To: Faculty colleagues  
From: Strom Thacker, Dean of the Faculty  
Re: Annual memo on faculty and academic program appointments and event dates  
Date: July 2, 2020

I hope that your summer is off to a good start, despite the uncertainty of the times. I'd like to pass along a few announcements and notes on the following topics:

• 2019-20 Faculty Activities Sheet  
• Important dates for 2020-21  
• Retirements and promotions  
• Awards and endowed professor appointments  
• Minerva Faculty Representatives for 2020-21  
• Department chair, program director and faculty director appointments  
• A Year in Brief Review

2019-20 Faculty Activities Sheet  
The 2019-20 Faculty Activities Sheet and the Library Faculty Activities Sheet are available on the Policies and Forms webpage at https://www.union.edu/academic-affairs/policies-forms. The deadline for submission for all tenure-track faculty, lecturers, and library faculty is October 1, 2020.

The Faculty Review Board is currently reviewing our Triennial Merit Review (TMR) form. We will share more information about the completion of the TMR form as it becomes available.

Important dates for 2020-21  
Here are some dates to hold on your calendar for the upcoming year (subject to change as campus conditions related to Covid-19 shift). Please plan to attend and many thanks in advance for not scheduling meetings or events that conflict with these.

• September 8, 2020: Opening Convocation (format TBD)  
• September 2020 (exact date TBD): Opening Faculty Meeting  
• February 25, 2021: Founders Day  
• May 7, 2021: Steinmetz Symposium (classes are canceled)  
• June 10, 2021: End-of-year Faculty Celebration  
• June 13, 2021: Commencement for the class of 2021 (with another date for the class of 2020 TBD)

Retirements  
Please join me in extending best wishes to our faculty colleagues who are retiring this year. We were unable to recognize them and their careers properly this spring, so we will seek a future opportunity to do so.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professor / Librarian</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Janet Anderson</td>
<td>Florence B. Sherwood Professor of Physical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Baker</td>
<td>Williams D. Williams Professor of Philosophy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Suzanne Benack | Professor of Psychology
Karen Lou | Senior Lecturer of Chemistry
Teresa Meade | Florence B. Sherwood Professor of History and Culture
Robert Olberg | Florence B. Sherwood Professor of Life Sciences
Kimmo Rosenthal | Professor of Mathematics
Steven Sargent | Professor of History
Mark Toher | Frank Bailey Professor of Classics
Suthathip Yaisawarng | Thomas Armstrong Professor of Economics

**Promotions**

Congratulations to our colleagues who will be promoted by September 1, 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Promotion to Full Professor</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cay Anderson-Hanley</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Hart</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leila Khatami</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jillmarie Murphy</td>
<td>English (effective September 1, 2019)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashok Ramasubramanian</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Promotion to Associate Professor with tenure</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luke Dosiek</td>
<td>Electrical, Computer &amp; Biomedical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tommaso Gazzarri</td>
<td>Classics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheri Lullo</td>
<td>Visual Arts (effective February 24, 2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Samet</td>
<td>Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas Webb</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
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**Awards and Endowed Professorship appointments**

I am very pleased to announce the following appointments and awards:

Charles Batson, Florence B. Sherwood Professor of History and Culture  
Lewis Davis, Thomas Armstrong Professor of Economics  
Kristin Fox, Florence B. Sherwood Professor of Physical Sciences  
Ali Hamed, John D. MacArthur Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, 2020-2021  
Scott Kirkton, Stillman Prize for Faculty Excellence in Teaching, 2019-20  
Therese McCarty, Brate Advising Award, 2019-20  
Stacie Raucci, Frank Bailey Professor of Classics  
Steven Rice, Florence B. Sherwood Professor of Life Sciences  
Carol Weisse, Ronald M. Obenzinger Professor of Psychology  
Leo Zaibert, Stillman Prize for Faculty Excellence in Research, 2019-20, and William D. Williams Professor of Philosophy, Law and Humanities

**Minerva Faculty Representatives for 2020-21**

This year’s Minerva Faculty Representatives are listed below. Please keep them in mind as sources of information if you would like to host events in the Minervas.
Department Chair and Program Director appointments
This year, we welcome the following chairs and directors who are starting new appointments:

- Lewis Davis, Chair, Economics (thanks to Fuat Sener for his service)
- Kristin Fox, Co-director, Biochemistry (thanks to Nicole Theodosiou for her service)
- Joanne Kehlbeck, Chair, Biology (thanks to Laurie Tyler for her service)
- Stephen Leavitt, Chair, Anthropology (thanks to Karen Brison for her service)
- Daniel Mosquera, Chair, Modern Languages & Literatures (thanks to Megan Ferry for her service)
- Maritza Osuna, Director of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (thanks to Daniel Mosquera for his service)

Faculty Director appointments
The following is a summary of part-time academic director appointments held by faculty members. Appointments are for up to three years in length and are potentially renewable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Term expiration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director of Assessment</td>
<td>Ashok Ramasubramanian</td>
<td>8/31/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Engineering</td>
<td>Rebecca Cortez</td>
<td>8/31/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Faculty Development</td>
<td>David Cotter</td>
<td>6/30/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of General Education</td>
<td>Mark Walker</td>
<td>8/31/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
<td>Stephen Romero</td>
<td>8/31/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Undergraduate Research</td>
<td>Chad Orzel</td>
<td>6/30/2021</td>
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A Year in Brief Review
This past academic year has been extraordinary in so many ways. On top of our normal brisk pace of activity around teaching, learning and scholarship, we worked together last summer and into the fall to finalize a compelling new mission statement and a strategic vision and plan to guide the work of the College over the next five years. In February, we celebrated Founders Day and kicked off the public phase of the capital campaign, which will help us achieve those goals, with the largest gift in the College’s 225-year history. A few short weeks later, the global Covid-19 pandemic hit campus, and we abruptly emptied most of the campus in the last week of winter term and moved all classes online for the spring term. Through the tremendous efforts of our dedicated faculty and staff, we were able to deliver our students a quality educational experience under radically different conditions.
The disruption this pandemic has brought to our individual and collective work, as well as our personal lives, has been enormous. Despite the fact that we have not been able to gather together physically, our collective planning for the 2020-21 academic year reflects similar shared commitment to maintaining the mission and strategic direction of the College in the face of not only a continuing public health crisis but also related financial and other pressures. I am more grateful than ever for the amazing work that all of you do on behalf of the College, our students and each other to advance our intellectual and academic community, especially in the face of the adversity we have faced these past four months or so and the uncertainty we still face about exactly how the coming year will unfold.

I hope that this summer, even as unusual as it is, provides some moments of peace and restoration. I wish you all the very best and look forward to seeing you in the fall and staying connected in the meantime.