

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

**TO:** University of Michigan-Flint Faculty and Staff  
**FROM:** Vahid Lotfi  
**SUBJECT:** Quarterly Update from Academic Affairs  
**DATE:** September 30, 2009

Welcome to a new academic year! We are witnessing some of the most exciting times in our campus history. Academic year 2008-2009 was our first year of being a *residential* campus with over 300 of our first year students living in the First Street Residence halls. This fall, we have more than a hundred additional students living across the street from Pavilion in Riverfront. We made tremendous progress in many ongoing projects and initiated new ones. Below are brief updates on some of them - I hope to cover others in future updates.

**Enrollment** - As Chancellor Person reported last Wednesday, our fall enrollment reached another all time record of 7,773 students, a 7.1% increase over fall 2008. More importantly, the quality of our incoming first year students, as measured by the average composite ACT score is up by about a half point (21.4 versus 20.9). The fall 10<sup>th</sup> day count of undergraduate enrollment reached 6,581 students, an increase of 6.9% over fall 2008. The graduate enrollment continued to be strong with a total enrollment of 1,192 or 7.9% increase over fall 2008. The international student enrollment grew to 167 students, representing over 30 countries. Please join me in congratulating and thanking **Kimberly Buster-Williams, Brad Maki, Dan Adams and Jennifer Hogan** and the staff of Undergraduate Admissions, Graduate Admissions, International Center and University Relations as well as our faculty and the important role that many play in helping attract new students and enabling our current students to succeed.

**General Education** - Thanks to the hard work of the General Education Curriculum Advisory Committee (GECAC) we are on track to implement our new General Education program for students entering the University in fall 2010. The GECAC, in cooperation with the Office of the Registrar, has established a process by which courses can be approved for General Education credit and has communicated this process to Deans' offices and Department Chairs. Throughout this Fall semester courses will move through the approval process of each unit and be reviewed by GECAC for alignment with the agreed upon learning outcomes, as we work towards having all courses approved and submitted to the Registrar by the end of November. Current members of the GECAC are: **Michael Pardales (chair), Adam Lutzker, Nathan Oaklander, Tracy Wacker, Linda Pickett, John Sonnega, Linda Knecht, Jacob Peng and Ted Williams.**

**Accreditation** – As most of you know by now, our campus will be undergoing its review seeking continuing accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) this year and the site visit is scheduled to occur on October 26th through 28th. For the past two and a half years, a group of over 60 faculty, staff, students and community members has been working hard to prepare our Self-Study Report for this visit. I am pleased to inform you that our Self-Study Report has been completed and was sent to the Higher Learning Commission in August. If you have not seen the report, I encourage you to visit the Web site [www.umflint.edu/hlc](http://www.umflint.edu/hlc). It is an outstanding report with beautiful pictures of our campus. I wish to thank everyone who contributed to the self-study project. Special thanks go to the two co-chairs: **Suzanne Selig and Ken Schilling**. I also wish to recognize and thank other members of the Steering Committee: **Jack Kay** (our former provost), **Bonnie Heckard, Fawn Skarsten, and Laura Staudacher**. Many thanks to **Jan Worth** for serving as the editor and **Janet Lorch** who did the graphics and the design. If you wish to obtain a CD ROM of the report, please contact Bonnie Heckard: [bheckard@umflint.edu](mailto:bheckard@umflint.edu)

**Student Veterans Initiative** - The Veteran Students Support Program (VSSP) was formed in March 2009 with the purpose of assisting student veterans with transition from military to civilian and student life. The program offers a centralized source of information and support for returning veterans. VSSP is supported by a team of knowledgeable staff from various offices across the campus. I am pleased to inform you that the program has

completed a number of tasks in a relatively short period of time. They include: development and implementation of a marketing/recruiting plan and hiring a staff recruiter; creation of a new student veteran orientation session; designation of freshmen level class sections exclusively for undergraduate veteran students; creation of a student veteran resource center and a lounge in the University Pavilion; development and launch of a Web site: [www.umflint.edu/studentveterans](http://www.umflint.edu/studentveterans). Please join me in thanking **Rhonda Banks, Robert Barnett, Kimberly Williams, Kim Butka, John Callewaert, Erin Carrasco, Melissa Caudle, Mary Deibis, Tendaji Ganges, Jeremy Glasstetter, Sarah Kowalski, Joseph Labadie, Tamara McKay, Aimi Moss, Becky Pettengill, John Riskovich, Ed Ronders, Matt Sherwood, Amanda Smith, Melissa Stevens-Farrell, Jenn Swank, Lori Vedder, Michelle Virden, Cameron Waites, Stevens Wandmacher, Chris Waters, Deb White, and Renee Zientek**. I am pleased to inform you that the project will now be led by **Stevens Wandmacher** from Philosophy.

**International Education** – The campus continues its various activities in support of international education. We have centralized key areas within the newly reorganized International Center, including the recruitment of and services for our international students. Our English Language Program (ELP) has developed significantly. Students participating in the ELP most often matriculate into academic programs, contributing to our overall international student population. The Office of Study Abroad, under the auspices of the International Center and with directional support from the Study Abroad Advisory Committee, has been created to provide students, faculty and staff administrative support for overseas study and travel abroad. This past year UM-Flint faculty led programs provided our students with global experiences to sites such as Kenya, Dominican Republic, Nigeria, Japan and Taiwan, and India. This year, faculty will lead trips to China, London, Cambodia, and the Dominican Republic. Our university is privileged to have recently hosted several visiting scholars including: **Dr. Ku-Jun Lin** from Tamkang University, Taiwan (School of Management); and **William Sheng** from National Taichung Institute of Technology, Taiwan (School of Management). We are pleased to currently host **Fulbright Scholar Klara Kalibova** from the Czech Republic who is working with the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice.

**Race and Ethnicity Reporting Changes** – On October 15, UM-Flint will release a survey within the Student Information System (SIS) that asks students to update and confirm their race and ethnicity data on file due to new federal reporting requirements. Under the new requirements, institutions must use a two-question format: (a) Are you Hispanic or Latino? (options) No, not Hispanic or Latino; OR Yes, Hispanic or Latino: a person of Cuban, Mexican, Chicano, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. (b) What is your race? You may select one or more races: (options) American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; White. Any current UM-Flint student who answered a race/ethnicity question on an admissions application in the old format or who did not previously answer will be resurveyed within SIS. Please visit the site [http://www.umflint.edu/provost/race\\_ethnicity.htm](http://www.umflint.edu/provost/race_ethnicity.htm) for detailed information. UM-Flint faculty and staff will be resurveyed during Open Enrollment in October. I wish to thank **Brad Maki** who led this effort and other members of his committee: **Rhonda Banks, Kim Butka, Jon Davidson, Scott Hoover, Jay Gandhi, and Fawn Skarsten**.

**In Fond Memory and Honor.** Former chief botanist and Associate Professor of Biology **Bruce D. Parfitt** passed away on September 3, 2009. He joined the University in 1995 and served as Department Chair from 2004 through 2007. Among fellow plant systematists and professionals, he was best known for his co-authorship of the definitive work on cacti – volume four of the prestigious compendium *Flora of North America* – a work that reflects his discovery of new species and encyclopedic knowledge. Among his students he was, as one undergrad put it, “a slacker’s nightmare.” He kept high standards, edited papers relentlessly, challenged assumptions, but lavished his time toward earnest students’ success in the classroom, in the lab, in the field, and in their personal life. As we mourn the loss of our colleague, our heart-felt thoughts remain with his mother, Myrtle Parfitt and two brothers, Arden (and wife Katie) and Craig.

### Faculty Awards Promotions

It was a joy to start the semester by celebrating the many achievements of our faculty and staff as they were recognized during the Convocation. Faculty members receiving special awards included: **Martin Kaufman** - David M. French Professorship; **Keith Moreland** - Distinguished Service Award; **Lucinda Pfalzer** – Scholarly

or Creative Achievement Award; **Jacob Blunner** – Teaching Excellence Award; **Cheryl Godmar** - Larry Kugler Academic Advisor Excellence Award; **Suzanne Knight** - Lois Matz Rosen Junior Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award; **Charles Thomas Jr.** – Olivia Maynard and Olof Karlstrom Faculty Award for Civic Engagement; **Quamrul Mazumder** – Alvin D. Loving Junior Faculty Award and Lois Matz Rosen Junior Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award; and **Carolyn Gillespie** - Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year.

I wish to express my deepest appreciation to the Scholarship, Awards and Special Events (SASE) Committee: **Edgar Torres (Chair), Hannah Furrow, Kazuko Hiramatsu, Marianne McGrath, Fataneh Taghaboni, and Johnny Young (Ex officio)**, for their hard work in reviewing all of the nominations and selecting the award recipients.

Faculty members receiving promotion from assistant to associate professor with tenure included: **Michael Farmer (CSEP); Kenneth Litwin (CRJ); Heather Seipke (CVA); Aviva Dorfman (EDU); and Patricia Gallant (EDU)**. Faculty members receiving promotion from associate with tenure to professor included: **Christine Waters (CVA); Rose Casement (EDU); and Donna Fry (PT)**. Please join me in congratulating the above faculty on their achievements.

### **Organizational Changes and Personnel Matters**

We officially welcome University Outreach to Academic Affairs. Under the leadership of **Renee Zientek**, University Outreach has certainly grown over the years and contributed significantly to our mission of civic engagement. I look forward to having greater integration of Outreach within Academic Affairs.

In July, we said farewell to our former Provost **Jack Kay**. He was clearly a transformational provost and our campus owes him a debt of gratitude. The appointment of **Chris Waters** as the Interim Associate Provost was announced in August. She will oversee the offices of Graduate Programs, ITS, OEL, Research, and the International Center. She will also serve as interim directors of TCLT and Research. We also have two new academic deans. **Barbara Kornblau** is our new Dean of School of Health Professions and Studies. She joined us in July. And, **Mary Jo Finney** was appointed as Dean of School of Education and Human Services, effective September 1, 2009.

**Ananthakrishnan Aiyer** has been appointed as Director of IGS, effective September 1, 2009. Ananthakrishnan has been an active member of the IGS faculty with strong commitment to international education. I look forward to his leadership in advancing the IGS program.

### **College of Arts and Sciences**

**Department of Africana Studies – Ernest Emenyonu** was named an Honorary Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters (NAL) on August 13, 2009, at a ceremony held at the University of Lagos, Nigeria. According to a *Guardian* newspaper account of the ceremony, “Regular Fellows are scholars with 10 years experience of professorship that are not only distinguished, but also current in terms of research and publications.” Over the summer Dr. Emenyonu completed work on two books to be published later this year.

**Department of Communication and Visual Arts – Lewis, Michael A.**, had an article entitled “So You Want to Be a TV News Anchor? It’s Survival of the Fittest in One of the Smallest Newsrooms in America,” *BEA – Broadcast Education Association Feedback*, Vol. 50, No. 4, July 2009. Assistant Professor of Communication **Sarah Rosaen** and her undergraduate students co-authored the following article which was also featured in *The Scholarship of Teaching*, 2(1), 24-29: **Rosaen, S. F., Durish, S., Mello, L., Mills, A., and Ramin, A.** (2009 May). “Undergraduates Demystify Research: The Power of Nutrition Public Service Announcements on Children,” poster presented at the Annual Conference of the International Communication Association in Chicago, Illinois.

**Department of Computer Science, Engineering and Physics** – Joining the CESP faculty in January was Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering **Olanrewaju Aluko**. Dr. Aluko received his Bachelor and Master’s of Engineering Degrees from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, and his Ph.D. from Howard University,

Washington D.C. Prior to joining the UM-Flint faculty, Dr. Aluko's served as Senior Lecturer at Michigan Technological University for two years, Visiting Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 2007, and as Lecturer and Industrial Coordinator at the University of Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria from 1999 to 2001. In addition, Dr. Aluko has 12 years of industrial experience as an Engineer. We were most fortunate to have had Dr. Aluko join the University and welcome him as one of our fellow colleagues.

**Mazumder, Quamrul H.**, published the article "A Comparative Analysis and Evaluation of Different Approaches of Globalization of Engineering Curriculum in the USA," in *International Journal of Modern Engineering*. He was also awarded a National Science Foundation Grant in the amount of \$149,900. He recently published several conference papers and co-authored the following undergraduate research papers: **Tambey, Preshit, Lengyel, Michale, and Mazumder, Quamrul H.**, "Effect of Mesh Size on CFD Analysis of Erosion in Elbow Geometry," Meeting of Minds Conference Presentation and Undergraduate Journal Publication, University of Michigan-Dearborn, May 2009; **Li, Chen Guang, and Mazumder, Quamrul H.**, "CFD Comparison of Erosive Wear in Elbows Due to Particulate Gas-Solid Flow," Meeting of Minds Conference Presentation and Undergraduate Journal Publication, University of Michigan-Dearborn, May 2009.

In June 2009, Assistant Professor **Suleyman Uludag** presented a paper at the ICC 2009 IEEE International Conference on Communications in Dresden, Germany. Another work includes: **Akkaya, Kemal, Senel, Fatih, Thimmapuram, Aravind, and Uludag, Suleyman**, "Distributed Recovery from Network Partitioning in Movable Sensor/Actor Networks via Controlled Mobility," IEEE Transactions on Computers, 24 Jul. 2009. IEEE Computer Society Digital Library. IEEE Computer Society, <http://doi.ieeecomputersociety.org/10.1109/TC.2009.120>.

**Department of English** – Assistant Professor of English **Stephanie Roach** has been working with the National Conversation on Writing (NCoW), an initiative of the Council for Writing Program Administrators' Network for Media Action. NCoW has recently launched a website that provides multi-media resources for literacy educators to help them become part of national efforts to demonstrate the importance of writing and support writing programs on campuses and in surrounding communities. Dr. Roach was instrumental in developing the resources available at [www.ncow.org](http://www.ncow.org) including their first featured Campaign, the About NCoW information for educators, and the text and downloadable resource on the homepage. Dr. Roach has contributed additional materials that will become part of NCoW's celebration of writing following the National Council of Teachers of English National Day on Writing October 20, 2009 (more information, including a United States House of Representatives resolution, is available at <http://www.ncte.org/dayonwriting>).

**Department of Foreign Languages** – Edgar Pimentel continues to work on establishing a Sister Cities relationship between Trujillo, Peru and Flint, an effort begun by Professor **Paul O'Donnell**. Professor O'Donnell continues to correspond and meet with three Peruvian universities in an effort to develop memos of understandings. On a personal note, Paul completed the Crim 10 mile race, running it for the first time in 1987, he comments, "considerably slower and more careful now."

**Department of Mathematics** – Actuarial Mathematics student, **Matthew Sternemann**, has been awarded the prestigious John Culver Wooddy Scholarship for the academic year 2009-10 by the Actuarial Foundation. Alumnus **Matthew Smith** has become an Associate of the Society of Actuaries; and Alumna **Becky Holnagel** has become an Associate of the Casualty Actuarial Society.

**Department of Music** – UM-Flint music students teamed up with Assistant Professor of Music, **Brian DiBlassio**, to record the new program identification music for Michigan Television. The new theme music, composed by DiBlassio, was recorded with Dave Greenspan at the Duderstadt Recording Studio on the UM-Ann Arbor campus. Michigan Television producer Donna Ryen created a "making-of" piece entitled *Sculpting Sound*. In addition to postings on the UM-Flint websites, this piece is currently airing on the television station and highlights the processes of the collaboration.

**Department of Philosophy** – As of 2009 Professor **Nathan Oaklander** began a three-year term on the American Philosophical Association Committee on Lectures, Fellowships and Research. He also received a publication subvention award from the Office of the Vice President for Research for *Presentism: Essential Readings*. Also, in February, Professor Oaklander will present his paper, "A Reply to Professor Tegtmeier's 'The Advancement of the

World” to the Philosophy of Time Society in Chicago. He was also invited to Chair the colloquium session at the 2010 APA Meetings in Chicago. His paper “McTaggart’s Paradox and Crisp’s Presentism” appeared in *Philosophia*, 2009, DOI: 10.1007/s11406-009-9222-4. Finally, Professor Oaklander’s mentee, Benjamin Strickland, has a paper, “Berkeley’s Attack on Locke’s Representationalism,” forthcoming in the *Meeting of the Minds Journal of Undergraduate Research*, vol. 11 (2010).

**Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice** – Professor **Beverley Smith** has been working with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe over the last 18 months in negotiations with federal, state, and local governmental agencies and landowners regarding the best way to proceed after a large number of ancestral skeletal remains were unearthed during a housing construction project in the Carriagetown neighborhood of downtown Flint. In August, the process of screening for skeletal remains and artifact began. Dr. Smith is the principle archaeological investigator for the project, coordinating volunteers from the tribe, neighborhood, students, and amateur archaeologists, to retrieve the remains for later reburial. It has proven to be a rich cultural experience for all who participated and has revealed evidence of a cemetery dating to A.D. 800-1200. This project is ongoing and will likely resume again in the spring.

### School of Education and Human Services

Assistant Professor **Sharman Siebenthal-Adams** accompanied three graduate students from the Master of Arts in Education Global Program to Cozumel, Mexico. Working with the Foundations of Museums and Parks of Cozumel in Quintana-Roo, Dr. Siebenthal-Adams led her students to work with partners at the park to engage in ecological and conservation efforts with park administrators, biologists, and youth conservationists on flora and fauna of the region. Their work included saving sea turtle nesting grounds, crocodile reserves, mangrove rehabilitation sites, youth reef projects all based on ecological movements and destruction from hurricanes. In addition, the SEHS team made a cultural visit to the Mayan ruins to work with children searching for bird species on the brink of extinction. While there, the group also worked on the International Beach Clean-up Efforts from tidal surges and hurricanes. This work informs the SEHS students’ master’s level Global Program projects.

### School of Health Professions and Studies

**Department of Nursing** – The inaugural class of **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)** students were honored with a reception in August. After a competitive admission process reviewing 100 applications, 38 new graduate students began the program in fall 2009. The first class of DNP’s has set a record with 21% diversity and a mean age of 43 years. The Nursing Graduate Program has experienced rapid growth with over 80 students currently in the program. Student activities include: three nursing graduate students traveled to India with **Professor Maureen Tippen** in August to provide health care and education at HRI Hospital in Vijayawada. They provided primary care, taught nursing classes, and worked with children in orphanages.

**Department of Physical Therapy** – In September Professor **Cindy Pfalzer** presented on “Segmental Limb Volume Changes in Women With Breast Cancer Prior to the Onset of Lymphedema” at the International Society of Lymphoedema in Australia. Regional presentations were given by **Amy Yorke** on “Effectively Managing Fatigue in Multiple Sclerosis” and “Effective Clinical Instruction.” Another was presented by **Amy Yorke** and **Tom Reudiger** on “Clinical Decision Making in Physical Therapy.”

Two new faculty completed their doctorates: **Dr. James Creps** and **Dr. Tom Reudiger**. **Amy Yorke**, **Carol Daly**, and **Becky Rodda** were all credentialed as Advanced Clinical Instructors by the American Physical Therapy Association. Congratulations! The transitional **Doctor of Physical Therapy** degree program is now being fully implemented with significant growth in enrollment and work is being completed to develop clinical residencies in specific areas of physical therapy practice.

## Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Programs

**Graduate Programs** – Several new graduate programs will be initiated over the course of the next year including a joint **BS/MS in Chemistry and Biochemistry**, **MA in Arts Administration**, and **Education Specialist**. The Office of Graduate Programs is assisting departments in developing/implementing marketing plans. A planned expansion of the MPA “WebPlus” program in Educational Administration at Oakland Community College was cancelled due to low enrollment; however, the Flint campus section of the program maintained strong enrollment in the Fall with 33 new students.

**Information Technology Services (ITS)** - ITS has rolled out two email encryption tools for use by campus. You can find the Quicknotes at <http://www.umflint.edu/helpdesk/articles/263/1/Email-Encryption-at-UM-Flint/Page1.html>. They have also implemented hard drive, network folder and removable media encryption via GroupShare. This will allow employees of the University to securely store sensitive information on their PC, H or I Drive as well as any thumb drives they may use to transport data. ITS would be happy to work with any department that wishes to implement Microsoft’s Bitlocker whole hard drive encryption technology. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call the ITS HelpDesk at 6-6804. The Library and Macintosh Computer Labs have been upgraded with new computers as well as the PC’s in the Smartcarts on campus. The University has switched from Uniprint to PaperCut as our print metering software for the computer labs. This new system is easy to use and will save the University money with a lower annual maintenance cost.

ITS has expanded its job shadowing opportunities by including the Metro Housing Partnership Summer Youth Program. We accepted one high school student who worked at the ITS HelpDesk as well as with the Desktop Computer Support Team gaining valuable experience. Mediated Classroom Services is completing the upgrade of the mediated equipment in the KIVA at UCEN. The new system includes a state of the art projector and sound system.

**Office of Research** - The fall 2009 Edition of the **Office of Research Newsletter** is now online at: [http://www.umflint.edu/research/Newsletters/Research\\_Newsletter\\_Fall\\_2009.pdf](http://www.umflint.edu/research/Newsletters/Research_Newsletter_Fall_2009.pdf)

Also, please visit the Office of Research website to learn more about the events planned for this year:

- Workshop schedule and registration page: [http://www.umflint.edu/research/workshop\\_schedule.htm](http://www.umflint.edu/research/workshop_schedule.htm)
- Events Schedule: [http://www.umflint.edu/research/2010\\_OR\\_events\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.umflint.edu/research/2010_OR_events_flyer.pdf)
- Monthly Brown Bag discussions: <http://www.umflint.edu/research/brownbag.htm>

Proposals are currently being accepted for the **Research and Creative Activity Fund** and the **Dr. Ben F. Bryer Foundation Medical Research Fund**. **Proposals are due October 30**. More at:

- [http://www.umflint.edu/research/faculty\\_funding/RCAC\\_guidelines.htm](http://www.umflint.edu/research/faculty_funding/RCAC_guidelines.htm)
- [http://www.umflint.edu/research/faculty\\_funding/bryer.htm](http://www.umflint.edu/research/faculty_funding/bryer.htm)

**Meeting of Minds (MOM): Save the Date!** The MOM Undergraduate research conference will be hosted on the Flint campus this year on May 14, 2010. Registration will begin in early January. Students from UM-Flint, UM-Dearborn, and Oakland University will gather to share research and creative activities they have conducted through oral discussions, poster presentations, and performances. We need your help in (1) identifying students to present; (2) working with students as they formulate their presentations; and (3) help as volunteers during the event (session moderators, hospitality, etc.). For more information, please visit: [www.umflint.edu/research/MOM](http://www.umflint.edu/research/MOM).

Research projects are still being accepted for the **Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)**. Take advantage of the opportunity to have student support on research projects of your making. UROP can support students through paid wages, work-study, or volunteer points. Funds are still available for students, but are only offered on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, please visit: [www.umflint.edu/research/UROP](http://www.umflint.edu/research/UROP).

## Genesee Early College

The Genesee Early College was developed in 2007 and is operated on our campus by the Genesee Intermediate School District, only one of just six early colleges in Michigan. GEC students in grades 9 and 10 take a schedule of high school courses specifically designed to prepare them to succeed in UM-Flint coursework. Student schedules in grades 11, 12, and 13 include a combination of high school and UM-Flint entry-level general education courses.

In 2007, a total of 47 eleventh grade students enrolled in a mixture of high school coursework, taught on campus by certificated high school teachers, as well as an array of first-year UM-Flint courses. Two years later, these students are “13th graders” and in the last year of the 5-year GEC program of students. They have successfully completed, on average, 26 UM-Flint credits, and will undertake as many as 30 additional credits this year, all at no cost to their families. More significantly, they have flourished in college coursework, consistently achieving higher than UM-Flint freshman students (FTIACs). Next spring these students will exit GEC armed with a Michigan Merit high school diploma and as many as 60 college credits toward a degree in a health-related field.

This fall, the third year of operation, GEC enrollment has grown to 150 students in grades 9-13. It is anticipated this year that GEC 11th, 12th, and 13th graders, as a cohort group, will enroll in as many as 80 different courses offered on campus, totaling 2,500+ credits.

## Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching

TCLT is sponsoring the following faculty members to participate in the Lilly Conference on College Teaching in Traverse City in September: **Jennifer Blackwood, Barb Cherem, Margie Murray-Wright, Dolores Pons-Hervas, Jie Song, John Sonnega, Maureen Tippen, and Rebecca Zeiss.** This year’s theme is “Evidenced-Based Learning and Teaching.”

During the Fall semester, the TCLT along with the General Education Curriculum Advisory Committee (GECAC), will host a brown bag discussion series focused on the distribution areas of the new general education curriculum. These sessions are intended to support the evaluation of current courses and the alignment with student learning outcomes for inclusion in the new curriculum, as well as provide a forum in which faculty can discuss the nature of these new areas. The schedule for the series is available on the TCLT website and the GECAC Blackboard organization.

A call for applications for pedagogical grants and course design/re-design fellowships will be issued in October, with a due date of November 19 ... watch your email for this opportunity.

## Women’s Educational Center

**Gender in Diverse Religious Cultures** – Tuesday, October 6, 5:00 p.m., Michigan Room B – Featuring keynote speaker, Fulbright scholar **Dr. Hadeer Abo El Nagah**, this program will explore how gender, culture, and religion intersect. Discussion will include a panel of individuals who are members of the Flint Interfaith Council. Dr. Hadeer Abo El Nagah holds a doctorate in English Literature and has a life-long mission to bring the people of the United States and the Muslim world into closer understanding. She focuses on understanding the culture of Islam; Islam as a religion, and the major issues in Islamic societies including gender inequalities, peace and war, colonization, and globalization.

***My Real Name: a play about sex trafficking*** – Thursday, October 8, 7:00 p.m., UM-Flint Theatre – *My Real Name* is a play that raises the voices of those who have been muted by the world microphone. With a strong belief in rehabilitative art, the play consists of stories of trafficked prostitutes who are willing to share their experiences with the help of dramatic flashback scenes of their lives. A panel discussion will follow and will include faculty members: **Jennifer Alvey, Ken Litwin, and Shelley Spivack.**