



OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

Curricular Initiatives

The Dean's Office is endeavoring to connect existing resources and courses with external opportunities that are consistent with and further our mission of liberal education. External funding from the Smith Foundation and NetVUE have energized faculty working with the Interfaith Youth Core to think about curricular and co-curricular dimensions of religious diversity on a decidedly secular campus. At the same time, faculty involved with the Digital Liberal Arts Working Group are discussing ways to expand the influence of this initiative to provide a truly interdisciplinary liberal arts experience that is also excellent preparation for leadership in high tech areas. More details will be shared with the full faculty as ideas begin to take shape. Please feel free to contact Meredith Goldsmith with questions about the development process.

Davis Lecturer

As part of the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) visit, Eboo Patel, founder of IFYC, will give the Davis Lecture in the Kaleidoscope, April 2, 7 pm. Patel's topic is: *Out of Many Faiths: Religious Diversity and the American Promise*. America is the most religiously devout country in the Western world and the most religiously diverse nation on the planet. Will America's identity as a Judeo-Christian nation shift as citizens of different backgrounds grow in numbers and influence? In what ways will minority religious communities themselves change as they take root in American soil? In addressing these and other questions, Eboo Patel will explore how America's promise is the guarantee of equal rights and dignity for all, and how that promise is the foundation of America's unrivalled strength as a nation. Please mark your calendars!

Faculty and Student Good News Survey

We'd like to hear about your achievements and those of your students. Last year our office implemented the process of collecting faculty and student good news items using a Qualtrics survey. The survey can be found [here](#) and on our webpage. Submitting good news items in this manner allows our office the ability to collect information, in a standard format, which can be used for reporting purposes as well as collecting or sharing all pertinent details necessary to write news stories on academic department webpages. When you submit a Good News item, the administrative assistant in your department receives a notification, supplying details that can be shared with the web content editor to create a news story on your department webpage. Once created for the department webpage, stories can then feed into Good Morning, Ursinus and, if tagged, the Faculty Good News [webpage](#).

Student good news items would include faculty co-authored publications and presentations at regional and national events, rather than on-campus presentations.

Interfaith Youth Core Visits

Representatives from the Interfaith Youth Core (www.ifyc.org) visited Ursinus in late February to meet with the Working Group and hold two sessions for interested faculty, students, and staff members. They will return April 2-4 for another set of meetings and open sessions. Please stay tuned.

Middle States Visit

The **Middle States Team Visit** for our reaccreditation is taking place this month: **March 24-27**. Faculty will be invited to participate in a range of sessions with the team visitors, so please keep your calendars as free as possible during these dates. The team will want to hear your honest feedback, and the more participation from faculty the better. The final draft of the Self-Study will be sent out to faculty and staff next week.

Within the next week, many campus members will receive invitations for meetings with the MSCHE visiting team relative to your various roles on campus. These meetings have been specifically requested by the visiting team, and we are doing our best to accommodate their requests within a very narrow time frame. We realize you might not always be able to attend, but please do try to make space in your schedule wherever possible. In addition, we will be sending an Outlook meeting request to all faculty and staff to attend an open forum with the MSCHE visiting team. This will be a time for faculty and staff to speak candidly about a range of topics related to the college. Keep your eyes out for the invitation, and please do try to attend if you can. If you have any questions about the MSCHE team visit, please free to reach out to Mark Schneider or Stephanie Mackler in the Dean's Office.

New Business Office Forms

The Business Office has updated the 2019 forms for Travel Reimbursement, Check Requests, Credit card limit increase, and Payroll Stipends. Current forms are available on the Business Office website, [here](#).

PCLA/Arthur Vining Davis Award

Drs. Holly Hubbs and Edward Onaci successfully applied to the Pennsylvania Consortium for Liberal Arts for financial support of their new interdisciplinary course, "The Expense of Musical Appropriation and the Dividends of Collaboration." The course will combine historical inquiry with musical analysis and digital music production, with a goal of expanding students' understanding of cultural appropriation and borrowing across the African diaspora. The course will attempt to define what it means to "appropriate," by asking students to reflect on the history of musical trends, the sharing of ideas, and the methods by which the global music industry interacts with and disseminates local cultures for global consumption. A significant portion of that reflection will include how we, as modern-day music consumers, participate in these processes. Therefore, everyone in the course – even those who have never thought of ourselves as musicians – will make an original composition using our enhanced access to digital production and recording technologies.

Drs. Hubbs and Onaci will use the funding to facilitating civic engagement and independent research components of the course. They intend to bring three local musicians and studio owners, one who is an Ursinus alumnus, into contact with course participants. Students will also develop and deliver workshops for local high school students, which will help pass along the major lessons of the course as they transform from students to teachers.

Purchasing Guidelines for Faculty

Purchasing Guidelines for Faculty are now available on the Purchasing Office [webpage](#). In addition to the step-by-step Web Requisition Procedures guide found on the same webpage, this new document supplies faculty with additional information about the overall purchasing process.

S. Ross Doughty '68 Receives Ursinus Alumni Award

The alumni office has announced that Dr. S. Ross Doughty has received the 2019 Henry P. and M. Page Laughlin Educator Award. This award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions in the field of education and is named for Henry P. and M. Page Laughlin for their commitment to education and Ursinus College. More information can be found [here](#).

Teagle Grant

The college was recently awarded a substantial grant from the Teagle Foundation to establish the Freedom, Citizenship, and Equality Program at Ursinus, modeled on Columbia University's long-running Double Discovery program. The Teagle leadership reached out to Ursinus, and Dr. Paul Stern in particular, to encourage us to pilot our own version of this initiative. Dr. Stern served as the primary author of the proposal, and he will direct this program which will bring local high school students, many of whom are first-generation college attendees, to campus for a curriculum taught by Ursinus College faculty members and a team of undergraduate mentors. The course as a whole is modeled on CIE, and moreover, supports the vocational development of undergraduate mentors. The pilot two-week incarnation of this is scheduled for this summer, in partnership with Upper Perkiomen high school. The three-year grant envisions expanding to three weeks in future years, and including more students, more schools, and more faculty.

Dean's Office Members

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