

Dear faculty colleagues,

Welcome to the fall term, 2017!

I write this email in anticipation that some of our students may arrive on campus more deeply concerned about issues facing society than when they left in May.

Conflicts about race, politics, religion, immigration, and socioeconomic differences appear to have grown more salient in the US over the summer. Earlier this month, violence erupted in Charlottesville, Virginia, prompting discourse and reflection across the country. Our tradition of “cura personalis” at Georgetown necessitates that we take the time to provide individualized attention to our students, many of whom share our concern over the recent violence. The happenings in Charlottesville offer an opportunity to explore wider societal challenges. Incorporating discussion about Charlottesville and related events into the classroom not only presents a moment for reflection, but also an opportunity to counteract the ideology of hate.

As President DeGioia wrote to our community last week, “We need to embrace this moment and engage our imaginations in ways that enlarge and deepen our commitment to the common good, building from the work we have started and exploring new and creative ways of contributing to it.” You might find it useful to acknowledge the events in Charlottesville in your first class, and, if you choose, to consider incorporating dialogue about these recent events into the classroom.

For those faculty who might want help and support in addressing these issues with your students, the Center for New Design in Learning and Scholarship (CNDLS) has created a set of resources that can be found [here](#). You can also refer to CNDLS’ [calendar](#) and [Facebook Page](#) for upcoming workshops, seminars, and events. I would call your attention to the workshop “Teaching in Difficult Times,” which is being held on Thursday, August 31, 2-3:30pm in the Herman Room of the Healey Family Student Center. This 90-minute workshop is designed for faculty looking for strategies and support in addressing difficult issues, such as the recent events in Charlottesville, with students and within the curricular content of courses. Find out more and register [here](#).

Additional support is available to you through the Doyle Engaging Difference Program, which is designed to deepen the University’s own commitment to tolerance and diversity through a faculty Fellows Program, Symposia, a Film and Culture Series and Doyle Diversity grants. For information about the Doyle Program, please contact Joselyn Schultz Lewis at [atjks38@georgetown.edu](mailto:atjks38@georgetown.edu).

As we approach the start of classes, I encourage you to review these excellent resources, to acknowledge your students’ concerns, and to express our care for their well-being at this time.

Sincerely,  
Bob Groves  
Provost