PROVOST’S BULLETIN

Vol. LV – Bulletin #4 December 2013

NEXT FACULTY MEETING

The next faculty meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Campus Center South Lounge.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Mary Jane Androne's (English) article "Writing Apartheid: Miriam Tlali's Soweto Stories," was published in African Literature Today: Writing Africa in the Short Story (James Currey Press).

Hilary Aquino (History) presented a paper "Protecting Mothers and Babies during Wartime: Emergency Health Measures in New York City during World War II" at the 2013 Researching New York Conference in Albany, NY in November.

El Complot Mongol, by Rafael Bernal (1915-1972), father of Cocol Bernal (Theatre), has just been published in English translation - as The Mongolian Conspiracy - by the distinguished publishing house New Directions Books. Originally published in 1971, El Complot Mongol is a landmark in Mexican literature: "A gripping and hilarious literary masterpiece masquerading as a Mexico City crime novel." The New Directions volume features a translation by Katherine Silver, an Introduction by Francisco Goldman, and a "Note on the Author," by Cocol herself.

Matt Fotis's (Theatre) book Long Form Improvisation and American Comedy: The Harold will be published in February by Palgrave Macmillan. He also presented "ACREs of Improv" as part of the panel "Connecting and Collaborating: The Creative Student-Faculty Relationship" at the National Communication Association conference in Washington, DC.

Jennifer Koosed (Religious Studies) presented a paper at the annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature called “Wounded by Love: A Disabilities Reading of Lamentations and Song of Songs.”

Irene Langran (Political Science) delivered a paper, “Global Health Governance and Organ Transplantation Policies,” at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association. This paper applied several models of global governance to the rising international trade in organ transplants. She was also chair and discussant of a panel on Identity, Moral Communities, and Global Citizenship.

Jeffrey Lentz's (Theatre and Music) new play, Vortex, premiered on November 8 in the Wachovia Theatre. This is Lentz's fourth original play created while serving as the college's Artist in Residence for the Departments of Theatre and Music -- each written/created with his collaborating artistic partner, Cocol Bernal. Referred to as a "silent opera", Vortex is the sequel to another original play (entitled, Spirale) that premiered in November of 2003. Both pieces employ the use of stylized movement and lyrical gesture as the means of communication. Representatives of the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival (Region 2) have nominated the original production for 2014 Festival Consideration.

Additionally, Jeffrey Lentz was recently commissioned by the Sprout Network (A subsidiary of NBC/Universal) to create the staging/choreography for a new musical number, Kindness Counts. The
song was performed by cast members of the "The Sunny Side Up Show" atop the Sprout Network float in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade that was broadcast live on NBC (in front of Macy's on Herald Square) on Thanksgiving morning.

On November 22-26, Robert Seesengood (Religious Studies) attended the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Baltimore, MD, where he presented the paper “Tlon, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius and Q: the Psychological and Scholarly Labyrinths of Books which don’t Exist” at a panel on Bible in the Work of Jorge Luis Borges. He was also elected co-chair of the subgroup on Reading, Theory and the Bible.

PROVOST’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following faculty will be on sabbatical during the Spring 2014 semester:

- Karen Jogan, Professor of Spanish
- Lawrence Morris, Associate Professor of English

The following faculty will be on leave during the Spring 2014 semester:

- Kate Lehman, Associate Professor of Communications
- Ron Green, Professor of Psychology

A farewell reception for Andra Basu will be held on Friday, December 6 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the Campus Center South Lounge – Fireside. Please join me in recognizing Dr. Basu’s nearly 10 years of dedicated service to the College.

Academic Affairs can support a limited number of faculty who may be interested in attending the AAC&U Annual Meeting in Washington, DC Jan. 23-25. It is typically a valuable experience for the diversity of subject matter available and exposure to various national trends/agendas. The conference web site is http://www.aacu.org/meetings/annualmeeting/AM14/; hotel space is at a premium so arrangements would need to be made soon and no later than Dec. 16. If interested contact Dean Thomas.

Upcoming Events:

Winter 2013 Commencement: Will be held Sunday, December 15, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in Bollman Gym. Robing will take place in the Campus Center South Lounge – West at 12:15 p.m. Approximately 130 students from the traditional, adult and graduate programs will be graduating. All are welcome!

Please note the following dates for the spring semester:

The College will be participating in the 90 minute webinar “Effective Faculty Governance: Four Critical Considerations for 2014” on Thursday, February 6 at 2:00 p.m. All faculty are invited to participate. For more information, please see attachment to e-mail. Contact Karen Shuker at kshuker@alb.edu if you plan to attend. The location will be determined on attendance and will be announced at a later date.
Please save the date for a Dean’s Seminar on Monday, March 31, 2014, 4-6 P.M. Dr. Fred Mandell, author of *Becoming a Life Change Artist: 7 Creative Skills to Reinvent Yourself at Any Stage of Life* will facilitate an interactive presentation on creative vitality and the Great Masters. This event, sponsored by the Sloan Grant for Faculty Retirement Transitions, will be held in the Campus Center South Lounge. All faculty are encouraged to attend, and more details will be forthcoming.

The 15th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference is being held at Reading Area Community College University on Saturday, April 26, 2014. More information and registration deadlines will soon be posted on their website. Please contact Kim Justeson, kjusteson@alb.edu with questions.

The Second Annual Teaching and Learning Showcase and Workshops will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2014. Details to follow.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Information Technology

**Complex Password implementation:** Currently faculty and staff at Albright College are not required to maintain complex/strong passwords. The National Institute of Standards and Technology has laid out several best practices for safeguarding enterprise data and personal information. One of the first recommendations is to require a complex/strong password for all constituents of an enterprise. Implementing strong password policy for the first time is a multi-step process and one of the first things ITS will be rolling out is a new self-service password reset interface. This will enable faculty, staff and students to create and maintain a list of secret questions for future password resets. We found the current password self-service reset tool (Specops) to be lacking in key functionalities. The finding, testing and setup of a new and better tool has caused a slight delay in implementing the strong password requirement. We will work with various constituents and committees to discuss timing of these rollouts.

Institutional Research

A report based on the results of the Spring 2013 HEDS Senior Survey has been posted to SPIRA (link below). Topics include interactions with faculty, classroom and college experiences, plans after graduation, frequency of classroom assignments, participation in college organizations and activities, and more. Also included are satisfaction ratings of a variety of campus services and facilities. Albright College Senior responses are compared to responses from previous iterations of the survey, as well as a comparison set of seniors for the current year.

You’ll find the results quite positive in a number of areas, especially some large increases in senior satisfaction relating to several campus offices and facilities over recent years. Most notably, when asked “If you had a chance to relive your college experience, would you choose to attend the same institution again?” 78.6% of Albright Seniors responded that they either “probably” or “definitely” would, a dramatic increase over seniors from previous cohorts.

Use the link below to find the report on the institutional research section of SPIRA:  
[https://admin.albright.edu/inc/spira-ir-surveys.inc.php](https://admin.albright.edu/inc/spira-ir-surveys.inc.php)

or go directly to the report:  
[https://admin.albright.edu/SPIRA/HEDS-Senior-Survey-2013-SPIRA.pdf](https://admin.albright.edu/SPIRA/HEDS-Senior-Survey-2013-SPIRA.pdf)
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Library

• CITY LIGHTS, the student “get ready for exam” program, is undergoing a face lift this year. In addition to extended library hours (often until 4 am) & free coffee after 9 pm, this year the library will have therapy dogs, pretzels and soda on Friday, Dec 6 from 2pm – 4pm.; pizza on Sunday, Dec 8 at 7:00pm, crafts and activities throughout crunch week, as well as cookie trays every night at 10 pm (8pm on Friday) running from Friday, Dec 6 until Thursday, Dec 12. Would you like to be a part of CITY LIGHTS to help students? You can donate COOKIES for study breaks at the library! We have many students to serve, so we need LOTS of donations of cookies - home baked or store bought! Contact Heidi Ziemer if and when you can donate any cookies.

• If you use LexisNexis, that database will be getting a new interface look on December 23, 2013. See http://tinyurl.com/LNupdate for more information.

• Over the December holidays there will be a few upgrades to the library website and the Koha library system. Watch the library home page for a new look and additional information.

Registrar

2014 SPRING SEMESTER ENROLLMENT
NOVEMBER 25, 2013 (AFTER REGISTRATION PERIOD)

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<th>CLASS</th>
<th>F2013 Enrollment</th>
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<th>S2014 Registered</th>
<th>Retention %</th>
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<td>27*</td>
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<td>JUNIORS (2015)</td>
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*Doesn't include Seniors who are completing graduation requirements this semester