

# CLA Newsletter

March 2022

Issue 09

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## Welcome to Spring (belated):

by Erin Schwartz

Hello colleagues,

I hope the first issue of the Spring semester finds you all well. This issue is being released quite a bit later than originally planned, and I apologize for that. Several factors contributed to the delay. I will endeavor not to allow the newsletter to fall behind again in the future.

In this short edition, we have a couple of updates from the faculty. I hope you'll consider contributing to the April newsletter which will be released in a more timely manner.

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# Respondus - A Dream Come True, or a Total Nightmare?

Submitted by Liam Duffy

"I just had 200 students take a quiz with zero problems," he said. "If there are any problems, it has to come down to human error."

I couldn't believe it. Maybe that works in another building, but our internet cannot handle it. I think back to my earlier attempted Respondus launches and, well, it's still too soon. Getting students to take exams within Blackboard Learn has its benefits. Not only would professors not have to spend an inordinate amount of time grading, but the students will see their scores immediately. Respondus can prevent them from cheating via WeChatting, searching the internet, or looking something up in a dictionary.

However, the software has its problems. I dare anyone to tell me that their first time went off without a hitch.

"I just ask them if they took the practice quiz," my colleague told me. "If they haven't taken the practice quiz, that shows they need to try that before taking a real test worth points."

Me to student: "Did you take the practice quiz?"

Student: "Yes."

Me: "On this device?"

Student: "No."

Okay, so that problem is solved. But another student says that there is an error message, and he should contact his instructor to "fix the issue." However, there was no issue for me to fix.

Me to student: "Hey, didn't you use this program successfully last semester?"

Student: "Yes."

Me: "Did you uninstall it and then reinstall it again?"

Student: "Yeah, I did."

Me: "Which browser did you use to download it?"

\*student points to an unapproved browser\*

Me: "I think we have solved our mystery. Try again by downloading it with Chrome, Firefox, or Safari."

Student: "Does this mean I can have one more chance?"

Me: No, today you have a zero. And if you don't have it resolved by next week, that'll be another zero. You'd better be glad that these are practice tests, plural, because we need them. You have zero points on a test worth zero points. I'm sorry, and congratulations. Now make sure to have your software working by next week, or you're in big trouble.

\*secretly prepares a few paper backups, just in case\*

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## Common Reads Program Pilot

Submitted by Kyra Whitehead

This semester, we pilot WKU's first Common Reads Program using the book **American Born Chinese** by Gene Luen Yang (available in e-book format)!

The program's purpose is to facilitate meaningful dialogue around a common text and establish interdisciplinary engagement across disciplines.

Primarily, we are asking faculty from all departments to host book-related events on campus. Faculty might also use the book in a class activity or unit, or for an extra credit assignment.

Details and a sign-up spreadsheet have been sent via email. Please add your name and event idea to the spreadsheet if you are interested in participating.

To learn more about the program, feel free to reach out to Kyra Whitehead, Kristen Hartman, Jim Tarwood, Michael Watkins, Jennifer Marquardt, Danny Dyer, or Alfredo Oquendo.

Kyra Whitehead will also present the program in classes on request.

We hope that you are as excited about the program as we are! Please join us in starting a campus-wide conversation about American Born Chinese.

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## Arts Undone: Interview with WKU artist and professor

Submitted by Erin Schwartz

Several years ago, I started a project focused on communicating what I felt was important about the contemporary art world. The project is **Arts Undone** and has taken the form of a blog and online videos. Recently, the project has been expanded to include a podcast, with more media planned for the future.

Recently I interviewed Ferney Manrique Aragon, a photographer, and artist teaching Design in the Micheal Graves College at WKU.

Ferney and I discuss photography, art-making in China, embodiment, and several other topics in our conversation. Please take a listen, and learn more about the amazing talent on our campus!

The next interview in the series will be with horror fiction writer, Paula D. Ashe.

The podcast is available on Spotify, AnchorFM, Apple Podcasts, Google, and elsewhere.



The podcast at: <https://erin-schwartz.com/arts-undone-podcast/>

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# The Bunburyist:

Dear faculty,

Spring has most definitely sprung in Wenzhou! What a beautiful time of year. Before the weather gets too frightfully hot, take advantage of the spring air to enjoy some of the parks and scenic areas of Wenzhou. Of course, we're all swamped with school but all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, you know. And if you need an excuse well just use me! I need to be taken out and exercised occasionally, or I'll very likely fall sick again and nobody wants that. Take me to the museum! Take me to an art gallery! Take me on a hike– but not too strenuous please, I'm delicate, you know.

Speaking of hikes, the walks around campus are starting to take shape and, after you get around all the construction, the views are lovely. My other favorite walks are the park downtown close to XTY and of course the Nantang River park– which has a pleasant restaurant row, boating, and all kinds of nice shops.

Have a happy and healthy Spring,

Dr. J. Bunbury

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## Submit to next month's newsletter:

by **Erin Schwartz**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month's issue!

Please submit stories, updates, introductions, accomplishments, publication announcements, and whatever else you think would be interesting and helpful for your colleagues to know!

To submit to the April issue (which will come out on time, I promise!) please upload your documents to this google folder with your Kean email account. Please have submissions uploaded by **March 29, 2022:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gOooEwS8c5GeaYxVhMmlWqoF5QQI4cSe?usp=sharing>

Past issues can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gOooEwS8c5GeaYxVhMmlWqoF5QQI4cSe?usp=sharing>

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