

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.

Professor / Librarian	Department
Janet Anderson	Florence B. Sherwood Professor of Physical Sciences
Robert Baker	Williams D. Williams Professor of Philosophy

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:

Promotion to Full Professor	Department
Cay Anderson-Hanley	Psychology
Joshua Hart	Psychology
Leila Khatami	Mathematics
Jillmarie Murphy	English (effective September 1, 2019)
Ashok Ramasubramanian	Mechanical Engineering

Promotion to Associate Professor with tenure	Department
Luke Dosiek	Electrical, Computer & Biomedical Engineering
Tommaso Gazzarri	Classics
Sheri Lullo	Visual Arts (effective February 24, 2020)
Robert Samet	Anthropology
Nicholas Webb	Computer Science

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.

Beuth House:	Dianne McMullen
Breazzano House:	Kristin Bidoshi
Golub House:	Scott Kirkton
Green House:	Laura MacManus-Spencer
Messa House:	Christine Henseler
Sorum House:	TBD
Wold House:	Patricia Wareh

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, Chemistry (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.

Position	Director	Term expiration
Director of Assessment	Ashok Ramasubramanian	8/31/2021
Director of Engineering	Rebecca Cortez	8/31/2022
Director of Faculty Development	David Cotter	6/30/2021
Director of General Education	Mark Walker	8/31/2021
Director of Interdisciplinary Studies	Stephen Romero	8/31/2022
Director of Undergraduate Research	Chad Orzel	6/30/2021

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.