

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

TO: University of Michigan-Flint Faculty and Staff
FROM: Vahid Lotfi
SUBJECT: Quarterly Update from Academic Affairs
DATE: May 24, 2010

The winter Commencement was held on May 2, 2010. The Chancellor's May BlueNotes presented the details of the event. We graduated our largest class with 620 students attending the event. I wish to congratulate all of the graduating students and their families and thank our faculty and staff who participated in the event.

The graduation ceremony of the first cohort of 39 Genesee Early College (GEC) students was held on May 12th in the Theatre. The Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD) Superintendent, **Dr. Tom Svitkovich**, and **Mr. Larry Ford**, President of the GISD Board of Education awarded the graduates their diplomas. The graduates were recognized for their achievements and numerous scholarships they had received. Each graduate had earned between 40 to 80 college credits. The event was marked by attendance of **Chancellor Ruth Person**, vice chancellors, deans, faculty, and distinguished guests such as **Senator Deb Cherry**, **Mr. Patrick Wardell, President and CEO of Hurley Medical Center**, and **Dr. Ernestine Smith**. Twenty two of the graduates will continue their college education here at UM-Flint. Other graduates are going to universities such as Ann Arbor, MSU, Case Western Reserve, Oberlin, and Catholic University of America. I wish to recognize and thank **Ms. Sandra Morgan-Jones**, the GEC Principal, and her staff for an outstanding job of working with the GEC students to achieve their success. I offer my deepest gratitude to **Dr. Bob Hahn**, our coordinator of K-12 projects and the campus liaison with GEC. He has worked tirelessly to ensure our partnership with GEC operates smoothly and the university continues to provide the necessary resources and support for the program.

This will be my last Update from Academic Affairs in my capacity as the Interim Provost. It has been an honor and a true privilege for me to have served you since last August. I offer many thanks to **Chancellor Person** for her strong support and guidance. Working with her directly was a pleasure and a great learning experience. I wish to thank **Vice Chancellors Dave Barthelmes** and **Mary Jo Sekelsky** and **Deans Mary Jo Finney, Jack Helmuth, Barbara Kornblau and DJ Trela** for their support. We are deeply grateful to **Chris Waters** for once again stepping forward and assuming my duties. Chris has done an outstanding job, leading the Associate Provost Group and serving as the Graduate Dean. I wish to thank members of AAAC: **Donna Fry** (Chair), **Barbara Cherum, Jeff Kupperman, Jamile Lawand, Adrian Matthews, Keith Moreland, Suzanne Selig, Beverly Smith, and Tom Wrobel** for their thoughtful advice and support throughout the academic year. Last, but certainly not least, I wish to thank the Provost Office staff **Sue Fabbro, Ginny Sollinger, and Kathleen Rosebohm**. Their dedication and hard work made my job enormously less challenging.

Events and Projects

I am pleased to announce the promotion and tenure of four of our faculty members by the Board of Regents. Please join me in congratulating the following faculty members who were promoted from assistance professor to associate professor with tenure: **Terrance Horgan**, Psychology; **Heather Laube**, Sociology; **Stephanie Roach**, English; and **Jie Song**, Chemistry. They will be recognized during the **Academic Affairs Convocation** to be held **on Wednesday September 1, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.** Please reserve this date and time on your calendars.

Common Read - After consultation with the Council of Deans, AAAC and the Governing Faculty, the campus will begin planning for its first Common Read in fall 2011. On university campuses, the Common Read is a voluntary project focused around a common text to be read by students, faculty and staff to form the basis for a community of inquiry and discussion. It can also be used to shape co-curricular and student services programming. The Provost's Office is in the process of appointing a faculty/staff committee to develop the detailed design of the program and to select a book for the 2011 Common Read. Faculty interested in serving on the committee should contact **Aimi Moss**, Director of Academic Advising or **Peggy Kahn**, Professor of Political Science.

General Education – The implementation of the new general education program continues to progress smoothly and we are preparing to offer over 25 sections of the First Year Experience (FYE) during the coming academic year. We are also working on offering several sections of the FYE during the summer 2010. A one-time scholarship fund has been created for students taking the course during the summer 2010. I am very pleased to announce that **Nathan Oaklander** will be the next Chair of the General Education Curriculum Advisory Committee (GECAC), effective September 1, 2010. Nathan has been recommended by the GECAC and has received strong support from me and the deans. I look forward to his leadership in moving the implementation of the program forward. I wish to thank **Michael Pardales** for chairing the Committee since its inception two years ago. Michael has done an excellent job of leading the committee. Many thanks to the continuing members of the committee **Linda Pickett, John Sonnega, Ted Williams, and Jacob Peng** and the outgoing members **Linda Knecht, Adam Lutzker, and Tracy Wacker** for their service. I acknowledge and thank the hard work of **Sandy Alberto** for providing administrative support and **Karen Arnould** and the staff of the **Registrar's Office** for successfully managing the conversions of hundreds of courses and their attributes to the new program.

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Africana Studies – Congratulations to faculty member **Carolyn Nur Wistrand** who received a staged reading by the Negro Ensemble Company, Inc. in New York City of her new play. Her play is the result of her Research/Creative Grant that she was awarded. In addition, Echo Theatre in Dallas, Texas, awarded **Carolyn Nur Wistrand** as one of the Finalist Honorees in Echo Theatre's Big Shout Out, New Play Contest for Women Playwrights for her play, *The Gambler's Earrings*. There were over 300 plays submitted for this contest.

Department of Communication and Visual Arts – BFA Visual Communication majors **James (JT) Thigpen** and **Adam Alberts** were ADDY award winners. ADDY awards are an international advertising competition. They begin in Flint with the Flint Area Advertising Federation and "gold" winners advance to regional (geographic area of Chicago, Detroit and Indiana). Both JT and Adam received gold local and silver regional awards. Out of 36 regional student entries, there were only 10 awards and their two entries at the regional level were the only two from the Flint group. Congratulations!

Department of Music – **Gabriela Hristova** conducted, by invitation, a reading session of new choral literature at the State meeting of the American Choral Directors' Association. In addition, her Chamber Singers were invited to perform at the Pentagon in March. We were very proud of them! **Christopher Heidenreich** presented his paper, "Meeting the National Standards with Your Concert Programming" at The Midwest Clinic – an international and band and orchestra concert. In addition, Chris has been invited to create a full score and edited version of Vasil Kalinnikov's "Finale to Symphony No. 1 in G Minor."

The video documentary, "Sculpting Sound", produced by Donna Ryen, showcasing the student/faculty and UM-Flint/UM-Ann Arbor recording collaboration of **Brian DiBlassio's** composition for the theme music of Michigan Television is nominated for an Emmy in the 32nd Annual National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Awards. In addition, he presented his paper, "Compositional Innovations within the Latin Jazz Montuno", at the First International Clare Fischer Symposium at the University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Graz, Austria. DiBlassio also performed in Egin, IL and West Bloomfield, MI with the Latin Jazz ensemble *Tumbao Bravo*. Also, Prix-de-Rome composer Chrisitan Manen (professor emeritus of the Paris Conservatory) has written "Pavane et Saltarelle" for euphonium and piano for **Lois Alexander**. It has been published in France and will be premiered at UM-Flint in a web-streamed recital of his works in spring, 2010.

Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice – Publications for **Ananthakrishnan Aiyer** include: "Commentary on Knowledge and Empire: The Social Sciences and United States Imperial Expansion," in *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*. As second author with **Anthony Marcus** and **Kirk Dombrowski**, "Chaos in South Asia," in *Dialectical Anthropology*. As primary author with **Kirk Dombrowski** and **Anthony Marcus** in an editorial on Somali piracy, "'The Enemies of All Mankind' and Will the Real Villains Please Stand Up," in *Dialectical Anthropology*. He is currently collaborating on another editorial that addresses the battle between the Dollar, the Yuan, and the Euro.

Department of Theatre and Dance – Janet Haley has been named a 2010 Faculty Fellow with the Ginsberg Center in Ann Arbor along with receiving an \$11,000 award to support her creative project. Her civic engagement and public scholarship project involves her creating an original theatre production on the grounds of the historic Glenwood Cemetery in the heart of Flint and is entitled, *Restoration of Spirit: The Glenwood Cemetery Site-Specific Performance Project*. Project partners include **Ami Pflugrad-Jackisch**, students, the Genesee County Historical Society, UM-Flint Theatre alumni, and Glenwood Cemetery.

Department of Philosophy – Nathan Oaklander, *Tempo e identità* (Rome: Armando Editore, 2009): Translation of L. Nathan Oaklander's contribution to *Time, Change and Freedom: An Introduction to Metaphysics* (New York and London: Routledge, 1995): Co-authored with **Quentin Smith**.

School of Education and Human Services

NCATE Accreditation Update – The Education Department has progressed steadily towards its goal of accreditation this past year. Education department faculty, content faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences, University supervisors, and cooperating teachers have been working collaboratively to improve the quality of teacher preparation. **Krista Hansen, Albert Price, Randy Repic, DJ Trela, Sapna Vyas, and Matt Wyneken** recently attended the NCATE Institutional Orientation in Louisville, Kentucky, and have brought back valuable insights from the conference that will help further the work of the unit. The **Michigan Department of Education** rates every teacher education program in the state based on eight different criteria and publishes the list every year. Universities fall into one of four categories: exemplary, satisfactory, at risk and low performing. The 2008-2009 performance score for the University of Michigan-Flint ranked us in the “Exemplary” category.

Early Childhood – Linda Pickett, published chapter, “Integrated Education in Northern Ireland: Curriculum for Peace” in *Curriculum Development: Perspectives from Around the World*, which was featured in a forum at the Association for Childhood International Conferences in Phoenix, Arizona.

Social Work – The Department hosted the site visit for reaffirmation of the CSWE Accreditation. Although resources were a slight concern, the site visitor's report was very positive about the curriculum, students, and community partners. A final decision is expected in June. Also, the Department co-sponsored a training Program on infant attachment which brought 200 professionals to campus. Honoring the invisible safety net for children in Genesee County, the inter-disciplinary professional development event evolved from the collaborative work of: Flint Community Schools, Genesee County Department of Human Services, Genesee County Community Mental Health, Genesee Intermediate School District, Mott Children's Health Center, Social Work Department of Mott Community College, Priority Children, Michigan Chapter National Association of Social Workers, and 7th Judicial Circuit Court, Family Division.

At the request of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Government Accountability Office in Washington, DC is collecting data from a national sample of programs to identify effective strategies to mitigate the effects of student mobility, including our local Genesee County Scholars Program. On April 27, 2010, data collected through the partnership between Department of Social Work, Flint Community Schools and Genesee County Department of Human Services, provided testimony on the longitudinal impact of housing stabilization on the academic achievement of the children from high poverty-high need districts.

Denise Dedman published “Field Instructors and On Line Training: An Exploratory Study,” *Journal of Social Work Education*, a tier one journal in social work. **Denise Dedman** and **Kathleen Woehrle** recently presented “Teaching BSW Research Competencies through Community Engagement” at the Baccalaureate Program Directors (BPD) Conference in Atlanta, followed by the same presentation at the Michigan Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Educators (MABSWE) in Lansing.

On April 19-21, nineteen social work students traveled by train to Chicago, in a professional development trip coordinated by the student leadership of Phi Alpha Honor Society, and guided by the **Denise Dedman** who accompanied them to provide an interpretive role. The trip included a tour of Hull House, a place of historical significance to social work as it was the settlement house created by Jane Addams, a foremother of our profession. The students' evaluation of the trip provided evidence that personal development value outweighed the historic

value. On April 28, 2010, **Jackie Harvey** recognized two of our community partners, for their contribution to excellence in our field instruction experiences. Pam Diement-Flores, LMSW received the Social Worker of the Year, and Genesee County Prosecutor's Office-Victim Advocacy received Social Welfare Agency of the Year Award.

School of Management

Publications: **Clement Chen** "The Pervasive Success of 6 Sigma at Caterpillar," lead article in *Strategic Finance*, April, 2010; **Yener Kandogan**, "Examining the Global Reach of the 2008 U.S. Economic Downturn," soon to be published in the *Thunderbird International Business Review*; **Clement Chen** and **Keith Moreland**, "Virtual Groups in a Cost Accounting Course: Group Dynamics, Outcomes and Participant Satisfaction," accepted for publication in *Advances in Accounting Education*; **Jacob Peng**, "The Wealth Effects of Investing in Information Technology: The Case of Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404 Compliance," scheduled for publication in *Review of Accounting and Finance*. (Co-authored with S. Jory and C. Ford); **Mark Perry** contributed to MSNBC program by Allison Linn, "Yes, We Do Still Make Things in America." Also, contributed to ABC-News Political Punch and was featured in a Kudlow 101 segment on CNBC's *The Kudlow Report*.

Special Guest: National Manager of Toyota's Corporate Communications in Detroit, **John McCandless**, visited our campus and shared public relations and marketing communication insights with students in the MGT 531 evening class and earlier in the day he conducted an open forum with faculty, staff, and students.

Students Recognized: On their 2010 Academic Awards Night, Financial Executive International-Detroit Chapter recognized two top SOM accounting/finance students, graduate recipient **Nicholas Gaspar** and undergraduate recipient **Steven Mao**, for their outstanding records of scholarship and service. Congratulations!

Faculty Farwell: After 19 years of service, **Madhukar Angur** resigned as of May 1. A farewell reception was held in his honor with a presentation of a plaque in gratitude for his service.

School of Health Professions and Studies

School of Health Professions and Studies (SHPS) developed two new doctoral degree programs. They consist of the Doctor of Anesthesia Practice and Doctor of Occupational Therapy. These new doctoral degree programs were developed in response to expressed demands by our students within the local geographic area as well as demands at the state and national levels. They will be offered online with select campus residencies. These proposals have received approval from all of the pertinent UM-Flint internal governing faculties and committees. They have been submitted to the Presidents Council and to the Board of Regents. Upon receipt of support from the Presidents Council, they will be submitted to the Higher Learning Commission for final approval.

Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Programs

The 4th **Internationalization Summit** was held April 21 and was attended by nearly 100 faculty and staff and was the result of efforts on the part of the Associate Provost's Office, the Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching, the International Center and the International and Global Studies Program. The keynote speaker, Patti McGill Peterson, Senior Associate, Institute of Higher Education Policy and the faculty/student panel provided great insight on the process of internationalizing a campus and faculty. Please join me in thanking the organizing committee: **Dan Adams**, **Ananth Aiyer**, **Sharman Siebenthal Adams**, **Sapna Vyas**, and **Chris Waters**, and the staff of TCLT, **David Ametrano** and **Sandy Alberto** and the International Center staff **Patrice Campbell**, **James Logan**, and **Asinda Gadzama**.

We also celebrated the inauguration and the first induction ceremony of the Eta Kappa Chapter of the Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society. Awarded in fall 2009, the Eta Kappa Chapter joins over 180 chapters at universities around the world. Special thanks to **Sapna Vyas** for helping to coordinate the application process on behalf of the university. We are very proud to have been awarded the Eta Kappa campus chapter. I wish to acknowledge the work of the Eta Kappa Board members: **AnneMarie Toebosch**, **Maureen Tippen**, **Yener Kandogan**, and University Coordinator **Sharman Siebenthal Adams**. The group has been wonderful and a fantastic cross representation of our campus. The Board awarded 19 student scholarships for Phi Beta Delta 'National Dues' and four lifetime Honorary

Award Memberships: **Chancellor Ruth Person**, International Scholar, **Dr. Patti McGill Peterson**, Chancellor Emeritus **Juan Mestas**, and Posthumous award to **Matthew Hilton-Watson**. A special thank you to **Asinda Gadzama**, Eta Kappa Executive Assistant and **Sandy Alberto** for assisting with the event.

Graduate Programs - With a record number of graduate students earning their degrees just weeks ago, early indicators suggest graduate enrollment will surge past 1300 in fall 2010. The new programs in Arts Administration, Chemistry/Biochemistry, and Education Specialist are seeing healthy application rates at this point in the cycle. Large increases in applications for Physical Therapy and Nursing indicate significantly higher enrollments in those programs this fall.

International Center - **Patricee Campbell** has been named Chair-Elect for the Michigan Association of International Educators (MAIE). As part of her role, Patricee will head the planning committee for the MAIE 2011 conference to be hosted by the University of Michigan-Flint. **Daniel Adams** has recently been appointed to the Flint Sister Cities Board of Directors, joining other community leaders dedicated to building and strengthening partnerships between Flint and international communities. **Asinda Gadzama** presented *Coordinating and Supporting Faculty-led Study Abroad Programs* at the 2010 MAIE conference, garnering "Best of Conference" designation. The **International Student Organization**, led by student staff member **Felipe Andrez**, was recognized with the Campus Activities Board's 2010 "Trailblazer Award". This award was based on the numerous successful activities ISO sponsored throughout this academic year.

ITS - ITS is now officially supporting Window 7 on campus computers. If anyone is interested in upgrading they should contact the ITS HelpDesk (66804) and place a work ticket. ITS Desktop Computing Services is now encrypting the hard drives of all University purchased laptops to help ensure that in the event that laptops are lost or stolen there is minimal risk of accidental data exposure. ITS Security Services has completed the annual scan of departmental I drives and has found over 9,500 files potentially containing private personal information. Security Services staff will start contacting affected departments soon to start the review of the files.

As a part of our continuing efforts to secure the campuses data ITS will be encrypting all the scanned documents in the ImageNow/WebNow system in late May. ITS in Ann Arbor will be conducting security assessments of all thirteen critical computer systems on campus this summer as is required by our campus security plan. ITS completed its annual software piracy campaign as well as security 101 exams. ITS' Mediated Classroom Services streamed live and recorded the Winter 2010 commencement. They will be producing DVD's of the event for sale to the general public in the very near future. ITS' Network Support Services will be upgrading our student email system this summer and students will have a 1 Gig mailbox.

Office of Research - A total of \$29,525 has been awarded to student researchers through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), up nearly 40% from the previous year. In total, there are currently 53 students participating in UROP this year, up 45% from the previous year. Also, UM-Flint hosted the **18th Annual Meeting of Minds Undergraduate Research Conference** on Friday, May 14, 2010. Meeting of Minds is a collaborative conference jointly sponsored by UM-Flint, UM-Dearborn, and Oakland University. A total of 229 student researchers - including 58 from UM-Flint presented their work. Over 130 additional faculty, students, and guests had signed up to attend the event.

In June, **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>.

Five faculty members have been award International Travel funds in the amount of \$8,250. For the FY 2010 call for proposals from RCAC, 12 proposals were submitted totaling a request of \$ 198,019 with 6 proposals being funded in the amount of \$ 74,371. For the Winter 2010 call for proposals for the Bryer Fund, 3 proposals were submitted totaling a request of \$ 28,645 with two proposals being funded in the amount of \$ 13,987. A number of our faculty have been busy submitting 14 grant proposals to various external sponsors totaling \$ 1,458,702 in direct costs, \$ 38,751 in indirect costs for a total submission of \$ 1,497,453.

Congratulations to Winter 2010 Research and Creative Activity grant awardees: **Jessica Anderson**, Department of

Chemistry and Biochemistry; **Gabriella Hristova**, Department of Music; **Janet Haley**, Department of Theatre and Dance; **Heather Dawson**, Department of Biology, **Sy Banerjee**, School of Management with **Erin Cavusgil** and **Nikki Taylor** as co-Investigators; and **Dauda Abubakar**, Department of Africana Studies.

The Flint **Institutional Review Board (IRB)** has drafted a significant revision of the Standard Operating Procedures in preparation for the upcoming reaccreditation by the American Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP). This document describes the IRB responsibilities and processes. Once finalized, it will be available on-line at the Human Subjects website. Core staff for the IRB serves on the eResearch Regulatory Management production support team (PST) and the IRB Council to ensure that concerns of the Flint Faculty and students are represented.

Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching

New Faculty Orientation – Along with the Office of Research, the TCLT will host an orientation for all new faculty on **Thursday, August 26**. In addition to the full day program, the Center will host an ongoing orientation program throughout the Fall Semester. Please plan to attend the **Annual Pre-Convocation Workshop on Wednesday, September 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** and the **Academic Affairs Convocation beginning at 1:30 p.m.** Specific details will be forthcoming.

Pedagogical Grants Awarded – In response to a second call for proposals, applications for pedagogical grants and course design fellowships were received/reviewed in March, and the following were awarded: **Olanrewaju Aluko**, Computer Science, Engineering and Physics; **Heather Dawson**, Biology; and **Hannah Furrow**, School of Education and Human Services. Congratulations!

University Outreach

University Outreach will be working with faculty in SHPS this year completing assessments and identifying best practices related to the City of Flint parks. The project is being led by the Crim Fitness Foundation, Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports, and a collaborative group of community partners to improve public health and fight childhood obesity.

Forty-two faculty and five community organizations participated in March and April "Rethinking and Reframing: Professional Development for the Engaged Scholar" workshops. University Outreach looks forward to working with the Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching and the Office of Research to continue cultivating an environment supportive of publicly-engaged UM-Flint scholars.

University Outreach's *Discovering PLACE* is a collective of Flint-Area K-12 schools, community organizations and parents working to connect young people to place. Sustained teacher professional development, and school-community partnership-building, as well as resources and support are utilized to provide place-based education activities in the areas of environmental justice, urban food production, and land restoration. The collective includes 12 teachers from six elementary, middle and high schools in the Beecher and Westwood Heights School Districts, as well as ten community partners.

Epic Technology Solutions, LLC, represented Outreach student businesses at the Business-to-Business Expo on April 29. Epic, which provides Internet connectivity, is run by UM-Flint student **Eric Knific** and UM-Flint graduate **Paul Knific**. PLUTO, a nonprofit student business associated with the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce, organized and promoted a campaign to encourage Google to locate in Genesee County. UM-Flint student **Douglas Snyder** led PLUTO's efforts. Their flash mob footage was aired on national news.

Alternative Spring Break 2010 had **84 student volunteers** throughout the week, for a total of **232 service days**. At 5 hours per work day, they donated approximately **1,160 hours**. Students cleared yard waste and debris, coordinated activities at two elementary schools, participated in a book give-away, made fleece blankets for area shelters, and sorted, laundered and folded clothing to be distributed at the YWCA and My Brother's Keeper.