

From: [Karen Olmstead](#)
To: [Karen Olmstead](#)
Subject: Academic Affairs First Monday email for March, 2023
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 5:03:31 PM

Greetings: Before we dive into our updates, I'd like to take a moment to recognize the tremendous creativity and fortitude of SU's faculty and staff when we learned, three years ago this month, that the campus would be shutting down for a 'few days' because of COVID-19. None of us knew what lay ahead at that time. While learning how to use Zoom or teach online for the first time; revamping courses, labs, and clinical experiences for remote delivery; considering alternative grading policies; or supporting continuity of research and other programs, our campus pulled together to move forward (and all this while wondering if it was safe to leave the house to buy groceries). As my time here in the Provost's Office wraps up, I can say that I was never prouder of our campus community than in that early COVID time, messy as it was. To each of you who were here at that time, thank you.

Back to our First Monday for March 2023: In addition to our usual work and activities, there are a lot of other happenings this month!

- **March is Advising.** Thanks for the time and care you take with your advisees this month and please feel free to reach out to your [Advising Services Coordinator](#) with any questions. There are [many tools](#) available for your students. Making notes in Navigate is a great way record any questions/concerns shared by or about students.
- **Recruitment** events for Fall 2023 continue in March and April. Thanks to all who are participating in Scholars' Day, Admitted Students Days, and outreach to prospective graduate students.
- **Provost search** candidates are expected to be here the last week of March; open sessions will be held for each (information forthcoming).
- Our [Middle States Re-Accreditation](#) process is well underway. **Kara Raab** (AVP for Planning & Assessment) and **Jessica Clark** (Assistant Provost for Faculty Success) have worked with the [Steering Committee](#) on a draft self-study design plan. Dr. Sean McKitrick, our Middle States liaison, will be on campus on March 28 and will hold an open session about the process.

Good News to Share

- Please join me in congratulating our [three](#) 2023 **University System of Maryland Board of Regents Faculty Award** winners, each of whom had a stellar and compelling application.
 - Excellence in Creative Activity: **John Wesley Wright** (Music, Theatre & Dance)
 - Excellence in Public Service: **Corinne Pubill** (Modern Languages & Intercultural Studies)
 - Excellence in Teaching: **Jeni Davis** (Early & Elementary Education)

And thanks to SU's Faculty Awards & Recognition Committee (chaired by **Randy Groth**, Secondary & Physical Education) for their great work with the award nominees.

- In other big news, Salisbury University was named **the Top Producer of Fulbright Students in the nation** (Masters-level institutions) and is the top producer in the USM! This is a tremendous testament to the quality and commitment of our students, the dedication and skill of **Kristen Walton** and her team in the [Nationally Competitive Fellowships Office](#), and all of the faculty and staff mentors of student and alumni applicants. What a tremendous recognition of the outstanding work done at Salisbury University.
- And speaking of Fulbright, **Art Lembo** (Geography & Geosciences) recently was notified that he has been named a Fulbright Scholar to South Korea for the Fall, 2023 semester. This appointment will not only be professionally enriching, but will also build on the Lembo family's connections to South Korea (SU Alumna Emily Lembo was a Fulbright Student (2014) and now lives in South Korea and SU junior Katie Lembo studying there this semester).
- Big shout out to everyone who has worked so hard on new and existing courses for our new General Education curriculum which will go into effect in Fall 2024. As of March 1, we have 184

courses submitted for review and 23 approved through the process. This has been a tremendous lift for faculty and academic departments as well as the General Education Oversight Committee (led by **Jennifer Nyland** (Biological Sciences)), its subcommittees, Curriculum Specialist **Jennifer Ellis** and VPAA **Melissa Boog** (Academic Affairs), and the UCC (led by **Amanda Hill** (Social Work)). See the [GEOC website](#) for more information on the process and weekly tallies of submitted and approved courses.

- Nearly 30 students presented their work in Annapolis on 2/23/23 at [Posters on the Bay](#). Governor Moore was a special guest and spoke with each of the students about their research. My sincere thanks to the students and their faculty mentors for their great work. Thanks also to **Rhy Bemis** (Psychology), the entire [OURCA](#) team, and **Eli Modlin** and others in the President's Office for organizing such a wonderful celebration
- My appreciation to **Meghan East** (Medical Laboratory Sciences), the Faculty Development Committee, CAFE, **Melissa Thomas** and the ID&D team, and all the presenters at our 13th Annual Teaching & Learning Conference. It was great to be back in person for this event which featured 24 engaging sessions, including an inspiring keynote by **Kristen Walton**, SU's 2022 Distinguished Faculty Award winner. If you missed the conference, or attended but wanted to see another concurrent session recording, then [join the 2023 TLC site in MyClasses](#).
- On 2/18/23, the SU Vex Robotics Club hosted competitions for high school and college students. It was an exciting weekend with fierce competition. My thanks to **Giulia Franchi** (Computer Science), SU Vex Robotics Club, and the many faculty in the departments of Computer Science and Mathematical Sciences that made this event possible.
- **Blake Harris** (Music, Theatre & Dance) was awarded two grants for his Chattanooga, TN-based professional theatre company, [Obvious Dad](#). They received a \$4,000 grant from Mark Making and a \$10,000 grant from ArtsBuild for their upcoming summer season. Well done, Blake.

Upcoming Events, Training and Other Opportunities

- Come celebrate International Women's Day at [SU's Women's Forum](#) this Friday from 1:00-5:30 pm in the Worcester Room in the Commons (CB211). My thanks to **Elsie Walker** (English) for her dedicated leadership of the SUWF for the past eight years.
- ID&D and the SU Bookstore will hold two information sessions (4/13/23 2-3pm & 4/14/23 10-11am) focused on changes coming to the way in which publisher's course materials integrate with MyClasses. Faculty using publisher content with or without Inclusive Access are encouraged to attend. Information will be coming soon from ID&D.
- Registration is now open for SU's [Summer Enrichment Academics](#). As always, there are numerous engaging options for K-12 students. Please follow the link for topics, dates, and costs.
- Planning is underway for this year's New Student Reflection (08/25/2023) and facilitators are needed! If you are interested in facilitating a session with our new students, please fill out the [NSR Faculty/Staff Facilitator Training and Reflection Participation form](#). To learn more about civic reflection, visit the [Center for Civic Reflection](#) website.
- On February 3, the Center for the Advancement of Faculty Excellence (CAFE) virtually hosted Dr. Kris Lee from Active Minds. Her session on "Adopting a Healthy Mental Health Culture and Cultivating Resilience Within Today's Complex Educational Arenas: What Faculty, Staff and Leaders Can Do" can now be viewed in [ID&D's faculty development playlist](#).
- Handy information for supporting students in distress (purple folders) will be distributed to all faculty. If you haven't received this information by the end of the week, please contact your chair or dean's office.
- SU is committed to ensuring that our students have access to a quality education that is also affordable and accessible. Thanks to a collaboration between the CAFE, the SU Bookstore, the Registrar's Office, and ID&D, a new search feature has been made available in GullNet for students to easily identify and enroll in course sections that use free or low-cost course materials (less than \$50). If materials for your Summer 2023 or Fall 2023 course(s) are free or low cost, [please indicate here](#) so that your course can be coded accurately.

- The [National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity \(NCFDD\)](#) will be hosting a guest webinar on March 21 from 2-3pm EST in which Dr. Traci Giuliano will share “Lessons Learned from Two Decades of Publishing with Undergraduates”. Registration can be found [here](#). *New to NCFDD? Learn how to activate your free institutional account [here](#).

On the horizon – “legal weed” in Maryland

Although recreational use will be legal in Maryland as of July 1, 2023, marijuana will not be permitted on campus (even if prescribed) and our [smoke-free campus policy](#) remains unchanged. See the 2/16/23 email from the Dean of Students for more information.

Upcoming Dates of Interest are given below (bold indicates events added this month). For more detailed information regarding instruction-related dates of interest, please consult the [Registrar’s Calendars](#). For information about Faculty Senate meetings, please consult their [webpage](#). The [CAFE website](#) includes many opportunities for professional development. If you want to share information about events/activities of interest to faculty across campus, please send them to provost@salisbury.edu at least three days before the first Monday of each month.

I wish you the best for this busy month and hope you can keep some time for yourself during spring break. Remember, in the words of the American composer Tom Waits, *you can never hold back spring*.

As always, thanks for all you do every day,
Karen

S23 and AY23/24	Working Groups work on Middle States Self-Study
3/6-3/10/23	Students sign-up for advising appointments
3/10/23	SU Women’s Forum
3/11/23	Admitted Students Day #1
3/13-3/17/23	Advising Week 1
3/15/23	Applications for Spring 2024 sabbatical leaves due to department chairs/CHHS school directors Round 2 Promotion recommendations due to deans Fall22 and CY22 Sabbatical Reports due to Provost Intent to Submit deadline for SUSRC
3/20-3/24/23	Spring Break – no classes
3/23-3/24/23	Campus Closed for additional holiday awarded by the President and State Holiday awarded by the Governor in Dec. 2022
3/27-3/31/23	Advising Week 2 Provost candidates expected to be on campus for interviews
3/28/23	MSCHE Liaison Dr. Sean McKittrick on campus to discuss draft self-study design plan – will hold open session
3/30/23	Round 2 Promotions recommendations due to University Promotions Committee
4/1/23	Admitted Students Day #2 Abstracts due for SUSRC
4/4/23	SU Giving Day
4/7/23	Faculty Senate Faculty Friday
4/15/23	Round 1 Promotions notifications from President Spring ’24 Sabbatical recommendations due to the dean
4/21/23	SU Student Research Conference (SUSRC) Relay for Life
4/22/23	Admissions Open House

4/24/23	Round 2 Promotion Recommendations due to Provost from UPC
5/1/23	Round 2 Promotion Recommendations due to President Spring '24 Sabbatical recommendations due to the Provost
5/5/23	President Lepre's Inauguration Ceremony
5/15/23	Round 2 Promotions notifications from President
5/24	May 2023 Commencement Ceremony for Graduate Students 6:00 pm
5/25	May 2023 Commencement Ceremony for Undergraduate Students 10:00 a.m. CHHS, Henson and Seidel Schools 2:30 p.m. Fulton and Perdue Schools
6/19/23	Juneteenth Holiday – Campus Closed
8/31/23	Spring '23 Sabbatical approval/non-approval notification from President
9/15-9/16/23	Chesapeake Studies Conference
Fall 2024	New Gen Ed begins
FY25	SU Centennial 2020-2025 Strategic Plan ends Middle States visit (likely in the spring) Carnegie Community-Engaged Campus Re-Application

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Please note, I send emails when I can. Please do not feel obligated to respond outside of your normal working hours.