

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

TO: University of Michigan-Flint Faculty and Staff
FROM: Vahid Lotfi
SUBJECT: Quarterly Update from Academic Affairs
DATE: March 2, 2010

On behalf of Academic Affairs and following Chancellor Person's announcement, I welcome **Dr. Gerard Voland** as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, effective July 1, 2010. Dr. Voland will also hold the title of Professor of Engineering within the College of Arts and Sciences, pending Regental approval. We look forward to his vision and leadership for Academic Affairs and I personally look forward to working with him in the coming years.

The **HLC reaccreditation** process continues to be on track. The University has received the initial report and we have responded with noting minor corrections of facts. The report was returned to the Commission for official acceptance of the content and our preference for level of review. The final stage will include the Commission making its recommendation at which time we can make an official announcement regarding our status. Nothing different is expected than what was reported at the site visit exit interview to campus. The report offers a great deal of praise for the inclusive process in writing our self-study and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students. As always, the team offers a few suggestions for advancement and as soon as allowed by the HLC, the report will be shared and discussed in detail across campus.

Associate Professor Mary Jo Kietzman, a 2009-10 Fulbright Scholarship recipient, Department of English, is currently lecturing in Semey State Pedagogical Institute, Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan. Some other activities that she is engaged in are teaching classes, running a drama club, blogging about her experiences, as well as trying out some new teaching styles at Semey. She is one of only 1,250 recipients in the United States to receive this honor and we congratulate her and look forward to her return to the United States and the University.

The University's **SUIT (Student, staff, Faculty Information Update Team) Committee** is currently made up of various representative including DPS, EHS and Student Affairs to address possible serious problematic student behavior that may occur from time to time. Student Government Council (SGC) has recently received complaints about general student behavior in the UCEN, i.e., noise, litter, disruptions after some events, etc. They have adopted certain tactics to address with these problems such as requiring college ID, organizing a forum to seek feedback, etc.; however, AAAC suggested that perhaps the SUIT Committee could also address these types of problems as well.

With **Commencement** planning already underway for May, questions from students regarding the University of Michigan-Flint **diploma** have arisen. In 2008 the look of the diploma was changed to match that of Ann Arbor but the verbiage has remained consistent with past diplomas on our campus. Please know that first and foremost, diplomas earned from the University of Michigan-Flint are University of Michigan diplomas which have always been a plus and sometimes a reason given for attending UM-Flint. Additional questions however can be addressed to Karen Arnould, UM-Flint Registrar.

Please be reminded that **ALL** New Course Requests, Change Course Requests, as well as New Program Requests, and Program Change Requests are only effective in fall semesters and must be submitted to the Provost Office before the published deadline.

Organizational Changes and Personnel Matters

Dr. David Ametrano has been appointed Director of the Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching effective March 15, 2010. Dr. Ametrano earned his A.B. in Psychology from Northwestern University, his M.S. in Clinical Psychology from Florida State University, Tallahassee, and his Ph.D. in Personality Psychology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Ametrano. In addition, **Jonathan Jarosz** assumed the appointment as Acting Director of University Outreach effective January 12.

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Communication and Visual Arts – UM-Flint’s **Speech and Debate team** continued its competitive season throughout the Winter semester. The team took home first place trophies in Debate at the Eastern Michigan University tournament, and a number of top awards in competitive Impromptu and Persuasive Speaking at Arizona State University. These awards mark the strongest showing for the students to date, and the young team looks forward to more success in the future.

Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice – In January 2010, Professor **Ananthakrishnan Aiyer** was appointed as co-Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Dialectical Anthropology*. He had served as member of the Editorial Committee in 2008-09. In addition to regularly writing editorials and reviewing manuscripts, Dr. Aiyer will also be primarily responsible for further internationalizing the journal’s visibility and impact, especially in Latin America, China, and India. Founded in 1975, *Dialectical Anthropology* is a multidisciplinary journal that provides a platform for research, criticism, commentary, and debate among progressive scholars, journalists, and labor/social justice activists.

School of Health Professions and Studies

Department of Nursing – **Clinical Assistant Professor Kristi George** will be presenting “Bariatric Surgery and the Treatment of Obesity (non surgical)” through the Michigan Council of Nursing Practitioners on March 11th hosted by the University of Michigan Flint.

Health Sciences and Administration – The University of Michigan-Flint was the location for the community roll out of the 2009 Speak to Your Health Survey, hosted by Dean Barbara Kornblau. The Speak to Your Health Community Survey was developed by the Prevention Research Center/Michigan Genesee Community Board and Survey Committee. The collaborative project is designed to understand and monitor the local trends and issues relating to the health and well-being of Flint and Genesee County residents. **Assistant Professor John Sonnega** is a member of the PRC and serves on the Survey Committee. He also served as a panel speaker at the rollout event.

School of Management

Recently published:

- **Dr. Sy Banerjee** published his article “Enhancing Mobile Coupon Redemptions in the Fast Foods” in the *Journal of Research in Interactive Marketing*.
- **Dr. Yener Kandogan’s** article on “Determinants of Individuals’ Preference for Cross-Cultural Literacy: Role of International Trade Potential” will appear soon in the *Journal of World Business*.
- **Dr. Jacob Peng’s** article titled “Applying XBRL in an Accounting Information System Design Using the REA Approach: An Instructional Case” will appear in *Accounting Perspectives*.
- **Dr. Seyed Mehdian** (with Richard Ajayi and Dr. Mark Perry) was published in *Applied Financial Economics*, “The Relative Influence of the East and the West on Middle Eastern Emerging Stock Markets: An Empirical Investigation.”

Recent conferences: Dr. Seyed Mehdiian attended and presented at the International Conference on Globalization and Higher Education in Economics and Business Administration, Iasi, Romania, 2009; “Cross-Industry Analysis of Investors’ Reaction to Unexpected Market Surprises: Evidence from NASDAQ Sector-Indices” was presented with Peter Bush and Dr. Mark Perry.

Local liaison: The School of Management, through our Community One think tank, is working with the City of Flint to create a new *brand* image of the city that will better reflect regionally and nationally the city. Faculty involved include Drs. Sy Banerjee and Madhu Angur, Executive-in-Residence Larry Nichols and Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Director Dale Tuttle.

Student accomplishments: Two UM-Flint teams competed in the Association for Corporate Growth (ACG) Cup competition held at UM-Flint January 23 – Team 1: Charlie’s Angels Financial Advisors team consisted of Rachael Barnett, Alexander Mansour, Alyson Phillips and Samir Shah; Team 2: Team Tango consisted of David Birmingham and Daniel Irudayaraj. This was the UM-Flint’s first time competing and are proud of Charlie’s Angels Financial Advisors team which advanced to the final round.

Personnel change: Eileen Hodges joined as executive secretary to Dean Helmuth.

Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Programs

Terry W. Van Allen, Ph.D., J.D. joined the UM-Flint campus community as Director of Sponsored Research and Programs in January. With his arrival the compliment of directors in the Associate Provost Group is complete. Our warmest welcome to Terry.

Graduate Programs – The Office of Graduate Programs hosted 162 prospective graduate students at its annual Winter Open House on February 16. The office is now planning on-campus open houses in the spring for the new Arts Administration program, the MLS program, and a series of events targeting K-12 educators. Online open houses are planned for the new Education Specialist and PT Clinical Certificate programs.

Applications for Graduate Admission are up 37% for Fall 2010 when compared to Fall 2009. This increase is largely due to hefty increases in applications to the Physical Therapy and Nursing programs. The Office of Graduate Programs is projecting a graduate enrollment of over 1,300 which would be another record.

The Dean of Graduate Programs is working with faculty and the dean’s office in SHPS to bring two new online programs onboard: a Doctor of Occupational Therapy and a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice. If approved, both programs are targeted to begin in 2011.

International Center

International Undergraduate Admissions has been realigned under the auspices of the International Center in order to help provide more seamless recruitment, admissions, immigration, and advising services to international students. The university is home to well over 200 F-1 and non-immigrant status undergraduate, graduate, and English Language Program students, most of who live in the immediate campus community.

The **English Language Program (ELP)** recently established *Conversation Partners* which pairs native English speakers with ELP students. Participating students and staff meet on a regular basis to practice English language skills while connecting through cultural sharing. A new three-week summer program is being offered through ELP for teachers of English as a foreign language. Participants will be introduced to the latest methodology in teaching English while improving their personal listening, speaking, and pronunciation skills.

The **Office of Study Abroad** reports that over 100 University of Michigan-Flint students and faculty will have participated in study/travel abroad programs this academic year. UM-Flint faculty members are leading groups of students on study trips to sites in the Dominican Republic, Cambodia, Kenya, London, China, Poland, and Russia, among others. Over \$53, 000 in study abroad scholarships have been awarded to 30 deserving students. Scholarship funds include the Matthew Hilton-Watson Study Abroad Scholarship, the Esther C. Stone Study

Abroad Scholarship, The Ralph M. and Emmalyn E. Freeman Study Abroad Scholarship, the Virginia Hoover Thompson International Travel Scholarship, and the Myron and Margaret Winegarden Study Abroad scholarship.

Information Technology Services (ITS) – Mediated Classroom Services completed the upgrade of the Kiva room and an open house was held on December 9th to showcase the new technology which includes a state of the art projector and sound system.

Web Services held a brown bag presentation on Dec. 15th to go over the basics of the campus Content Management System to assist departments with updating and maintaining their departmental web sites.

ITS has developed an ecommerce solution and it is now being used in the ITS MSB 207 office for students, faculty, and staff to place software orders for themselves. Also, ITS held its annual software piracy campaign in November. The campaign consists of a series of questions that students access via the web. This campaign is used as a way to inform students of the University's policies regarding copyright infringement.

Mediated Classroom Services added new Crestron mediated equipment to French Hall 431, WSW 3153 and WSW 3176. ITS has completed the rewrite of the Online Scholarship Application program for 2010-11 and students are using it now to apply for various scholarships. Mediated Classroom Services used their new Tricaster video capturing system at Perani arena to record the Fall 2009 Commencement ceremony.

Office of Research – The 2009-2010 academic year has been very busy for undergraduate research. To date, a total of \$26,205 has been awarded to student researchers through the **Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program**; up 43.5% from last year. We have also seen an increase in the number of UROP students actively involved in a faculty-led project. In total, there are currently 45 students participating in UROP this year; up 55% from the previous year.

The annual **Meeting of Minds Undergraduate Research Conference** will be hosted at UM-Flint this year. Meeting of Minds is a collaborative research conference jointly sponsored by UM-Flint, UM-Dearborn, and Oakland University. With the event being hosted here, we are hoping for a strong turnout from our students, faculty, and staff. To register for the event, please visit www.umflint.edu/research/MOM. The last day to register is **March 27, 2010**.

Students and staff will represent UM-Flint at several undergraduate research events this year. **Cameron Waites** will present at the 6th annual **Michigan Undergraduate Research Forum (MURF)** on March 24, 2010. MURF is a joint effort between the three University of Michigan campuses, Michigan State, and Wayne State, where our students will present their work at the State Capitol. For more information, please visit www.umflint.edu/research/MURF.

Nkemdilim Nwodo will present at the 24th annual **National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)** from April 15-17. This year's NCUR will take place at the University of Montana. For more information about this year's NCUR, visit <http://www.umt.edu/ncur2010/>.

Andre Louis will present at the 13th National Conference for the **Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR)**. This year's conference will take place at Weber State University. For more information about this year's CUR National conference, visit: <http://www.cur.org/conferences/weber/cur10natconf.asp>

Support for **Human Subjects Research** continues to focus on education in managing and reducing risk, with more hands-on training using the eResearch system, taking workshops directly to our users, the departments and students that frequent the eResearch system. Work continues to improve the Human Subjects website to include PowerPoint presentations for self-tutoring. A joint presentation with accounting was conducted to introduce new Subject Fee Payment procedures. Mary Mandeville now serves on the Production Support committee in Ann Arbor, to provide a voice for the Flint campus as eResearch is revamped and enhanced.

Office of Extended Learning – Enrollment in online courses once again hit a record this winter at 4,591, an increase of 14% over winter 2009; mixed-mode course enrollments declined nearly 5% over last year. Enrollment at the Lansing Community College site, where UM-Flint offers nursing and healthcare bachelor degree completion, increased 22% to 60 course enrollments; St. Clair County Community College, where we offer a bachelor completion in psychology, reached 34.

Sheri E. Jaffurs, Ph.D., Music Department lecturer, has become the University's de facto expert on virtual world Second Life. Her research on musical identities in a virtual world will be published as a chapter in a new book by Lucy Green entitled, *Teaching, Learning, and Music Identity*, published by Indiana University Press. The chapter is titled, "SIMPhonic Island and Music Identity: Exploring Learning in Virtual Space." In virtual worlds, students use avatars to represent themselves and navigate 3-D environments as they participate in educational gaming, social networking, and real-time virtual events, all of which create a unique opportunity for musicians. Dr. Jaffurs' chapter will describe a netnographic investigation that will take place on SIMPhonic Island, which was created by a public high school. She has also made [presentations on the University's Wolverine Island](#), also in Second Life.

Clinical Psychologist **Professor Tom Wrobel** has been selected to present "Advantages and Disadvantages of Blended Models of Internship Supervision" at this year's [Sloan-C Blended Learning Conference](#) in April. His research includes psychological testing, behavior modification, and health psychology. He has been the instructor for the internship classes offered for students enrolled in the Clinical/Community Program. As course instructor, he assists students in finding internships compatible with their interests that will provide practical, educational experience and assists students in finding volunteer positions and employment with hospitals and agencies in the community. Sloan-C is a consortium of institutions and organizations committed to quality online education and is nationally recognized as the premier leader in the field of online learning and teaching.

Genesee Early College

A total of \$32,500 in Scholarship Funds Offered to GEC Graduating Class – A combination of University and donor funding will help offset rising college costs for 17 Genesee Early College students who will graduate this spring.

The largest pool of GEC scholarship funding is designated by the Provost Office and will provide \$3,000 one-time scholarships for 15 high-performing students. To be eligible for the scholarship offer, students must have completed a minimum of 30 UM-Flint credits and have maintained a cumulative UM-Flint GPA of 3.0 or higher, a standard which was met by 15 of the 40 members (37%) of GEC's Class of 2010. The mean performance of those 10 students who actually received offers is impressive: 57 UM-Flint credits completed with a GPA of 3.575.

In addition, two Flint-area physicians, Drs. Bobby Mukkamala and Nita Kulkarni, have endowed a \$1,500 annual scholarship for a high-performing GEC graduate which will be awarded for the first time this year. Finally, the Lavoy C. Smith Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded this year to a GEC graduate who has demonstrated a commitment to community service as well as a record of academic achievement.

Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching

Grant and Fellowship Awards – Proposals for pedagogical grant funds and course design/re-design fellowships were received and reviewed by the TCLT Advisory Board. The following awards were granted:

Grant Awards:

- Rose Casement, Professor, Education was awarded \$1,500 in support of her project entitled, "The Closet in the Classroom: Finding a Place for LCBTQ Stories in Elementary, Middle and High School Classrooms."

- Bill Irwin, Assistant Professor, Theatre was awarded \$1,600 in support of his attendance at the Musical Theatre in Higher Education Conference.
- Linda Pickett, Associate Professor, Education was awarded \$1,035 in support of her attendance at the Alternative Education Resource Organization Conference, June 23-27, 2010.
- Cristen Velliky, Assistant Professor, Art was awarded \$2,000 in support of her attendance at the Anderson Ranch Ceramics Workshop, July 18-31, 2010.
- Matt Wyneken, Associate Professor, Education was awarded \$1,420 in support of his attendance at the 14th Annual Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators Conference, January 27-31, 2010.

Fellowship Awards:

- Christina Aplin-Kalisz, Clinical Assistant Professor and Constance Creech, Assistant Professor, Nursing were awarded a fellowship for the design of two new courses, Primary Care I & II to expand student knowledge in the online DNP Program.
- Ade Artis, Assistant Professor, Philosophy, was awarded a fellowship to complete the redesign of PHL 312, The History and Philosophy of Science.

A second round of grant and fellowship funding has been issued. **Proposals are due to the TCLT no later than Friday, March 19, 5:00 p.m.** For more information, please visit the TCLT website at: www.umflint.edu/tclt/FundingOppurtunities.htm.

Please mark your calendar for the following upcoming events:

Project Deep Blue – On Tuesday, March 30, the TCLT along with the Thompson Library will host presentations regarding Project Deep Blue. Deep Blue is a digital repository for the research completed by UM faculty and staff. Jim Ottaviani, Project Coordinator, will demonstrate Deep Blue, highlight its many uses and explain how UM-Flint faculty and staff can participate in this unique showcase dedicated to the work of University of Michigan scholars. Presentations will be given at 11:00 a.m. – noon and from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. in Michigan Rooms, A-B.

4th Annual Internalization Summit – Dr. Patti McGill Peterson, Senior Associate, Institute of Higher Education Policy, will serve as the keynote speaker for this year's Internationalization Summit, scheduled for Wednesday, April 21st. Dr. Peterson's address will focus on the centrality of faculty to a more globally-orientated campus. Registration information and other program details will be announced via email in the near future.