



OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Bear Tracks

The Dean's Office and CPD are excited to welcome our Post-Baccalaureate Bear Tracks Fellow, Sophie Gioffre. Sophie graduated in 2019 with a B.A. in English and Educational Studies. As a student, she worked in the Center for Writing and Speaking, stage-managed several theatre productions in the Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Center, traveled to South Carolina for an alternative Spring-Break trip of service in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, and participated in the Summer Fellows Program. As the Bear Tracks Post-Baccalaureate Fellow, Sophie will support incoming and current students as they engage in self-reflection of their learning experiences in and out of the classroom. Faculty may invite Sophie to their classes both to help with the technological aspects of creating their Bear Tracks and to lead students in self-reflection around the four questions. Sophie is also available to brainstorm ideas for use of Bear Tracks and will play a lead role in helping further enthusiasm and meaningful use of the Bear Tracks. Sophie can be reached at sgioffre@ursinus.edu and found in her first floor office in Bomberger (inside the Center for International Programs).



DART Workshop

Early in August, a group of nearly 30 faculty and staff met with external facilitators Prof. Kristie Ford (Skidmore College) and Prof. Charles Behling (University of Michigan) for an intensive two-day immersion into Intergroup Dialogue. The goal was to develop the skills and team coherence envisioned for a DART group, as described within last year's Discriminatory Acts policy. The DART group would advance both proactive and reactive measures to help Ursinus become a more resilient, inclusive, and welcoming campus. This workshop was just a first step; the group will continue meeting on a regular basis over this year not only to better define what DART might be (with continued support from Ford and Behling, and with a likely a revision of the DART name!), but to build a level of trust, support, and understanding within the group that might become a model for the larger campus.

Endowed Chair Appointment

The Dean's Office would like to congratulate Amanda Reig for being awarded the Samuel H. and Anna M. Hess Professorship in Chemistry for the period of September 2019 through August 2024. This Chair was established in 1978 in memory of Samuel H. and Anna M. Hess by their children, H. Ober Hess, 1933, Ivan W. Hess, 1939, and Martha Hess Bowman, 1944. This chair recognizes significant contributions to the College in fostering student and faculty achievement and developing outreach programs for area schools.

Faculty Good News

The Dean's Office would like to remind faculty to submit their good news items to the Faculty Good News survey which can be found on the Academic Affairs website. The survey for this academic year should be updated shortly. Submitting these items allows for the information to be added to the website and shared with the rest of the Ursinus community.

International Programs

The new Core curriculum, along with the Smith Foundation grant, offers a number of opportunities for new international programs. Such programs or any other form of international travel involving students and faculty require considerable advance planning and coordination, as well as consistency with college policies and current State Department Travel Advisories. If you are considering developing an international program or plan to take or send your students abroad for internship or other opportunities, please initiate an early conversation with the Center for International Programs as part of your process. Please contact Paula Alvarez (palvarez@ursinus.edu) in the Center for International Programs for more information or for an exploratory discussion.

Institutional Research and Effectiveness Director

The Dean's Office is pleased to announce that Jack LaFayette, currently Assistant Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Research at Albright College, has recently given oral acceptance of our offer of the position of Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at Ursinus, filling the position that Annemarie Bartlett had previously held. Jack will be on board later in September.

Summer Fellows

Fifty-nine Summer Fellows offered posters and presentations about their summer research at an annual symposium on Friday, July 19, 2019. These students were supported by a combination of external grants and internal college funds. 23% of this year's participants were underrepresented students of color.

Travel Reimbursement, 2019-2020

All full-time faculty members are eligible for reimbursement up to \$1,000 for travel and registration fees when they are presenting at the conference and appear on the conference program. Faculty at all ranks, including those in non-tenure-track positions, are eligible for the same amount of funding. If you plan to use more than \$1,000, please indicate your need for additional funding; a maximum of \$1,500 may be approved upon request. Petitions for travel reimbursements exceeding \$1,500 must go directly to the Dean and will only be considered in the case of exceptional requests if there is additional funding available. Similarly, support for international conference attendance will only be granted in exceptional cases, when there is additional funding available and when attendance is essential to the faculty member's professional development. Please fill out the [request form](#) here well ahead of conference travel and submit receipts within 90 days of your conference attendance.

To facilitate budget planning for the year, we ask that all faculty make requests by October 15. We recognize that some opportunities may arise later than that and that plans may change, so the college will continue to honor requests for the base travel support (up to \$1000) up to a February 1 deadline. If a request is not made by February 1 for travel in that fiscal year, the base travel funds are not guaranteed. \$300 per person is also available for faculty who are attending, but not presenting, at a conference.

Dean's Office Members

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