



# University of West Florida College of Arts and Sciences Office of the Dean

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## This Month's Wisdom:

*Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account.*

*-Oscar Wilde*

## Maygarden Lecture Hosts Pulitzer Winner


Learn about operations at the *New York Times* through a screening and a lecture tonight at the annual Jerry Maygarden Distinguished Public Service Lecture starting tonight at 6 p.m. in the Music Hall of the CFPA. David Barstow, two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize, has been at the *New York Times* since 1999 where he began his work as a reporter for the Metro Desk. His award-winning work has focused on workplace safety and the use of retired military officers as media analysts in the war on terror. The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a screening of the documentary *Page 1: Inside the New York Times*, which examines the changing role of journalism in the digital age. Mr. Barstow will lecture at 8 p.m. in the same setting about the changes from the vantage point of the reporter. The event is free and open to the public. We continue to be grateful to Jerry Maygarden's generosity in setting up the Maygarden Lecture Series to help us bring distinctive voices to campus and look forward to an innovative evening hosted by the Communication Arts Department.

## STEM Initiative Underway

We are planning a "blue sky" session to talk about possibilities for STEM disciplines fueled by recent positive attention from the governor and legislature. At least in the eyes of politicians, it appears that STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) has emerged as the brightest and best hope for helping with Florida's economic doldrums. Pulling together the sciences with other departments that have an interest in science could allow us to develop a STEM-specific mission. The session is scheduled for February 3, 10 a.m., in the SSE Auditorium, Room 102. EMAN EL-SHEIKH will be the session leader.

## Academic Visioning Unveiled

An impressive crowd turned out to meet and greet new Interim Provost David Marker at the celebration to unveil the conclusions of the Academic Visioning Committee. Concluding eight months of intensive effort, the event disclosed the proposed mission and vision of Academic Affairs that highlighted the distinctive features of the regional comprehensive university. According to Dr. Marker, the vision/mission statements appeared to have fairly robust support from the



participants. The crowd also had the opportunity to comment on and vote for an assortment of goals to help drive priorities that should have an influence as soon as the next budget cycle. The next steps include a review of visioning feedback and attempts to tie together visioning with budget allocation and other strategic planning efforts on the campus. CAS Leadership Council is working with the dimensions put forth in the mission and vision to attempt a comparative analysis of how effectively departments and programs are addressing the key themes that emerged in the SAVE process. We hope this will give us a head start on investment decisions with the next round of enrollment growth dollars.

## CAS Search Committees Launch Efforts

After way too long a dry spell, many departments have gotten the green light to conduct a search or convert a visiting line to full-time appointment. To date, 32 new people will join the CAS faculty for the next academic year in new or replacement lines. The chairs are currently updating the digital resource request list to reflect remaining priorities for growth and expansion.

## Tenure and Promotion Moves Forward

Sixteen CAS faculty received feedback from the CAS Tenure and Promotion Committee regarding their respective candidacies. The operations have been remarkably smooth up to this point. Of the sixteen candidates, three opted to go up under the old T&P standards. The Provost's Office clarified that under submission using the old standards, those dossiers must be reviewed by UPC, which will also review any additional cases in which there were dissenting opinions. Both UPC and Provost reviews will be transpiring in the next few weeks.

## Summer Plans Underway

The CAS Chairs had a rousing discussion about all the factors that have led to such a superb track record in enrollment growth for CAS in the summer session. Included in the reasons were exemplary teaching, improved response to convenience scheduling, movement of classes more into digital delivery, and incentives from the profit-sharing model implemented so successfully in the college. Chairs have been asked to submit the lines that they think they can manage well in the hopes of continued growth. We plan to be able to award the lines requested, especially for departments that met enrollment management objectives last summer. We are also exploring ways to coordinate lower level face-to-face courses to help students with their gas costs in that mode of delivery.

## Summer Bonus Money Arrives

Administration transferred a little over half a million dollars in summer bonus money to the Dean's Office for the amazing efforts at enrollment expansion from last summer. In turn, we divided those funds in half and returned that half of the profit to departments that contributed to the picture using a complex formula that addressed percent of the CAS FTE earned and increase over the prior year.

Departments may use their profits for anything that fits with E&G rules, but are encouraged not to stash the funds to avoid building up carryforward.

The Dean's share will be reinvested in the following ways:

1. Additional courses to promote continued enrollment growth for the 2012 summer;
2. \$20000 to support student travel;
3. \$20000 to support departmental faculty development (including supporting faculty at teaching or assessment conferences or importing an expert to promote all faculty training).

CAS Council was also given the opportunity to develop strategies to award some prize money to acknowledge faculty efforts that support the key features of academic visioning. Their constraints include getting the protocol and selection process finished in the spring semester.

## Digitization of Annual Evaluations Refined

Thanks to some exceptional work by BREANNA GARRETT and DON THOMPSON (CAS Tech), the refined digitization process is undergoing some test driving before release for faculty use. Last year, the roll-out of digitization produced favorable review due to the time-saving features the structure provided. This year, saving time should be strengthened since many of the items will be "pre-populated" within the system. If committee and teaching assignments do not change from year to year, those elements can simply be transferred from the prior year's document. However, the portion of the form that involves "statement of contribution" must be new to reflect the year's achievements accurately.

## DUP Selection Underway

The Committee for selection of the Distinguished University Professor designation has begun its review of the nine candidates who have submitted impressive dossiers in competition for this honor. The DUP designation comes with additional funds for projects and the host department but offers some release time as well. The announcement of the DUP results will occur at the Honors Ceremony in late March. We currently expect to name two candidates at the conclusion of the process. Of the nine candidates under consideration, seven come from the College of Arts and Sciences. I thank them all for demonstrating such a competitive caliber of performance.

## SDRC Offers Assistance

A recent visit to CAS Chairs helped share some perspective from the Student Disability Resource Center and produced an invitation to join them for an Open House on Friday, March 2. Lusharon Wiley and Vannee Cao-Nguyen asked for our cooperation in engaging in best practices.

- If the students who have SDRC-subsidized note-takers have stopped attending, please alert the SDRC to help them conserve budget.
- Testing accommodations can be served either in the classroom with their professors or in the new space that will be celebrated in the Open House which appears to be far better equipped to capture

integrity challenges.

- Students needing to use laptops during tests can actually borrow laptops from the Center that would not come pre-equipped with answers.
- Currently, service animals (even ponies!) are allowed in the classroom but comfort animals are not due to health regulations. If service animals become unruly, they should be reported to SDRC.
- Please remember to confer with SDRC about what specific accommodations are necessary and also document deviations to assist with the potential of litigation.

## Advising Project Begun

CAS Fellow Ron Belter has been oriented to the array of challenges he will face in the new role, but a special project assigned should provide some creative fun. He will be trying to examine and pinpoint where the advising pressure points and weaknesses are across the CAS programs so that we can figure out the best allocation of advising resources as these become available. He should be scheduling time with chairs for their perspectives through the spring semester.

## Open House Targets Special Audience

The next Open House will see a change in format to adjust to the decision seasons demonstrated by prospective students. Departments will have a greater opportunity to talk more directly with students who are giving serious consideration about UWF as the place to build their higher education plans in "Spring Discover Explore UWF Days." One session will happen mid-month for the next 3 months. The focus will be admitted students making one last tour to determine where they want to spend tuition dollars. Colleges will no longer have information tables to greet the parents. TOM WESTCOTT will make a presentation to represent Academic Interests. April will also bring into play some "yield events" of a new design for newly admitted students that will be augmented by video.

## Academic Enhancement Proposals Compete

Selected members of the Dean's Council will be reviewing 23 separate proposals that have been crafted to capture \$800,000 available for "academic enhancement." The funding source of the one-time money is from unspent nonrecurring funds related to unfilled positions last year. Former Provost Chula King successfully proposed setting these funds aside to address some long-standing needs in Academic Affairs before her departure. Among the CAS proposals under consideration are proposals for exterior signage for the CFPA, confocal microscopes for Biology, an NMR machine for chemistry, instruments for the Pep Band, digital equipment for Com Arts, and a robot patient for the Nursing Department. Unfortunately, we are also up against some pretty compelling proposals for library enhancement, equipment for outreach to Eglin, and a career enhancement pilot project for Business among others. We hope to capture a substantial portion of the funding and results should be available soon. One proposal also in consideration includes reactivating a version of TIP awards to honor


teaching.

## Reminders

- CAERS forms are due! The point of the CAERS is to document that faculty members are accountable for meeting or exceeding the prescribed minimum of 12 contact hours. Faculty who claim more than 30 contact hours will be asked to revisit and justify excesses since this claim suggests on average working more than 90 hours a week.
- Fire drills are set to begin soon. If you are in a building when a fire alarm sounds, please adhere to the building plan and join with others from the building at the designated area. No exceptions!

## Dean's List

- Hats off to BRI GARRETT and DON THOMPSON for getting the digital forms for annual evaluation done in record time. It gives us a good margin to work out the bugs before people get serious about recording their best work of the year.
- By all reports, the Pensacola Opera Company's production of *Madama Butterfly* was exceptional this year. Congratulations to Kyle Marrero, whom we still claim as a CAS member *emeritus*, and also to CHARLES HOUGHTON and GLENN BREED whose lighting and costume work, respectively, helped the production achieve noteworthiness.
- Sunday was also a proud day for the English Department where MAMIE HIXON's tour de force *Our Voices Are Many* celebrated the contributions of Harlem Renaissance period to American culture. The event was SRO and featured one powerful performance after another. The stand out was UWF alum Micah Rowland in his role of Cab Calloway.
- Good luck to LAURA ARGUEA who is planning the first ever CAS study abroad in Salamanca this summer. It took a huge amount of planning and patience but we are hopeful she will gather the right number of reasonably well behaved students to turn this opportunity into a regular globalization experience.
- Congratulations to SHEILA FREEMAN and the Government Department for winning the holiday centerpiece competition for the UWF Gala that was both celebratory and informational.
- Anthropology/Archaeology enhanced its efforts to capture the historical contributions of Bernardo de Galvez by videotaping the Chaz Mena performance for distribution to various educational venues.
- Special thanks to each and every STEM Department for their contributions in making the first Science Olympiad poised for success. The event transpires Saturday, Feb 4, where UWF will serve as the regional hub. We already have 13 teams at middle and high school registered for the event. A great start for a great event. JOHN BOLYARD AND BERNDT OWSNICKI-KLEWE for stretching across boundaries to help out their colleagues. (And thanks to LEO TER HAAR for bending the rules to allow some of the yucky sciences into the nerdy science building for their events!)
- I'm tickled when I hear Center on Aging's RODNEY GUTTMANN's *Senior Moments* on WUWF. Everything applies...
- Welcome aboard to a talented newbie and a returning veteran. KAREN FARMER has begun her work supporting programs in the School of Allied



Health. DEBORAH BURLISON returned to her former position assisting GREG LANIER in the Honors Program.

- Thanks to all patience with inevitable Crown's Nest errors. In earlier editions this year I inadvertently omitted ROSEMARY HAYS THOMAS from the SPBS as one of the Co-Directors of the NSF Grant in support of women scientists. I also neglected to acknowledge new faculty member YING HUANG in Communication Arts. My apologies to both.

## *Editorial Note*

*I hope whatever new year's resolutions you adopted this year haven't already fallen to the wayside. My annual attempt to get in better shape involves regular attendance at the zumba fitness class in the HLS Building. There is probably nothing that reminds you of your advancing years more than "shaking it" next to those sporting 20 year old posteriors, but despite the physically humbling aspects to the experience, I'm having a marvelous time. Here's hoping you have found a fun way to manage your new year's goals.*

*Jane*