

Academic Affairs Report

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Nazareth COLLEGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE VPAA

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In late January a delegation from Nazareth—Deb Dooley, Diane Enerson, Ginny Skinner-Linnenberg, and I—attended the annual meeting of the Association of American Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C. I offer here, as food for thought, a few notes on the proceedings. The conference theme was “The Wit, the Will, and the Wallet,” and the economic environment was very much on the minds of presenters and participants. The opening plenary included a presentation by Martha J. Kanter, Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education, who outlined the Obama administration’s agenda for access to and accountability in higher education. Later in the conference, Andrew Del Banco, erstwhile scholar of American literature, spoke to the topic of “Business as Usual? Higher Education After the Melt-down.” A sampling of other conference topics includes assessment in the U.K., the implications of the Bologna process, and “high impact” educational practices.

Three topics that drew our attention in particular:

1. We attended a pre-meeting symposium on e-portfolios and how they have been used to promote student learning and support assessment. Pre-

senters also dealt with logistical considerations in implementing an electronic portfolio system.

2. Dean Dooley and I attended a PKAL forum on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Priorities for the Next Five years. PKAL, which has been a resource for our faculty as they have developed the academic program for the new Math and Science building, foresees future issues and opportunities in undergraduate science education: to name a couple, what research in cognitive science can tell us about teaching and learning in STEM fields, and a focus on core scientific competencies in science education.

3. Many sessions focused on projects associated with AAC&U’s initiative entitled Liberal Education & America’s Promise (LEAP). LEAP advocates for liberal education for all students, and seeks to demonstrate the impact of liberal education. To that end, a set of essential learning outcomes of liberal education and rubrics for assessing them have been developed (VALUE).

In addition to lots of acronyms, the most important take-away for me was the recognition that many institu-



Sara Varhus

tions like Nazareth are also striving to articulate the obligation for accountability with our ideals, and to find a way to reshape ourselves in a changing environment in a way that is true to our values. As one speaker said, the way forward probably requires us both to put down deeper roots and to seize new opportunities.

Yours,
Sara

AN HISTORIC MOMENT FOR A PROFESSOR AND SOME NAZARETH STUDENTS

This past November, Professor **Tim Thibodeau** (History) had an opportunity to fly to Berlin, Germany, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the “Fall of the Berlin Wall.”

While there Professor Thibodeau was also able to connect with the Nazareth students who were then living in Berlin as part of the College’s Berlin Residential Program, which along with a rich intercultural experience provides a one semester, full-time undergraduate program each Fall semester, involving several humanities course choices, a professional internship, and language

learning. The students also immerse themselves by living with families. This unique program is conducted in cooperation with Studienforum-Berlin, an educational and research association.

Additional details and personal observations about this historic event (from a number of individuals including a Nazareth student) can be found on the Nazareth website at <http://www.naz.edu/now/archive/eastmeetswest.cfm>. And watch for the Spring issue of *Connections*, which will feature an in-depth interview

with Professor Thibodeau about his reflections (as an historian and teacher) on that momentous anniversary.

The Berlin Residential Program was created nearly a decade ago, and continues to be coordinated by **Bill Hopkins** (MFL/German). Information about the “Berlin Residential Program” can also be found on the College and the Studienforum websites at: <http://www.naz.edu/dept/cie/abroad/residential/berlin/fulldescription.cfm> . and <http://www.studienforum-berlin.de/index.html>

DEAN’S CORNER - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Shirley Szekeres, Dean of the School of Health and Human Services, reports that she is actively promoting the scholarship of engagement. Scholarship of engagement is a rapidly growing area of interest nationally and refers to a broad range of activities (often extra-curricular) that make a distinct “contribution to the public good” while drawing on a faculty member’s area of academic expertise. Working in collaboration, and with input from **Marie Watkins** (Social Work/Service Learning), **Jed Metzger** (Social Work) and Dean Szekeres have drafted a white paper with the goal of identifying specific steps that Nazareth can take to ensure that the scholarship of engagement continues to flourish.

One of the things that most excites Dean Szekeres about the scholarship of engagement is its capacity to capture and adequately classify the rich and complex ways that faculty at Nazareth have and continue to be involved in their communities in a dialogue that is reciprocal and beneficial for both. It is a model that seems to combine the best of research and service. Although related to civic engagement and service learning, the scholarship of engage-

“At Nazareth College, there is a strong emphasis on civic engagement and many faculty contribute their time to the community. For that reason, it is useful to distinguish engaged scholarship from community service and service learning. In community service, the focus is on providing a service (e.g. serving food at a homeless shelter, providing therapy to an underserved population, building houses in storm destroyed communities). In service learning, the activity involves students in the community with a primary emphasis on student learning and student learning outcomes, in short it is intentional, active and connected to the curriculum. In engaged scholarship, the focus is on collaborating and partnering with members or organizations in the community to address community questions, problems or concerns for the public good.” *Metzger and Szekeres, The Scholarship of Engagement: White paper, 2010.*

ment is unique in its “focus on collaborating and partnering with members or organizations in the community to address community questions, problems or concerns for the public good.”

The core ideas of the scholarship of engagement are reflected in the following best practices (Barker, 2004): 1) related to a public problem; 2) reciprocal and collaborative 3) address problems that are broadly public in nature; 4) extend the boundaries of discipline-specific knowledge; 5) require faculty to demonstrate a leadership role; 6) focus on increasing public knowledge; 7) involve discov-

ery, integrations and application of knowledge.

Dean Szekeres’ enthusiasm for the scholarship of engagement is largely based on its potential to: 1) articulate the significant work already being done by many faculty throughout the College and 2) foster new collaborations and partnerships.



Schedule of Events



For more details on events, visit the [CTE website](#).

How to contact CTE:
teachexl@naz.edu
389-2381

- February 5 - CAS Meeting
- February 11 - Staff Assembly
- February 12 - Council of Chairs
- February 12 - Deadline for submitting proposals for the first *Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium* at Ithaca College's Educational Technology Day
- February 15 - Faculty Scholarship & Innovation Grant proposals due in CTE
- February 19 - Semester Reading Day - No Undergraduate Classes
- February 24 - Faculty Discussion: "Focused Freewriting: How to Do Things With Writing Prompts" - G351 (Co-sponsored by CTE and WAC)
- February 26 - Faculty Meeting
- March 2 - New Faculty Discussion: "All work is not equal: Knowing when the tasks we ask our students to complete are meaningful, not superficial (i.e., busy) work" - G351
- March 5 - Spring Assessment Working Session - Forum
- March 9 - New Faculty Discussion: "When is less really more: Finding a balance in our lives between work, home and the amount of work we add to the lives of our students" - G351
- March 9 - Rank and Tenure Information Meeting - G400
- March 10 - Rank and Tenure Information Meeting - G400
- March 10 - Faculty Discussion: "Odd Questions, Strange Texts and Other People: Collaborative Learning, Play, and New Knowledge" - G351 (Co-sponsored by CTE and WAC)
- March 11 - Faculty Discussion: "Odd Questions, Strange Texts and Other People: Collaborative Learning, Play, and New Knowledge" - G400 (Co-sponsored by CTE and WAC)
- March 11 - Advising for External Coursework - Summer & Other Transfer Credit - GAC21
- March 12 - HHS Divisional Meeting
- March 23 - Circle of Chairs - G351
- March 25 - Ithaca College's Educational Technology Day
- March 25 - April 9 - Advisement and Course Selection for Fall 2010
- March 26 - Faculty Meeting
- April 16 - Faculty Meeting
- April 20 - Circle of Chairs - G351
- April 22 - Ethics Discussion with Thom Donlin-Smith - G351
- April 23 - Council of Chairs
- April 26 - Undergraduate Classes End
- April 27 - Distinguished Colleagues Reception
- April 28 - May 4 - Semester Exams
- May 9 - Graduate & Undergraduate Commencement @ Blue Cross Arena
- May 11 and 12 - All College Assessment Forum
- May 26 & 27 - FTTL at RIT

UPDATES



Forward
Updates to
dmathew4
@naz.edu

- **Kristen Shiner McGuire** (Music) attended the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Indianapolis this past November.
- **Estella Norwood Evans** (Social Work) has been reappointed to a second three-year term as a Commissioner on the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Commission on Accreditation. The CSWE Commission on Accreditation accredits undergraduate (BSW) and graduate (MSW) programs in the United States and Puerto Rico.
- **Mary Maher** (Nursing) received notification that she will be giving a poster presentation entitled *Perinatal Outcomes of Hispanic Migrant Farmworkers* at the Eastern Nursing Research Society in March 2010 in Providence, Rhode Island.
- **Donna Dettman** (HEOP) gave a presentation at the 40th Anniversary NYS HEOP-PO conference in Albany, NY on February 17-19 entitled *The Ingenuity of Manners: Netiquette and Etiquette Paint the Picture for Access and Success*.
- **Rochelle Ruffer** (School of Management) presented a poster "Using Context Rich Problems in Principles of Micro-economics" at the American Economic Association Meetings in Atlanta, Georgia on January 4th, 2010.
- **Katherine Detherage** (Nursing) was the Founders Day Award Recipient on October 17, 2009, which was bestowed to her by the Beta Chi Chi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority.
- **Marie O'Toole** (Nursing) published in Nursing Outlook, (2009), Project EXITO: *Success through diversity and universality for outcomes improvement among Hispanic home care patients*.
- **Linda Janelli** (Nursing) and **Elizabeth Ramos** (Nursing) published a research article in the November -December (2009) issue of MEDSURG Nursing - The Journal of Adult Health entitled: *Can an Exercise Program Enhance Mood Among Hispanic Elders?*
- **Grant Gutheil** (Psychology) and Emily Fields (Psychology student and first author) gave a conference presentation: *Preschoolers' Understanding of Individual Identity* at the Penn-York Student Research Association 10th Annual Student Research Conference in November 2009.
- **Shirley Sommers** (Dept. of Social & Psychological Foundations of Education) presented a paper: "Lessons from social justice educators" at 6th International Conference on Teacher Education and Social Justice on December 5-6, 2009 in Chicago, Illinois.
- **Hilda Chacón** (Foreign Languages and Literatures) organized and chaired a panel session on "Media and Cultural Identities in Mexico post-NAFTA" and presented a paper "Political Cartoons in Cyberspace: Rearticulating Mexican and United States Cultural Identity in the Global Era" at the 125th Modern Languages Association (MLA) Annual Convention, December 27-30, 2009 in Philadelphia. She also co-edited *Istmo*, published an article "Writing as Homeland in *Viajero que huye* by Uriel Quesada," and delivered a paper "Using the Internet in a Service-Learning Course: Reaching Out to the Migrant Workers Community in Upstate New York."
- **Stephen Ransom** (Education/Dept. of Language, Literacy and Technology) presented at the 45th Annual NYSCATE Conference on November 21-24, 2009 at the Riverside Convention Center. The session presented his experience with the video podcasting of lecture-based course content to free up face-to-face class time for more meaningful and productive learning activity.
- **Scott Campbell** (Philosophy) published "The Cash Value of Old Words: James and Rorty on the Language of Experience" in the *Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies*, 14.1, 2008, pp. 33-48. (Due to backlog, the issue was just released last semester.) He also published the essay "Explaining Americans to Hungarians" in the book *Coping with Anti Americanism: A Guide to Getting the Most out of Studying Abroad* by Carol Madison Graham (Potomac Books, 2010).
- **Lara Helena Kuhn** (Sponsored Programs and Faculty Research) published the book *Human Nature and Social Control: What Is It We Are Controlling?* in October. The book investigates the underlying conceptions of human nature that are thought to ground social control theory and proposes an alternative model of social identity formation, social control, and deviance.
- **Jennie Schaff** (Education/Dept. of Language, Literacy and Technology) gave the Keynote address at this year's 2010 Martin Luther King Celebration at Nazareth College entitled, "Am I my Brother's Keeper?"
- **Nicole Juersivich** (Mathematics) co-authored an article with Joe Garofalo and Virginia Fraser from University of Virginia that was entitled "Teaching with Technology - SMARTBoard Use by Beginning Math Teachers", which was published in the fall 2009 issue of the journal, *National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science and Technology*.

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UPDATES (Continued from Page 4)

- **Lisa Durant-Jones** (Communication Sciences and Disorders) presented at American Speech-Language-Hearing Assn. Annual Convention last November in New Orleans. The topic was *Formation of Cultural Competency: Transformational Teaching & Learning*. She was selected American Speech-Language-Hearing Assn. Diversity Champion. Lisa was also an invited presenter at Home Care Rochester's Parkinson's Café where she was joined by 5 graduate students in the Speech-Language Pathology Program (Lindsay Rourke, Carly Woodhead, Beth Ryder, Holly Knotowitz, Shannon O'Brien).
- **James Feuerstein** (Communication Sciences and Disorders) received a professional association award: Genesee Valley Speech-Language & Hearing Association's Certificate of Merit for 2009. Jim is also serving as Immediate Past President of the New York State Speech-Language & Hearing Association where he is responsible for the regulatory and legislative activities of the association.
- **Muhammad Shafiq** (Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue) presented a paper on *Baptist Christians and Muslims Interfaith dialogue in joint programs of Loving their Neighbors for the Common Good* in American Baptist and Muslim Leadership Conference in Boston, January 9-11, 2009. The paper was published in American Baptist Quarterly, Vol. XXVIII, Spring 2009, Number 1, PP.54-75. He also presented two papers, one on Hindu Muslim Dialogue and another on Madrassah System in Pakistan at the Parliament of World Religions Congress at Melbourne, Dec. 3-9, 2009.
- **Laura Riddle** (Communication Sciences and Disorders) conducted a seminar, "A Case for Contrasts: Using Evidence-Based Practice in Phonological Treatment," at American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention last November in New Orleans. Laura will also be making two presentations at New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention in April. They are a Short course – *Current Trends in Phonological Assessment & Intervention* and Poster session with 3 grad students – *From Phonemic Awareness to Word Decoding: The Next Step*. She was also an Invited Guest Speaker at Quest Elementary School in Hilton on February 5, 2010. The Topic: *Identification & Treatment of Children with Language Processing Disorders*.
- **Merideth Rao** (Communication Sciences and Disorders) was an Invited Presenter for Speech-Language Pathologists in Rochester City Schools. Seminar: "Pediatric Dysphagia: Brainstorming Management in the School" was prompted by a growing need to establish policies and protocols regarding treatment for children with feeding and swallowing disorders and concerns.
- **Shawgi Tell** (Dept. of Social & Psychological Foundations of Education) will continue to deliver workshops and presentations on Muslims and Arabs at home and abroad. In the coming weeks he will deliver a presentation to students and faculty at at D'Youville College in Buffalo and a workshop for K-12 teachers and employees in the Metro Buffalo area at Lackawanna High School. He will also be developing a prospectus for a new book on charter schools during his sabbatical in Fall 2010. In addition, he will deliver a presentation on education at the 39th Annual Meeting of the New York State Foundations of Education Association April 9-10, 2010, Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY.
- **Dawn Vogler-Elias** (Communication Sciences and Disorders) made the following presentations: "A parent-implemented shared storybook reading intervention for preschoolers with autism." Technical session presented at American Speech-Language-Hearing Assn. convention in New Orleans, November 2009. "Dynamic and Authentic Assessment: Refining Diagnostic Skills and Broadening Therapy Targets." Interactive Therapy Group. January 2010. "Multi-disciplinary Assessment for Children with Complex Communication Differences." (presentation with Lisa Hiley) Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities Division Meeting, January 2010. "Social Communication Support for Children." Presentation with **Mary Kay Bradley** (CSD Dept. Clinical Faculty). Nazareth Physical Therapy Program Clinical Education Workshop. March 2010.
- **Paula Brown** (Communication Sciences and Disorders) was appointed Associate Editor for *Volta Review*. Paula also has had two papers accepted for presentation at the 2010 International Congress on Education of the Deaf to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, July, 2010: 1) Prosody and spoken language intelligibility in young adult cochlear implant users and 2) Assessing cohesion of spoken narratives of young adults who are deaf.
- **Thomas Miller** (Communication Sciences and Disorders) has been appointed Chair of the New York State Board for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, effective March 1st. Tom has served on the Board for the past 6 years.
- **Akhtar Ghassemi** (Nursing) actively participated in workshops at the national level: *American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), "Master's Essentials Regional Meeting" on October 8-9, 2009 in Baltimore, MD*. She also actively participated in *American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), 2010 CNL SUMMIT: The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) on the Leading Edge of Health Care Reform*, January 21-23, 2010, San Diego, CA.
- **Mary Maher** (Nursing) is first author for a manuscript entitled *Perinatal Outcomes of Hispanic Migrant Farmworker Women Using the Optimality Index-US* that was accepted for publication in *Hispanic Health Care International*.

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UPDATES (Continued from Page 5)

- **David Steitz** (Psychology/Gerontology) received notification that the following article was accepted for publication: Dauenhauer, J.A., Steitz, D.W., Aponte, C., & Fromm Faria, D. (2008). Perspectives on older adults and the aging family: Evaluation of a gerocompetency-based intergenerational service learning course. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*.
- **Alicia Carroll** (Chemistry) and her research student, sophomore Biochemistry major Michelle Scotland, received a grant from the Rochester Academy of Science for their research project titled: "Fate of Dipicolinic Acid Released from *Bacillus subtilis* During Spore Germination."
- **Rui Cheng** (Education/Dept. of Language, Literacy and Technology) will present "Non-native Graduate Students' Academic Literacy Development via Legitimate Peripheral Participation Guided by Teacher Written Feedback" at American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL) 2010 Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on March 7th.
- **Stella Stepney** (Creative Arts Therapy) is the Chair of the Multicultural Committee for the American Art Therapy Association. In November, 2009, she presented a Masters Supervision Workshop on the topic "Multicultural Issues in Clinical Supervision" at the American Art Therapy Association's Annual Conference in Dallas, TX. Stella was elected to the American Art Therapy Association's Educational Program Approval Board (EPAB). In December, the second edition of her book, *Art Therapy with Students At Risk: Fostering Resilience and Growth Through Self-Expression*, was published by Charles C Thomas Publishers.
- **Monica Weis** (English) is ready to submit her new book manuscript on Thomas Merton and nature (working title: *Dancing with the Raven: Thomas Merton's Evolving Ecological Consciousness*) to the University Press of Kentucky for distribution to the readers. Stay tuned for further developments.
- **Mireille Le Breton** (Foreign Languages and Literatures) was interviewed on January 20, 2010, by WXXI radio about Nazareth's "Hope for Haiti" benefit concert that she co-coordinated with **Candide Carrasco** (Foreign Languages and Literatures) which raised nearly \$3,000.
- **Sandhya Seshadri** (Communication Sciences and Disorders), along with three masters program graduates, Jessica Zumbo, Megan Hyland and Stephanie Callari, had their poster session, "Aphasia Therapy in the Greenhouse: A Life Participation Approach to Aphasia" accepted for presentation at the New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention being held April 8-10 in Saratoga Springs.
- **Stephen Demanchick** (Creative Arts Therapy) was the invited presenter about Rough and Tumble Play for Pediatric Grand Rounds for both Rochester General Hospital and Golisano Children's Hospital on February 9 and 10. He is also in discussions with a few pediatricians about collaborations between their work and the Nazareth College Play Therapy Center.

ANNUAL SUMMARIES MAY SOON BECOME EASIER AND MORE EFFICIENT

At the end of each academic year faculty are asked to provide a summary report of their activities throughout the year, including the courses they have taught. For many this results in the annoying reentry of information and scrambling about. This year, however, Nazareth will be piloting a new software system called Sedona. According to its manufacturer:

"SEDONA is a self-service web database application that allows members to maintain their teaching, research, service, experience, professional development, and assessment records. Administrators may use SEDONA to support accreditation, build rubrics to assess learning goals and objectives, customize reports (including CVs), create database queries, web surveys and evaluations, and benchmark member productivity using score-cards."

A working group of administrators and faculty at Nazareth have been recently exploring the potential of Sedona to not only record but also organize faculty information more effectively than the current system. Cautionary notes about possible obstacles aside, the reviews of the working group have been overwhelmingly positive. Next steps will involve department consultations, pilots, and workshops. Stay tuned for the details.

FRENCH HOUSE: THINGS OLD AND NEW

As Director of the French House, Mireille Le Breton and her students have been busy coordinating the familiar annual French Club events, such as: a film series, monthly déjeûners conversations, and the ever popular French House dinners. New this year, however, was the introduction of a lecture series focusing on African and Caribbean culture. Presenters include Nazareth professors and students, such as **Claire Counihan** (English) on “Haitian Identity in Diaspora” and “Islam in Mali and Senegal” by **Otieno Kisiara** (Anthropology) and Alex Persson (2012).

Also new this year was a department-wide effort coordinated by Mireille

where all students taking French in the MFL prepared a presentation about Alain Mabanckou (UCLA), a renowned Congolese writer who lectured on “Immigration, Politics and the Novel.” His lecture afforded Nazareth students a rare opportunity to connect what they had discovered in a course assignment with what they heard and observed when listening to one of the most influential writers in contemporary Francophone African literature. The lecture series provides an opportunity for students and members of the community to share knowledge and research. As a culminating experience for their coursework, the lecture provided reward and inspiration for all. In the words of one student: “It gave me a real

chance to try to understand and actually speak French. I hope we have more opportunities like this one.”



*Mireille Le Breton and Alain Mabanckou
French House, 10/29/09*

Prepared with input from Emily Alexander (French, 2011) under supervision of Mireille LeBreton (MFL).

DEAN'S CORNER - COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Deborah Dooley, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, writes that a focal point for her during the coming months will be beginning to build

on the international partnerships developed through her travels in Europe and China during the last two years—travels facilitated both by the Center for International Education and by Dr. **Candide Carrasco** (Modern Foreign Languages Chair). Opportunities to come will include short and long-term study abroad programs, student recruitment, and faculty exchange for both graduate and undergraduate students and faculty.

One interesting opportunity will be

supported by **Xuanting Zhao** (Theater) who will travel back to Shandong Arts University this March to recruit a targeted population of students in the Visual and Performing Arts. Building on the earlier work of a small delegation of faculty and administrators who traveled to China during the summer of 2008, Professor Zhao, accompanied by **Mitchell J. Messina** (Art Chair), will recruit students, facilitate their auditions and digital portfolios, and assist them in making application to the College through Dr. **George Eisen**'s American Language Institute summer program in the Center for International Education. Nazareth will be able to begin enrolling art students from the Shandong province in courses in the performance areas of theater, art, and music as their language skills develop over their first eighteen months at the College. Mitch is the second faculty member to travel with Professor Zhao to China to conduct master classes; he

is preceded by Professor **James Douthit** (Music Chair), who did the same in the area of piano pedagogy last year. Dean Dooley hopes that many faculty and students will follow in their footsteps under the kind tutelage of Professors Zhao and **Fisher** (History/Asian Studies), who will also lead a group of twenty-three students this summer on a short-term study abroad program in China.

Dean Dooley is also looking forward to the beginning of a new and exciting program with the University of Pan-Nonia in Hungary, a partnership facilitated by Fulbright Scholar and Philosophy Chair **Scott Campbell**. New York State approval for a unique, jointly conducted master's program in American Studies is pending. Students will study on both campuses in the US and Hungary, and opportunities for faculty exchange will be very rich. Four faculty, Drs. **Monica Weis** (English), **Tom Lappas** (History) and
(Continued on page 8)

DEAN'S CORNER - COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES (Cont'd from Pg. 7)

Doot Bokelman (Art) will travel with Dr. Campbell in March to help our Hungarian partners celebrate Americas Week, presenting scholarship and engaging discussion with both students and faculty on the Pannonia campus.

This Spring, visitors from Poland, (courtesy of Dr. **Zbigniew Granat**), and from France, (courtesy of Dr.

Candide Carrasco, Chair of Modern Foreign Languages and of Marie Françoise Kerroch, our program director in France), will come to the College, again with the goal of sharing scholarship, planning deeper partnerships, and enhancing faculty exchange possibilities across the disciplines.

The lesson to be learned from all of these opportunities, Dooley says, is that they can only occur when many colleagues both at home and abroad work together as equal partners and as friends to build thoughtful relationships for students, for faculty, and for their respective institutions.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

As I noted by email earlier this month, last Thursday was Donna Ksczanowicz's last day at Nazareth. We will all certainly miss her good humor and ready smile. But we will also miss the hours that she worked. In this time of constrained and limited resources, it was necessary to reassign the hours that Donna had worked to Lara Kuhn, Director of the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs, who has long been in need of staff support. I am happy for Lara and hope that the position works well for her.

But I also know that changes will need to be made in CTE. With luck most of these will not detract from the support we are able to provide faculty. Many may involve automating and computerizing existing processes such as the Faculty Scholarship and Innovation Grant process, which this year became fully electronic. Others may involve simplifying, eliminating, or even substituting activities based on levels of engagement and feedback. As always, we look forward to and act on your feedback.

In fact, it was based on feedback from the past three new faculty cohort groups that the new faculty orientation this year included: 1) a tour of the campus with stops at student offices such as advising, counseling, etc.; 2) substantive revisions

to the [New Faculty Handbook](#) (available online, but also distributed as paper copy to new faculty in July) and 3) an hour long orientation to Wilmot Library. Feedback this year suggests these additions were indeed useful changes and will be continued for the next cohort group.

While on the topic of feedback, I must also note that we are now roughly halfway through the semester. For those of you who are teaching, this is a good time to get feedback from your students.

Discovering what goes on in the mind of your students can be especially "enlightening" mid-semester while there is still time to do something about it. Collecting (and using) feedback from students is one of the many high impact practices I heard actively discussed at AAC&U.

When collecting mid-semester feedback, the critical question for me has always been, "Are my students learning what I think I am teaching?" And I am often surprised (sometimes happily) by the answers I get when I ask students to respond (anonymously) to questions such as:

Examples of questions to ask at mid-semester

1. What is your general approach to studying for this class?
2. Do you generally feel encouraged to participate in small group discussions?
3. Overall, in what ways have the basic elements of the course contributed to your learning in this course?
4. In what ways has your understanding of this topic changed?
5. How do you feel about the pace of the course?

Finally after meeting weekly last semester, the new faculty have elected to meet again as a group this semester. The topics they have chosen for these discussions are: 1) **All work is not equal: Knowing when the tasks we ask our students to complete are meaningful, not superficial (i.e., busy) work.** AND 2) **When is less really more: Finding a balance in our lives between work, home and the amount of work we add to the lives of our students.**

Warmest Regards,
Diane