue rectangular graphic with white text and icons. On the left, the text 'GALILEO Annual Survey' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this text is a QR code. To the right of the text is a white icon of a clipboard with a checklist and a checkmark. At the bottom right of the graphic is the GALILEO logo, which includes a globe icon and the text 'Georgia's Virtual Library GALILEO An Initiative of the University System of Georgia'.

The [2020 GALILEO Annual User Survey](#) is now open. The last day to complete the survey is November 20. The Russell Library hopes to hear from many users in different library communities. This year, survey-takers will have a chance to win one of two Amazon gift cards.

This annual survey has been conducted since 1996 and is important both in raising awareness about GALILEO and in

helping us keep up with users' likes and dislikes, as well as their concerns and visions. In the past year, user feedback has been critical in deciding how GALILEO would be redesigned.

## News from IT

The Serve Help Desk will be closed for the Thanksgiving break from Thursday, November 26 to Saturday, November 28. We will have someone on-site Sunday, November 29, to help with any issues that may arise before final exams begin. We will be monitoring voicemails and the ticketing system throughout this time so any emergencies can be addressed in a timely manner. Updated Serve hours will be posted on the [Serve website](#).

As we approach the end of Fall 2020 and enter into a time where we focus on being thankful, we want to take the opportunity to express our gratitude for your patience, persistence, and flexibility. There have been changes to where, how, and perhaps even when you teach. Yet through it all, you have shown incredible resilience and an unwavering commitment to the students. Our wish for you is that you get some well-deserved rest between semesters!

Stay safe, and have a Happy Thanksgiving!



**Have  
Suggestions?  
Need Help?**

**Contact Us**

**Phone:  
478-445-2520**

**Email:  
[ctl@gcsu.edu](mailto:ctl@gcsu.edu)**

**Location:  
Ina Dillard Russell  
Library, Room 375**