

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

April 14, 2008

**TO:** University of Michigan-Flint Faculty and Staff

**FROM:** Vahid Lotfi, Interim Provost

**SUBJECT:** Update from Academic Affairs

The spring is here and we are beginning to experience the pleasant Michigan spring weather once again. The campus continues to make progress on many important projects. One very significant milestone for Academic Affairs has been the recent approval of the general education learning outcomes by the faculties of the three schools and the college as well as the recommendation by the governing faculty to the schools and the college faculties to make the First Year Experience a general education requirement by fall 2009. I wish to offer many thanks to the general education design team under the leadership of Professors Finny and Gillespie for continuing to work so hard to move the general education reform project forward. I also wish to congratulate and thank the faculties of the three schools and the college for their support of this critically important project. I recognize this has been a challenging journey for all of us and that many faculty colleagues feel passionately about what our students should learn as a part of their general education – I am confident we will emerge from this process with a significantly stronger general education program; one which will give our students the quality of education they deserve and will make all of us proud.

**Sponsored Research and Programs Incentive Funds** – As indicated in a recent update by the Office of research, through funds made available by the Provost Office, incentive funds are now available to Principal Investigators who submit grant proposals with total budgets of at least \$20,000 and an indirect cost rate of at least 8%. For more information and an application, go to: [http://www.umflint.edu/research/faculty\\_funding/external\\_funding.htm](http://www.umflint.edu/research/faculty_funding/external_funding.htm).

**UM-Flint Emergency Alert System** – In March ITS in conjunction with University Relations, Environmental Health and Safety, Public Safety, and the Ann Arbor campus announced the implementation of the UM-Flint Emergency Alert System for the Flint campus. Students, faculty and staff at the University of Michigan-Flint can now register to receive voice and text messages during major emergencies on campus. Individuals can register two telephone or cell phone numbers and a device to receive text messages for increased notification. The new notification system will generally only be used when it is believed that a life threatening event is about to happen, is currently happening, or has a high potential of happening. You are encouraged to visit the Web site: <http://www.umflint.edu/emergency/> and to register your additional contact information.

**Chancellor Search Update** – The Chancellor Search Advisory Committee has recently completed interviewing candidates. President Coleman will select the top candidates (finalists) for the Chancellor position, based on the recommendations of the Committee, in the near future. It is expected that the finalists will visit campus in May. The Committee is very appreciative of the support and input received from the campus community. Watch for announcements of campus visits by finalists. The Committee asks for your active participation in various meetings and presentations during the campus visits by the finalists.

## College of Arts and Sciences

**Department of History** – Professor John Ellis is the recipient of an NEH Teaching Institute award entitled, “Past and Present in the Study of India’s History and Culture.” His award includes a residency from July 7 - August 8 of intensive study with expert scholars in India. The invitation comes with a grant that covers most travel and accommodations. Specific information regarding this summer institute can be found at <http://www.ccha-assoc.org/Bharata08/index.html>.

**Department of Psychology** – Professor Susan Gano-Phillips has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar grantee to Hong Kong for the 2008-09 academic year. As a member of the first cohort of American scholars in General Education to come to Hong Kong, she will be affiliated with the Hong Kong America Center and a consortium of 8 Hong Kong universities, and is expected to work to strengthen general education in all HK universities in the run-up to the first intake of students in a new four-year curriculum beginning in September, 2012. She will be based at City University in Kowloon and her award includes a 10 month residency for her entire family. Information regarding 2009-2010 Fulbright programs (which have an August 1, 2008 deadline) can be found at: [http://www.cies.org/us\\_scholars/](http://www.cies.org/us_scholars/).

### **School of Education and Human Services**

**Denise Denman**, Assistant Professor of Social Work served at Northern Illinois University as a responder and grief counselor for students at NIU. **Kathleen Woehrle (with Peggy Burke), Linda Pickett, Michael Pardales, and Aviva Dorfman** all presented separate papers at the American Educational Research Association Conference in March. **Beverly Schumer and Aviva Dorfman** presented at the Michigan Academy of Higher Education. **Linda Pickett** made a presentation at the Association for Childhood Education International Annual Conference. **Judy Ableser** has had two articles published this last month: “Authentic Literacy Experiences to Teach and Support Young Children During Stressful Times,” *Young Children*, March 2008; and “Implementing an Inclusive Young Authors’ Program for All Students,” *Michigan Reading Journal*, Winter 2008, Vol. 40., No 2.

**Social Work Department** will have two students receiving Maize and Blue Scholarship awards during Spring Commencement, Todd W. Maison and Ronda J. Sturgis-VanRaemdonck.

### **School of Health Professions and Studies**

**Department of Nursing** – Maureen Tippen, Clinical Assistant Professor, and three nursing students traveled to the Dominican Republic on March 7 to serve and learn in an academic service learning course in partnership with Midwest Medical Missions. Also, Dean Agho and Linda Knecht, Associate Director of Nursing, traveled to India to sign a Memo of Understanding with NRI Academy of Sciences Medical College, India, to facilitate exchange of educational knowledge, know-how, skills and cooperation in developmental activities between the two universities.

The Department of Nursing is in the process of developing a partnership with St. Mary's Mission Hospitals in Kenya. The partnership will provide opportunities for UM-Flint nursing students and faculty to enhance their knowledge of global health issues and cultural competency. UM-Flint Nursing will be sharing knowledge and expertise to enhance nursing care and nursing education within the hospital system.

**Physical Therapy** – Students and faculty made seven different presentations at the American Physical Therapy Association Conference in February. Three groups of students presented their research, and faculty members Cindy Pfalzer, Trish Curatti, Edgar Torres, and Donna Fry presented research, forums, and seminars. Cindy Pfalzer recently had a research article accepted to the prestigious journal *Cancer* for research she conducted at the National Institutes of Health. In April the students organized a dodge ball tournament at the Recreation Center to fund raise for the APTA Student Conclave meeting. The students have also raised several thousand dollars for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

### **School of Management**

**Beta Alpha Psi** organized an IRS event on February 25<sup>th</sup> for Beta Alpha Psi members as part of their professional hour requirements. The event was open to all SOM students interested in forensic accounting. Nathan Watson, President, Eta Xi Chapter, Beta Alpha Psi said “this event allowed students to work through scenarios that were based on cases that the IRS agents had experienced in the past. In doing these scenarios the students were able to apply what they had learned in their accounting classes in order to solve the scenario.”

**Dean Speaker Series** – James R. Hagerty, Wall Street Journal Editor, presented a speech on “Envy of the World? How We Created the Mortgage Meltdown and Where We Go From Here,” on March 28. There were more than one hundred students, faculty, staff and local business people in attendance.

**Professor Yener Kandogan** published articles including “Regionalism vs. Multilateralism: Evidence for the Natural Trade Partners Theory From the Euro-Mediterranean Region,” *Journal of Economic Integration*, March 2008, 23 (1), 138-160; and “Falling Walls and Lifting Curtains: Analysis of Border Effects in Transition Countries,” *Journal of International Trade and Economic Development*, March 2008, 17, 85-104.

**Dr. Jacob Peng** presented his article “The Relationship Between Student Individual Differences and Effort to Do Homework Using Online Homework System,” on March 28 at the American Accounting Association 48th Annual Midwest Regional Meeting, Troy, MI. He also presented his article “Using Online Homework System to Submit Accounting Homework: The Role of Cognitive Need, Computer Efficacy and Perception,” on February 22 at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society of Business and Behavioral Sciences, Las Vegas, NV.

**Professors Seyed Mehdian** and **Mark Perry**, School of Management, and **Professor Tevfik Nas**, Department of Economics, co-authored, “An Examination of Investor Reaction to Unexpected Political and Economics Events in Turkey,” *Global Finance Journal*, March 2008. Professor Seyed Mehdian also co-authored, “Efficiency Change, Technological Progress and Productivity Growth of Private, Public and Foreign Banks in India: Evidence from the Post-Liberalization Era,” (with Rasoul Rezvanian and Narendar Rao). Forthcoming in *Applied Financial Economics*.

**Professor Thomas Hemphill** published “Eminent Domain: Does BB&T's Lending Policy Reflect Sound Corporate Governance?”, *Business and Society Review*, March 2008.

**Professor Mark Perry's** commentary on oil imports from Canada was distributed nationally by the McClatchy Newspaper Company, and was featured in eighteen newspapers across the country with a combined circulation of 2.3 million, between March 27 and April 1, including the *Pittsburgh Sunday Tribune Review*, *Investor's Business Daily*, *Detroit Free Press*, *Kansas City Star*, and the *Sacramento Bee*.

**MBA student and Graduate Research Assistant, Qiongyao Zhang**, is invited to present her research paper, concentrating on the efforts of a formally state-owned company in Shanghai to modernize its sales, at the Oxford Business & Economics Conference (OBEC), England in June, 2008.

**School of Management Advisory Board** hosted a reception for undergraduate and graduate business students at the UM-Flint hockey game on February 17. The hockey players along with their parents and friends joined the reception at the end of the game. Mr. William A. Golling, President of Golling Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge of Bloomfield Hills, and Mr. Samuel R. Winegarden, Executive Director for General Motors Corporation in Pontiac, are the newest members of the SOM Dean's Advisory Board. Mr. Larry Nichols, President and CEO of Oakland Commerce Bank, has been elected as Chair of the Board.

**Signing Ceremony at Oakland Community College** – OCC hosted an articulation agreement signing ceremony on April 3 with the School of Management providing transfer credits from OCC into SOM's BBA online program. Dean Helmuth said, “This is an important relationship and part of our strategy to attract students from areas south of our campus.”

### **Acting Associate Provost Corner**

Chris Waters notes, “I have made it nearly through the 2007-08 academic year as Acting Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Programs only because of the hard work of all of the directors and staff in the units reporting to this office.” Here are a few of the recent highlights.

**Graduate Programs** is an extremely busy place with growing enrollment, marketing, recruitment efforts and processing of applications all on the rise. Quite a number of new graduate programs are in various stages of the

development and approval process. With our growth in students we continue to find ways to support this growing body, financially and in all other ways. To that end we are extending the Graduate Student Research Assistantship program. GSRA positions for 2008-09 have been posted to:

[http://www.umflint.edu/graduateprograms/gsra\\_positions.htm](http://www.umflint.edu/graduateprograms/gsra_positions.htm). This year faculty requested 46% more graduate students than in the previous year. All four academic units have received funding for their requests, and we expect to employ at least 44 graduate students as GSRA's next year. The GSRA program is now completing its third year of existence and is greatly appreciated by students and faculty alike: students get hands-on research experience in their field as well as a stipend, and faculty receive needed assistance in their research. Thank you to our faculty for providing these opportunities for graduate students!

The Rackham School of Graduate Studies at Ann Arbor has approved the Master of Liberal Studies program to offer a new concentration entitled, "Theatre and Community," effective fall 2008. The Department of Theatre and Dance and the MLS program faculty will offer this new concentration within the existing MLS program. What is intended in the program is a combination of "creating a sense of community through the arts" and including local communities in that process.

**Information Technology Services (ITS)** has created a new team within the department called Security Services. This group will be responsible for investigating and implementing new security measures on our network and computers to protect the data that our students and employees entrust to our campus. In addition, this group will work with various departments across campus to help them identify sensitive information they may use or store and what steps they can take to protect it. Also, a new, faster wireless network is now available in French Hall as well as Murchie Science Building. Please see Quicknote 45, 55, or 65 to help you change from 80211net to UMFBasic,

<http://www.umflint.edu/its/helpdesk/documentation/quicknotes.htm>.

In February ITS administered the Security 101 Exam for the third year. This program is provided by IT Security Services in Ann Arbor and we host our version here. This year we had over 1,200 students successfully complete the exam and were entered in a prize drawing. More information about the exam can be found at:

[http://www.umflint.edu/its/units/initiatives/publicity/security101\\_08.htm](http://www.umflint.edu/its/units/initiatives/publicity/security101_08.htm).

**Mediated Classroom Services** installed the Crestron mediated equipment in the general classrooms on the second floor of French Hall, with a goal of completing the remaining general classrooms by the end of Summer Semester. Crestron is a centralized source for controlling, managing, and presenting classroom information on a single, integrated network and will enable faculty and students in the classroom to focus on education rather than technology. For more ITS updates, you can visit their blog at: <http://blogs.umflint.edu/its/>.

**Office of Research** – On March 14, 2008 the University of Michigan received official notice from the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) that our human subjects research program has been granted "Full Accreditation." The Office of Human Research Compliance Review (OHRCR) has also begun a systematic review of approved research protocols under Routine Research and Educational Regulatory Review (RRERR). So far, they have randomly selected one protocol from the UM-Flint campus to review. OHRCR evaluated several aspects of this research project such as: subject recruitment, subject eligibility, informed consent process, adverse event reports, study implementation, data collection forms, record keeping, IRB documentation, and regulatory documentation. They have determined that UM-Flint's IRB process is working well and that we are in compliance with all regulations. Congratulations and thanks to all who supported these projects!

**RCAC Phase II Funding Program** – This pilot program will provide support (up to \$500) to Junior Faculty (tenure-track) for travel to present completed project work or other dissemination efforts based on RCAC project activities. Additional information and an application can be found at:

[http://www.umflint.edu/research/faculty\\_funding/RCAC\\_phaseII\\_guidelines.htm](http://www.umflint.edu/research/faculty_funding/RCAC_phaseII_guidelines.htm)

**Grant Writing Workshop** - For any UM-Flint faculty, staff, and students interested in a live, hands-on training, the Office of Research and Christine Black (UM-Ann Arbor, School of Nursing Proposal Writing Specialist) will be hosting a grant-writing workshop on Wednesday, April 16 from 12 - 5pm. The event will be held in the Riverview Room. Christine will cover a variety of topic areas; ranging from knowing your sponsors to reviewing

your proposals; from developing a work plan to tips on writing. Lunch will be provided. Register through the Office of Research's blog at: <http://blogs.umflint.edu/research/>

The 16th annual **Meeting of Minds** will be held at Oakland University on May 16. This conference will showcase the work of undergraduate students from the University of Michigan-Flint, the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and Oakland University. Over 200 students are expected to participate in the event. For more information, visit the UM-Flint Meeting of Minds page at [www.umflint.edu/research/MOM](http://www.umflint.edu/research/MOM). Also, the fifth annual **Michigan Undergraduate Research Forum** (MURF) will take place on May 20 at the State Capitol Building in Lansing. MURF involves students from the three University of Michigan campuses, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University. For additional information about MURF, visit [www.umflint.edu/research/MURF](http://www.umflint.edu/research/MURF).

**International Student Center** - Kimberly Butka is graciously serving as the Interim Director of the International Student Center as a search for a new Director is underway. She comes to the ISC from Undergraduate Admissions. In the Undergraduate Admissions Office as Interim Associate Director, Kim reviews applications for the undergraduate international students and makes admit decisions. As the winter semester comes to an end the ISC is planning a celebration for the International Students to honor those that have successfully completed the ELP Program as well as those students who are graduating. We have three graduating international students that have received full-ride scholarships to Ph.D. programs in their particular fields of study. They will be attending Michigan State University, Ohio State University, and the University of Pittsburgh.

The **English Language Program** has successfully completed its first academic year. Kathy Cornman, Academic Coordinator of the ELP, will be working to further develop the program. We have a group of students that will be in the program for the Spring and Summer terms. Current program initiatives are the development of a strategic marketing plan and analysis of graduate-level language proficiency requirements; both are designed to increase ELP enrollment, and ultimately, the number of international students attending UM-Flint. In addition, Academic Coordinator Kathy Cornman attended this year's TESOL conference to obtain Leadership Certification. Supplementary to in-class academic preparation, the students have attended university-sponsored lectures, such as the "MixItUp!" luncheon on MLK Day. During a unit on environmental issues, UM-Flint's own Professor Kaufmann from the Department of Earth and Resource Science was invited as a guest speaker.

### **Other Units Within Academic Affairs**

**Honors Program** – Again, the Scholarship Competition Day was a huge success with a total of 53 students and their parents attending the competition. To date, 33 students have definitely committed to UM-Flint including the full ride scholarship winner, Scott McDonald, who will be a biology major. From the remaining 19 undecided students that attended, we anticipate another 5 more will commit.

A record number of 48 students, primarily from the UM-Flint Honors Program, presented refereed papers at the annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science Arts and Letters. This is not an undergraduate conference, but undergraduate papers are welcome in the sessions. Students presented from the following disciplines: Health Administration, History, Biology, and Language and Literature. Their abstracts will be published in a forthcoming *Michigan Academician*, the journal of the Michigan Academy.

*Next update will be released in approximately two months.*