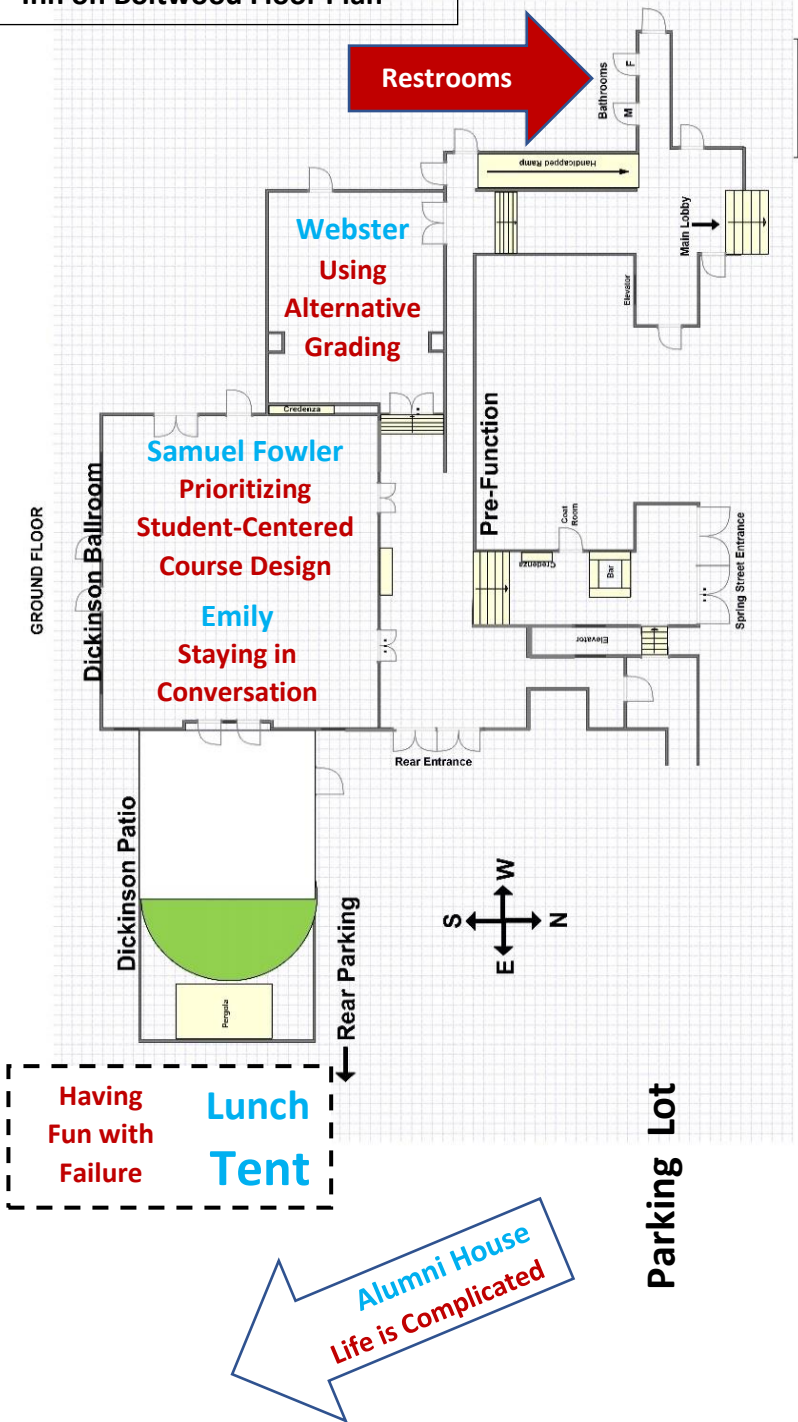




# Provost's Retreat on Teaching and Learning: Rigor as Inclusive Practice

August 31st, 2023  
Inn on Boltwood

# Inn on Boltwood Floor Plan



## Schedule for the Day

**8:30 - 9:00 am: Breakfast**

**9:00 - 9:15 am: Welcome**

Catherine Epstein

Provost and Dean of the Faculty

Riley Caldwell-O'Keefe

Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning

**9:15 - 9:45 am: Community Guidelines**

Suzanne Belleci and Fabio A. Ayala

Center for Restorative Practices

**9:45 - 11:00 am: Keynote Session**

**Threading the Needle: Making Good on the Promise of Rigor**

Theodore (Ted) Mason

**11:00 - 11:15 am: Break**

**11:15 am - 12:30 pm: Break-Out Sessions**

**12:30 - 1:15 pm: Lunch (Inn on Boltwood Tent)**

**1:15 - 2:30 pm: Panel**

**2:30 - 2:45 pm: Break**

**2:45 - 4:00 pm: Keynote Session**

**Calling In: An Inclusive Practice for Building a Rigorous  
Intellectual Community**

Loretta Ross

**4:00 pm: Reception (Alumni House)**

## Keynote Speakers

### Loretta Ross

Loretta J. Ross is an activist, public intellectual, scholar, the 2022 recipient of the MacArthur Foundation "Genius" award and an Associate Professor at Smith College. She has a passion for innovating creative imagining about global human rights and social justice issues and started her career in activism



and social change in the 1970s. In 1978, she was the third executive director for DC Rape Crisis Center, the first rape crisis center in the country. This was her entry point into the women's movement where she learned about women's human rights, reproductive justice, white supremacy, and women of color organizing. Through her organizing she helped launch the movement to end violence against women that has evolved into today's #MeToo movement. Throughout her 50-year career, she has worked with the National Football League Players' Association, the National Organization for Women (NOW), the National Black Women's Health Project, the Center for Democratic Renewal (National Anti-Klan Network), the National Center for Human Rights Education, and SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective.

Loretta retired as an organizer in 2012 to teach and follow her passion to educate. In 1996, she founded the first center in the U.S. to innovate creative human rights education for all students transforming social justice issues to be more collaborative and less divisive. In her work *Calling In the Calling Out Culture*, she transforms how people can overcome political differences to use empathy and respect to guide difficult conversations. In 2023, Loretta was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.



## Theodore Mason

Ted Mason is a Professor of English; Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Senior Adviser to the President; and Chief Diversity Officer at Kenyon College where he has been on the faculty since 1989. Ted is a scholar of African American literature and culture. As a teacher and scholar, he is particularly interested in how narrative can foster a

sense of cultural belonging and create an effective counter-history. He is also a transformative leader in higher education as well as in diversity, equity, and inclusion. Ted has chaired the English department and has directed the program in African Diaspora Studies. In addition, he served a term as Kenyon's John B. McCoy-Bank One Distinguished Teaching Professor and has been a Teagle Foundation Teaching Fellow for the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA). Beyond Kenyon, he has been President of the International Society for the Study of Narrative Literature, as well as President of the Associated Departments of English. He is currently Co-President and Co-Chair of the Liberal Arts Diversity Officers Consortium and is also a member of the advisory board for the GLCA's virtual teaching and learning center. He began his academic career at the University of Virginia, where he helped develop the Carter G. Woodson Institute. He holds a B.A. in American Studies from Wesleyan University and a Ph.D. in English from Stanford University.



More information about the keynote speakers and their writing is available online at <https://www.amherst.edu/go/ProvostsRetreat>

## Break-Out Sessions

### **Life is Complicated: Supporting Students in Extraordinary Circumstances**

Facilitators:

**Darryl Harper**, Professor and Chair of Music

**Larissa Hopkins**, Director of the Strategic Learning Center

**Kiara Vigil**, Associate Professor of American Studies and Dean of New Students

Location: Alumni House

### **Having Fun with Failure to Foster Learning and Growth**

Facilitators:

**Kristen Brookes**, Associate Director of the Writing Center

**Theresa Ronquillo**, Associate Director; Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Specialist, Center for Teaching and Learning

Location: Tent

### **Staying in Conversation with Your Students: Strategies for Promoting Trust and Transparency in Real Time**

Facilitators:

**Ryan Alvarado**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

**Tim Carroll '25**, Amherst College student

**Leah Schmalzbauer**, Professor of American Studies and Sociology and Chair of American Studies

Location: Emily, Dickinson Ballroom

## Prioritizing Student-Centered Course Design for More Rigorous and Inclusive Teaching

Facilitators:

**Christopher Durr**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

**Marc Edwards**, Assistant Professor of Biology

**Kate Follette**, Assistant Professor of Astronomy and 2022-2024  
CTL Faculty Fellow

**Shu-Min Liao**, Assistant Professor of Statistics and 2022-2023  
CTL Faculty Fellow

Location: Samuel Fowler, Dickinson Ballroom

## Using Alternative Grading to Stimulate Student Growth

Facilitators:

**Kristy Gardner**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and  
2022-2024 CTL Faculty Fellow

**Kristina Reardon**, Director of the Intensive Writing Program,  
Senior Lecturer in English and 2022-2023 CTL Faculty Fellow

Location: Webster Ballroom



Resources for the break-out sessions will be added to this shared drive and available to all participants:  
<https://bit.ly/AC23RetreatResources>

## Panel



**Chris Grobe**  
Associate Professor,  
English  
Director, Center for  
Humanistic Inquiry



**Lucia Monge**  
Assistant Professor,  
Art and the History of  
Art



**Jacob Olshansky**  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemistry



**Ha Dong**  
Class of 2026  
Physics and  
Neuroscience



**Tyra Redwood**  
Class of 2025  
Black Studies



**Leandro Arcos Roman**  
Class of 2024  
Mathematics and  
Psychology



## Panel Facilitator

### Ivan Contreras

Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Statistics

Ivan Contreras has been an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Amherst College since 2019. Born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia, Ivan received his undergraduate degree in Mathematics from Universidad de los Andes

(Colombia), a master's degree from University of Utrecht (The Netherlands), and he completed his Ph.D. studies at University of Zürich (Switzerland). He held postdoctoral positions at University of California, Berkeley (as a Swiss National Foundation Fellow) and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, before joining the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Amherst. He has been actively involved in teaching and mentoring both undergraduate and high school students who share his interest in mathematics and its applications to real-life problems. In addition, he has participated in several DEI initiatives on campus, including the newly established Math and Stats DEI Student-Faculty Partnership. He is currently an Editor at Quantum, an open journal for quantum sciences.



**Many thanks to this year's  
Provost's Retreat Advisory Team:**

**Suzanne Belleci**, Director of the Center for Restorative Practices  
**Kristen Brookes**, Associate Director of the Writing Center  
**Jess Martin**, Administrative Director of the Science Center  
**Darien McFadden**, Director of the Center for Counseling and  
Mental Health

We also want to express our appreciation for the advice and feedback about this year's theme we received from the 2022 – 2023 CTL Faculty Fellows and CTL Student Advisory Team.

**Center for Teaching and Learning Team**

**Lisa Gariépy Aiken**, Administrative Assistant  
**Riley Caldwell-O'Keefe**, Director  
**Sarah Bunnell**, Associate Director, STEM Specialist  
**Theresa Ronquillo**, Associate Director, Humanities, Arts, and  
Social Sciences Specialist

## NOTES

For an accessible version of this program, go to:  
<https://bit.ly/2023ProvostRetreatProgram>

