

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

June 2, 2008

TO: University of Michigan-Flint Faculty and Staff
FROM: Vahid Lotfi, Interim Provost
SUBJECT: Update from Academic Affairs

The Higher Learning Commission Self-Study project continues to make progress, with ongoing revisions and editing in preparation for the first draft to be released very soon. At that time we will ask that you take the opportunity to read areas of interest and provide feedback for improvements. However, if you are anxious to get immersed in the current report; you can access the draft at any time through our SharePoint portal, or by contacting our project coordinator **Laura Staudacher** (laurast@umflint.edu). Also, the Faculty & Staff Opinion survey was launched in May. You are encouraged to share your opinions on a range of campus topics. Your responses are vital to the Self-Study process since **this will be the only survey sent to all faculty and staff**. The Survey will remain active through mid-June; please contact **Fawn Skarsten** (Skarsten@umflint.edu) for more information. Lastly, please **mark your calendars for the on-site visit scheduled for October 26–28, 2009**.

I am happy to write that the university has made great progress in the area of assessing student learning. This claim is supported by the occurrence of both a major annual event sponsored by Academic Affairs, and a number of more subtle changes within the past year. One of the highlights in 2007-08 promoting quality assessment of student learning was the Second Annual Assessment of Student Learning Summit held on March 7th. This event included representatives from the Higher Learning Commission and the Association of American Colleges and Universities, as well as a number of break-out sessions designed to share best practices in the area of assessing student learning. Although more subtle, I believe that the University of Michigan-Flint has also begun to see substantive change in our institutional culture regarding assessment. To borrow a theme from the Higher Learning Commission, it is clear that the assessment of student learning has moved beyond “compliance” to a genuine “commitment” to the assessment of student learning and the continual improvement of our academic programs. Please join me in thanking **Professor Roy Barnes** and **Assistant Provost Heckard** for providing significant leadership in assessment program during this academic year. And, look for a comprehensive progress report from the Academic Assessment Committee in the Academic Affairs Annual Report to be published in fall.

As a reminder, Federal and State aid program regulations require institutions to consider internal and external resources intended to assist with a student’s educational costs. Educational costs are defined as tuition/fees, room/board, books, supplies, transportation, personal and miscellaneous expenses, and costs associated with study abroad programs. University departments must report all forms of assistance awarded to UM-Flint students as well as the intended purpose of such awards to **Becky Wood** in the Cashier’s Office. This information is then shared with the Office of Financial Aid to determine the manner in which the funds will be paid to the student(s). If it is determined the award is for educational costs, the department will be contacted to provide an account from which to draw the funds. Though it might be tempting

to bypass this process to further assist a needy student, violations of State and/or federal rules might jeopardize our entire financial aid program. Should you have questions, please contact **Becky Wood** (762-3167) or **Lori Vedder** in the Office of Financial Aid (762-3238.)

The Chancellor Search Advisory Committee members would like to express our sincere appreciation for the patience and engagement exhibited by everyone campus-wide over the last several months. We think that the active involvement of students, staff, administrators, faculty, and community members in the campus visits provided the opportunity for the final candidates and our campus members to learn a great deal about each other. On behalf of Academic Affairs, I wish to offer many thanks to the members of the Chancellor Search Advisory Committee and offer a warm UM-Flint welcome to our new Chancellor, Dr. Ruth J. Person.

Professor Marty Kaufman was our campus nominee for the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year recognition program this year. This program is sponsored by the Presidents Council and recognizes the outstanding contributions made by the faculty from the Michigan's public universities to the education of undergraduate students. Please join me in congratulating Marty for this great achievement. I also wish to thank the Scholarships, Awards and Special Events Committee for reviewing the nominees and assisting with the selection process.

College of Arts and Sciences

Mathematics Department – The International Academy of Flint and the Mathematics Department have forged a partnership with the goal of improving the algebra skills of a select group of at-risk middle school students. This one-year pilot project may become a long-term partnership. Five UM-Flint mathematics students are acting as after-school tutors. **Professor Mehrdad Simkani** is project director.

Jerry Sanders and Corporate & Foundation Relations were successful in acquiring a donation of laboratory equipment from Pfizer Pharmaceutical. The equipment included two refrigerated centrifuges, a micro centrifuge, multiple analytical scales and balances, an Olympus microscope with digital camera and dual observation heads. Additional items include an HPLC system and extensive collection of glass ware and consumable laboratory supplies. This acquisition valued at \$51,600, will modernize laboratories and enhance our teaching and research efforts.

School of Health Professions and Studies

Department of Nursing – *'Bridging Generic and Professional Care Practices for Muslim Patients through the use of Leininger's Culture Care Modes'* by **Professor Hiba Wehbe-Alamah**, accepted for publication in the Special Issue on Contemporary Advances in Transcultural Nursing 2e. Also, her abstract entitled, "Generic Care Practices of Lebanese and Syrians in the Midwestern United States" has been accepted for a panel presentation at the 34th Annual Conference of the Transcultural Nursing Society, Minneapolis, September 24-27, 2008. **Professor Connie Creech's** abstract entitled "*Are We Moving Toward an Expanded Role for Part-time Nursing Faculty in Baccalaureate Education?*," has been accepted for the poster session at the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio in August.

Professor Marilyn McFarland's book, *Transcultural Nursing: Concepts, Theories, Research and Practice*, has been published in Chinese.

Professors McFarland, Wehbe-Alamah, and Andrews have been invited to deliver a presentation entitled “*Knowledge Indigenous to Transcultural Nursing Discovered in a Metasynthesis of Culture Care Research Findings*” at the 34th Annual International Transcultural Nursing Society Research Conference in Minneapolis, MN in September 2008. **Chris Aplin-Kalisz** has been admitted to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case-Western Reserve University. This is a highly selective and competitive program that attracts graduate students nationally and internationally.

Physical Therapy – Professor Curatti’s abstract “Clinical Education and Cultural Diversity in Physical Expectations of Clinical Instructors” is to appear in *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*, 2008. **Professor Pfalzer’s** article “Preoperative Assessment Enables the Early Diagnosis and Successful Treatment of Lymphedema” with N. L. Stout Gergich, C. McGarvey, B. Springer, L. H. Gerber, and P. Soballe has now been published online on *Wiley InterScience*. She was also inducted as a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association. This is an elite group of approximately 124 in the country.

Professor Ruediger has joined the Physical Therapy faculty as a Lecturer cum Assistant Professor. He is board certified as an electrophysiologic clinical specialist in physical therapy. **Professor Rodda** is the first SHPS faculty member to go through a full review process in the clinical track for promotion and being promoted to Clinical Associate Professor.

School of Management

Beta Alpha Psi had their first annual formal banquet on May 2 at the Warwick Country Club. The guest speakers were **Professor Walker E. Fesmire**, the founder of our Beta Alpha Psi chapter, and **Professor Cathleen Miller**, Lecturer of Accounting in the School of Management. **Professor Miller** was recognized by the Chapter as an outstanding professional accountant and received the Walker E. Fesmire Outstanding Professional Accountant Award for 2008. **Professor Mark Perry and Dr. Greg Allar** organized a ten-day study abroad trip to Moscow (April 18-27). A group of MBA students have a better understanding of the global economy after participating in this extraordinary trip to Russia. The trip included meetings with high level government and business leaders in both Moscow and Togliatti. The SOM students met with: the U.S. Ambassador to Russia, President and Managing Director of Ford Motor Company Russia, and the Director of the Corporate Sector of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Russia. They also toured Togliatti, our sister city. Professor Perry and the President of the Togliatti Academy of Management, Dr. Igor Bogdanov, signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will lead to future student and faculty exchanges between the two institutions. Mayor Pushkov, prepared a letter to Mayor Williamson and asked Professor Perry to personally deliver the letter. Upon returning to Flint, Professor Perry presented Mayor Williamson the letter from Mayor Pushkov on May 12. In addition, a group of undergraduate and graduate students are scheduled to go to India late May with **Professor Peeth Kartha** for similar experiences in this emerging country.

SOM extends its congratulations to **Professor Seyed Mehdi** on his election as Vice-President for Public Relations for the Midwest Finance Association. The MFA is one of the premier regional academic finance associations in the United States, with memberships in the Midwest and throughout the country. In addition, **Professor Mehdi** was assigned to work with the Academy of Economics Studies in Bucharest, Romania. **Professor Yener Kandogan** presented his article, “In International Trade Apples Do Fall Far from the Tree,” in April at the International Atlantic Economic Conference in Poland. He also published “Consistent Estimates of Regional Bloc’s Trade Effect,” *Review of International Economics*, May 2008, 16 (2), 301-314. **Professor Mark Perry** was interviewed about gas prices on the CNBC’s Kudlow & Company on May 8. He also gave a California radio interview regarding gas prices on May 9.

Professor Fataneh Taghaboni-Dutta conducted a research project with **Mr. Kenneth Dusseau**, one of our 2007 MBA graduates. Professor Taghaboni-Dutta presented the co-authored article “Implementing Lean Supply Chain in a Chemical Industry” in April, at the MBAA Conference in Chicago. Also, students in BUS373-Operations Management Services, taught by Professor Taghaboni-Dutta, had the opportunity to work on a project with Paragon Industry, a local company, with over \$9 million annual sales, in improving their operations and customer service.

Acting Associate Provost and Graduate Programs

Institutional Review Board – On March 14, the University of Michigan’s Human Research Protection Program, of which our Institutional Review Board (**IRB**) is an integral part, was granted Full Accreditation by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP). AAHRPP is a nationally recognized, nonprofit organization comprised of physicians, social and biological scientists, and attorneys. **Marianne McGrath**, Chair, has worked for over three years to prepare the IRB for accreditation by improving board procedures and by offering education on ethical research practice to faculty, staff and students across campus.

Stephen Forrest, UM’s Vice President for Research, wrote to “congratulate the entire team on a very arduous task that was professionally and patiently accomplished.” The UM-Flint IRB team includes **Sally Conley** (Core IRB Support Staff), and IRB members **Roy Barnes**, **Constance Creech**, **Mary Jo Finney**, **Doris Clarke-Madison**, **Steven Myers**, **Suzanne Selig**, **John Sonnega**, and community members **Dr. Mark Anderson** (Pediatrician, Hurley Medical Center) and **Kristie Schmiede**, (Director of Substance Abuse Services, Genesee County Community Mental Health). Former IRB members **Janet Barnfather**, **Donna Fry**, and **Kathryn Schellenberg**, played key roles as well. Part of the accreditation involved site visits and interviews of university officials, faculty, staff, students and community members. **Mark Anderson**, **Roy Barnes**, **Janet Barnfather**, **Sally Conley**, **Connie Creech**, **Bradley Maki**, **Marianne McGrath**, **Kristie Schmiede**, **Suzanne Selig**, and **Beth Sheridan** very strongly and favorably represented our campus. Our IRB accreditation signifies to potential research participants and to granting agencies that we are committed to the highest standards in the protection of research participants. Please join me in congratulating and thanking all of the colleagues who contributed to this project. **Professor Marianne McGrath** deserves a special recognition for playing a critical leadership role in this significant achievement.

Research – Congratulations to the following recipients of Research and Creative Activity Awards following the Spring 08 Call for Proposals: **John Ellis:** *The Adventures of Owain Rhoscomy: National and Imperial Identity in Edwardian Wales*; **Jason Kosnoski:** *Field and Archival Research* for future book project entitled *Frederic Law Olmsted and the Politics of Urban Parks*; **Quamrul Mazumder:** *Prediction of Fluid Flow and Particle Velocities Using Computational Fluid Dynamics Analysis*; and **Seunghye Cho:** *Asian Theatre*.

Total RCAC funds awarded for 2007-2008: \$131,455. For a complete list of 2007-2008 recipients, go to: http://www.umflint.edu/research/faculty_funding/RCAC_awards08.htm

Total International Travel Awards for 2007-2008: \$41,924. For a complete list of international travel award recipients, go to: http://www.umflint.edu/research/faculty_funding/intl_awards08.htm

Undergraduate research is at full steam this year. Since the beginning of the academic year, the **Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)** has committed over \$10,000 in support of undergraduates who work on faculty-generated research projects. Earning \$500 per project (with a possibility of extending support for assistantships), UROP has supported 17 student assistants this year; with interest continuously increasing. Any faculty interested in registering a project for the next academic year is encouraged to do so. To register a project or to receive additional information about UROP, visit www.umflint.edu/research/UROP.

On May 16, fifty-two students represented UM-Flint at the annual **Meeting of Minds Undergraduate Research Conference (MOM)** at Oakland University. Now in its 16th year, MOM is co-sponsored by UM-Flint, UM-Dearborn, and Oakland University. Additional information about the event can be found at www.umflint.edu/research/MOM. Immediately following MOM, nine UM-Flint students joined 46 others from Michigan universities at the 5th annual **Michigan Undergraduate Research Forum (MURF)**; a joint effort between the three University of Michigan campuses, Michigan State University and Wayne State University hosted in the State Capitol. The forum allowed our students to engage in peer-to-peer discussion with students from the partnering campuses as well as with state legislators. For additional information, visit www.umflint.edu/research/MURF.

ITS – The new wireless network is now operational in the MSB. This new network brings the latest in wireless technology to our users utilizing the 802.11 a, b and g standards. These standards provide the fastest speeds and greatest bandwidth currently available using proven, reliable and secure technology. The Mass Notification System is in place and the successful first test happened in late April. To date more than 1,200 students, faculty and staff have signed up to receive notification from campus in the event of an emergency. An enterprise level web forms solution has been implemented. This will allow departments to easily and quickly produce and reuse forms on their web sites. The Banner production database, Oracle, has been updated to version 10g. Mediated Classroom Services has created two new Plasma carts. These new carts include the standard computer, document camera and DVD/VCR, and in addition a large plasma screen monitor.

Graduate Programs – Staffing changes have been made commensurate with the continued and planned growth in graduate enrollment to ensure continued high-levels of support in the recruitment and admissions process. **Jon Davidson** was promoted to Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions and **Erin Carrasco** was promoted to Recruiter and Academic Advisor. The office is actively searching for a replacement for Erin's previous position of Student Administration Assistant.

The Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies has approved the University of Michigan-Flint to begin offering a Theatre and Community track in its Master of Liberal Studies program beginning in Fall 2008. The Department of Theatre and Dance and the MLS program faculty will offer the new concentration within the existing MLS program.

Other Units within Academic Affairs

Office of Admissions – A surge in freshmen applications this year is a welcome occurrence at most of Michigan's public colleges and universities. Preliminary reports indicate that all but a few of the 15 public universities in Michigan are up in freshman applications, admits and/or deposits this year. On May 1, UM-Flint reported the largest increase in both applications and admits among the 15 publics (up 29% and 40%, respectively). With campus housing, the increases we're seeing here at UM-Flint are perhaps *a fait accompli*. Next year will mark the first year of the downward trajectory for the nation, with high school graduate numbers falling to their lowest point around 2013-14 and then slowly rising.

Our UG Admissions Office, like many admission offices across the country, is trying to predict how many students will enroll. Unlike the plight of the late 90s when admission offices were 'desperately seeking' students due to low numbers of high school graduates, this year offices are trying to 'desperately secure' students. *Desperately Seeking Students—Some colleges spend summers trying to fill the freshman class* (Chronicle of Higher Education, June 21, 1996) summed up the problems of the mid-90s and *This Year, the Game of Waiting-List Roulette Got Harder* (Chronicle of Higher Education, May 22, 2008) aptly sums up the current dilemma.

In the mid 90s, we saw a trend of students doing more 'shopping around' for colleges. Students these days are not only 'shopping around' but are making 'faux purchases' (double and/or triple depositing). We remain optimistic that our numbers will hold based on the behaviors of our deposited students. We are nonetheless taking steps to control our melt rate (from deposited to enrolled). **As of Wednesday, May, 21, 2008, we have received 2,278 freshman applications (up 30%), admitted 1,963 freshman (up 40%), and have received enrollment deposits from 705 students (compared to 530 this time last year—33% increase).**

We are working collaboratively with Housing and Residential Life to achieve Fall 2008 housing goals. Additionally, Undergraduate Admissions is working with University Relations to finalize recruitment material for next year's cycle. Our goal is to have 400 freshman applications by the end of September (three times as many as last year at that time). Also, we are looking at 'drive-to-web campaigns,' enhanced telecounseling, multiple sub-communications within the funnel, increased web-based communications, and more.

Other Projects

Green Arts Project: Our Land, Our Stories – two events are to be held on June 11 & 12, 2008 at the University of Michigan – Flint. Connecting People and Places on June 11th and Edition Green: The Power of Story on June 12th. These events are made possible through a joint effort of **Jan Worth-Nelson, Mike Lewis, and Stephanie Roach**, and funding by the **Ruth Mott Foundation**, and with generous support of **University Outreach**, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Journalism Program, the Department of Communication and Visual Arts, the English Department, and Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy.

Connecting People and Places - Land conservation is more than a set of technical and legal tools used to restrict land use. At its best, land conservation inspires a deeper and healthier connection to the land and honors the diversity and complexity of our culture and history. With **Peter Forbes** from the Center for Whole Communities, learn about the new best practices of land conservation that listen to our stories, inspire social change, and redefine conservation success.

Edition Green: The Power of Story - Edition Green is a biennial conference exploring the many ways to tell stories about ourselves and our land, water and air. Conservationists, advocates, activists, journalists, writers and artists will all learn something more about their chosen craft and come away with tools to inspire others with their vision and message. For more information please refer to the Web site: www.greenartsproject.org

ERS and Outreach – Adopt a Lot - In effort to support the Urban Alternative House, University Outreach and the Department of Earth and Resource have adopted the lot next to the house located at 519 Garland (immediately south of the house). On June 3rd campus and community partners will begin cleaning the lot and preparing it for plantings. **Mona Younis** and **Gary Ashley** from the Center for Civic Engagement are helping coordinate this campus-wide effort. Please contact Gary Ashley if you can help or for more details (gaashley@umflint.edu or 767-2150.) You are welcome and there will be fun projects and service opportunities related to the lot all summer. Several faculty and staff have been involved in this project. They include: **Stephen Landon, Bill Laverty, Randy Repic, Suzanne Selig, John Sonnega, Quamrul Mazumder, Tracy Wacker, Renee Zientek, Becky Pettengill, Joel Rash, Jonathan Jarosz, Mona Younis, Gary Ashley, and Barb Urlaub.**

Next update will be released in approximately two months.