



OFFICE OF THE DEAN

VOL. 3, ISSUE 2

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

ZOOM DROP-IN HOURS

The Office of Academic Affairs has Zoom drop-in hours every day from 10:30—11:30 AM at [this link](#). Send us an email to schedule other times as well! The office is also staffed in person from 10AM—3PM.

FACULTY AND STAFF TESTING

A point of clarification to Sunday's campus email: our faculty and staff testing guidelines continue as in the past. Those employees who find it necessary to be on campus regularly to support our students may get tested on Wednesday mornings. However, Wednesday testing is not a new requirement, and faculty and staff may continue getting tests, such as the pixel kits offered by LabCorp, as they have before. We apologize for the misunderstanding.

COMMENCEMENT 2020/2021

In-person Commencement ceremonies are planned for May, with the 2021 ceremony scheduled for Saturday, May 15 and the 2020 ceremony for Sunday, May 16. Since both events are designed in keeping with social distancing, available numbers of faculty seats will be limited. Please take the [survey](#) to help us gauge interest and coordinate our efforts as we continue to prepare for the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Thursday is our first Spring Break Day!** As a reminder, please avoid due dates on Thursday or Friday to allow both students and faculty to enjoy a well deserved and much needed break.
- **Conversations Across Difference** lunches will take place on the following dates in February and March: February 16, and 25, March 4, 9, 19, 23, and 31. Join us for a series dedicated to continuing the discussions at our recent community conference with the theme of *Breaking Invisible Barriers: Identity & Empowerment*
- On February 25, Tony Nadler will give his **Baden presentation** via Zoom entitled "Conservative Media, Polarization, and the Dilemmas of Journalism."
- Another **Baden presentation** will be given by Jeanine McCain on March 4 at 4PM via Zoom.
- On March 10 between 12 and 1PM, the **Digital Studies Program** will present guest speakers via Zoom and the link will be emailed to faculty.
- A **Baden Presentation** will be given by Cory Straub on March 11 at 4PM via Zoom, entitled "Can Predatory Insects Take the Heat?"
- A **Baden presentation** by Louise Woodstock will be given on March 18 at 4PM via Zoom.
- The final CIE talk during **Faculty Common Hour** will take place on March 24 at 12PM via Zoom.

UPDATED INDIRECT COST RATES

Ursinus College has been issued new Facilities and Administrative Rate Agreement. Any grant proposal with a start date on or after July 1, 2021 should use the updated indirect cost rates. The new federally negotiated rates are as follows:

- 43% of fringe, salaries, and wages on campus
- 20% of fringe, salaries, and wages off campus

The Facilities and Administrative Rate Agreement (F&A Rate), often referred to as Indirect Costs, is the process of recovering the portion of costs that support externally funded projects. The F&A rate is negotiated between Ursinus College and the Department of Health and Human Services Cost Allocation Services. Please reach out to Annparke Sullivan, Associate Director of Corporate, Foundation and Government Relations at asullivan@ursinus.edu with any questions.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEADLINES

Deadlines for small research grants and summer supplies/support grants will be March 15. Small research grants defray costs related to publication or dissemination of work, and may not be used for travel in Spring 2021. The Pearlstine grant deadline will be April 1. This year, the committee will prioritize support for projects with evidence of approaching completion, as well as launch funding for projects in their initial phases. See the [website](#) for more details.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

The college has reserved tents for use as outdoor classrooms beginning in mid/late March. This includes two large (40 x 40) tents to accommodate larger classes (up to 25.)

FACULTY GOOD NEWS

- Dr. Doron Taussig has published a book through the Cornell University Press. The book is entitled "What We Mean by the American Dream" and is available for purchase through the Cornell University Press. Please stay tuned for an under-the-hood talk, in which a student and faculty will interview Doron about his new project.
- Dr. Cathy van de Ruit has received the Project Pericles grant for a new course. This grant will allow her to adapt the community health class to focus on service learning in the context of COVID-19. The class will enable students to gain first-hand insight into how social injustice and racial discrimination exacerbates COVID-19 transmission, morbidity, and mortality.
- Dr. Meghan Brodie participated in a remote presentation in July 2020 entitled "The Art of Empathy: 1 Living Newspaper radio Play Written by 9 Students in 6 States over 5 Weeks during the COVID-19 Pandemic." In this plenary session, Dr. Brodie discussed her theater capstone course on the Federal Theatre Project's living newspapers. Nine students collaborated on this project when COVID-19 hit and classes were moved online and drew from skills learned in their undergraduate career in theatre to portray the relationship between embodiment, empathy, and art. Dr. Brodie also published a personal essay entitled "Directing Performances of Germaine Tillion's In the Underworld: A Personal Essay." The essay was published by the Israeli performing arts journal Bamah after translating it into Hebrew. Along with the essay came an array of photos from Dr. Brodie's 2014 English-language world premiere of "In the Underworld," a darkly comic operetta written by Germaine Tillion while in the Ravensbruck concentration camp during World War II.
- Quinn Gilman-Forlini has published a poem in The Rupture Magazine entitled "Pandemic Abecedarian" which can be found at this [link](#).
- Faculty should submit Faculty Good News items such as these in this [survey](#).

Dean's Office Members

Mark B. Schneider
 Kelly Sorensen
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