NEXT FACULTY MEETING

The next faculty meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2010, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Campus Center South Lounge. Pre-meeting refreshments will be served at 3:30 p.m. in the South Lounge. Immediately following the Faculty Meeting please join President & Mrs. McMillan, along with administrators from the President’s Cabinet, for the annual President’s Reception in the Mezzanine of the Center for the Arts for cocktails and light fare, which will begin at 5:00 p.m.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Arcana Albright (French) will be presenting a paper entitled "Women at Work: Jean-Philippe Toussaint's Post-mai '68 Women" at the Women in French Conference on June 11. Arcana also attended a panel on "New European Fiction" and on "The Essay" at the PEN World Voices Festival of International Literature in New York on May 1. This gave her the opportunity to reconnect with the author on whose production she primarily works - Jean-Philippe Toussaint - as he will be a discussant on each of the panels.

Jon Bekken (English and Communication) was in Barcelona, Spain, in April as part of a month-long conference "Alternatives to Capitalism: Self-Management in the Spotlight" organized by the Institute for Economic Sciences and Self-Management (ICEA). The conference is part of events marking the centenary of the founding of the National Confederation of Labor (CNT). Bekken presented his paper, “The Economics of Freedom: Creating Abundant Lives for All.”

Teresa Gilliams (English), on April 7, along with 14 students from her Toni Morrison seminar spent an evening with Toni Morrison at Penn State University. As part of Penn State's awarding Morrison the Arts and Humanities Medal for Distinguished Contributions to the Arts and Humanities, Morrison gave a lecture, "The Citizen and the Foreigner" that stimulated a dialogue that reached beyond traditional disciplinary limits.

John Incledon (Modern Languages & Literature) presented a paper, entitled "Edipo Criollo: Freud and the Origins of Latin American Literature," at the annual MACLAS conference (Middle Atlantic Council on Latin American Studies) held at Johns Hopkins University on March 26-27.

Ethan Joella (ESL/English) has two poems appearing in the upcoming issue of Product and an experimental story in the upcoming issue of The American, a monthly general-interest magazine produced in Rome.

Karen Jogan (Spanish) was a team member for a Middle States Evaluation for a university in Santiago Chile.

Adam John (French and Spanish) presented a paper titled "Writing from the Mind and Speaking from the Heart in Gisèle Pineau’s Fleur de Barbarie" at the forty-first annual convention of NEMLA (Northeast Modern Language Association) on April 10, 2010 in Montreal, Canada.
Elizabeth Kiddy (History) presented the following two papers at conferences. 1.) “Creating Brazil: Territory and the State in Nineteenth Century Brazil” presented at the European Social Science History Conference, Ghent, Belgium, April 2010. 2.) “Militão and the Guerreiros: Violence and Honor on the São Francisco River, 1840-1850” presented at the conference of the Mid-Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies, The Johns Hopkins University, March 2010.

Irene Langran (Political Science) published a book review in Spring of Carol Lancaster's "George Bush's Foreign Aid" in the journal "Peace and Justice Studies."

Rachel Liberatore (English/Writing Center)—and Writing Center tutors Sarah Bruno, Jacara Ahmaddiya, Anne E. Rhodes, and Lauren Kittle presented "Writing Centers as Sites of Cultural Exchange: Tutoring and Learning from International Students” at the Mid-Atlantic Writing Center Association conference at the University of Delaware on April 10, 2010.

Julia Matthews (Theatre) performed the world premiere of "House of Bedlam," songs by Rachel Matthews from poems of Elizabeth Bishop, at the Jack Straw Productions Composer Spotlight Series in Seattle, WA, on April 14, 2010.

Bonnie Rohde (Economics and Business) has been elected to the Albright College Alumni Board. Also, Albright has recently obtained approval as a founding AIS (Association of Information Systems) Student Chapter, in which Jason Lefkoe is president and Bonnie Rohde is the faculty advisor.

Geoffrey Schad (History) recently spoke at two functions sponsored by the Greater Reading World Affairs Council: (1) the "Portrait of Turkey" forum, cosponsored by the Turkish Cultural Foundation at Kutztown University on April 24, on Turkish history; (2) the "Great Decisions" program on April 27, on "The United States and the Persian Gulf."

Kristen Woodward (Art) is in a two person exhibit next month with Phil Chan at the Hardee Center for the Arts at North Florida Community College in Madison, titled Fallenness and Other Small Truths. She has two clay monoprints on exhibit at the University of Malaysia in Penang, at the 2nd. Penang International Print Exhibition 2010 and will be in another two person exhibit with Beverly Leviner at the Yocum Institute (formerly the Wyomissing Institute) next month. The show is titled Dominion, and opens May 14th.

Joseph Yarworth (Education) has been selected as one of only 12 members of the Local Assessment Validation Advisory Committee required by the State Board of Education. This committee will develop criteria for the local assessment validation process and criteria for the selection of the entities that will perform validations for K-12 schools.
PROVOST’S BULLETIN

Vol. LI – Bulletin #8 May 2010

PROVOST’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events:

Brown Bag Luncheon Series: The next luncheon will occur on Thursday, May 12, 2010, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge.

Assessment Roundtable: The next roundtable will occur on Wednesday, May 11, 2010, from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge. The topic will be First Year Seminars. Several faculty who taught FYS this year will lead a discussion about why we might want to assess our FYS and how to do it. Faculty will describe their course content, identify areas that might be assessed, and possibly show examples of what they did to assess student learning, especially in general education areas such as writing, information literacy, academic research, etc.

Jacob Albright Society Induction Ceremony on May 22
On Saturday, May 22, seniors who have a received a cumulative grade point average of 3.7 or above (after final grades are submitted) will be inducted as lifetime members of the Jacob Albright Society. The reception begins at 6 p.m. in the CFA Mezzanine, with dinner following in the dining hall at 6:30 p.m. Please send your response via invitation that was mailed to you immediately (deadline May 7, 2010).

Commencement
On May 23, 2010, we will be celebrating the 151st Commencement of Albright College. Below you will find information regarding these events. This year, the Baccalaureate speaker will be Rev. Dorothy Watson Tatem. Mr. John Prendergast, Co-Founder of the Enough Project and Human Rights Activist and Author, will be our Commencement speaker this year. He has authored eight books on Africa, including Not on Our Watch, a New York Times bestseller and NAACP non-fiction book of the year that he co-authored with actor Don Cheadle. Not on Our Watch is currently available for purchase in our bookstore.

Activities will be held in Shirk Stadium rain or shine unless severe inclement weather should occur and move us to the Bollman Gym. Commencement is the most important event at the College, recognizing the culmination of our students’ educational goals. It is a time for all of us to come together as a community to celebrate the accomplishments of our students. I look forward to your participation in this most joyous event. More detailed information can be found at: www.albright.edu/commencement.

Save the Dates: As you plan your summer, please keep in mind the following important events leading to the start of the 2010-2011 academic year.
Sneak Peak: Friday July, 16 & Saturday, July 17, 2010
Faculty Retreat: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 - Details forthcoming.
Convocation: Thursday, August, 26, 2010
New Student Orientation: August 26-28, 2010
Classes Start: Monday, August 30, 2010
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Undergraduate Studies (Joseph Thomas, Dean)

- Academic program reviews under the revised model were undertaken by four departments this year: Accounting, Theatre, Chemistry, Math, and Sociology (including Environmental Studies). Each review has been productive thanks to the efforts of departments and internal readers, and each is at a different point in the process – Accounting’s is complete; external review reports have been received for Theatre and Chemistry; and external reports are pending for Math and Sociology/EVS. The guidelines continue to evolve as we learn from the process.

- This year’s Sneak Peek event is scheduled for July 16 and 17 and will generally repeat the approach taken at last year’s successful event. Registration will be managed to try and equalize the number of students here each day. Planning for Orientation continues; Friday, August 27 will be the primary day for advising and academic programming.

- Retention outreach continues with the faculty’s help and we trust this outreach contributes to our improved retention. Fewer students were reported in the spring than in the fall on the early alert rosters (requested after week 3 in first-year courses) – 149 vs. 259, perhaps reflecting incoming students’ progressive adjustment. However, mid-term warnings for grades D+ and below went to about the same number of students (491 vs. 505 in Fall). Faculty response on the early alerts was good, and will likely increase as this practice gets established – forms for 87% of relevant courses were returned.

- Changes have been submitted for the “Academic Resources” portion of the Academic Affairs web pages. A new Academic Advising link will include more information and resources for students (this will soon also include updated curriculum sheets for academic programs to replace current sheets). Also, some links under Faculty Resources have been updated, along with the addition of a set of links in support of academic program review (also to be accessible from the intranet under Faculty Policies).

Library news and reminders

- Reminder that all materials on Blackboard must be saved or Moved to Moodle by May 31, 2010. Please contact moodle@alb.edu if you need any assistance in moving materials

- Moodle training will start up again in mid May – Watch your email for exact dates and times

- Reminder that all students and faculty must use or forward from their college supplied email addresses when using Moodle since email addresses cannot be changed in Moodle like they were in Blackboard.

- Anyone with suggestions for summer Classroom renovation ideas should contact Chris Hamann or Rosemary Deegan by May 21 so the Classroom Renovation Committee can prioritize all requests and better serve the faculty needs.

Career Development Center

Faculty: as you prepare your syllabi for the fall, keep in mind that we can tailor a workshop for your students regarding job searches, internship availability, career opportunities or resume writing.
you have to miss a class for professional development, don’t cancel—we can provide your class with useful information. Would you like to partner with the Career Development Center in presenting discipline-specific career information such as hosting a panel discussion, or providing other experiential opportunities for your students? Contact us and we can brainstorm the possibilities! (Karen-kevans@alb.edu or extension 7630)

As summer approaches the Career Development Center and CELAR, along with the Grants Office, are preparing a Title III Grant Proposal- Strengthening Institutions. If (when) awarded the grant we will use it to combine the centers into a one-stop shop for students to engage in a variety of experiential learning opportunities that will enable students to intentionally connect their academic work with out-of-the-classroom experiences. Additionally we hope to offer more service-learning opportunities and support for faculty to promote student learning and work in civic engagement and social responsibility. Research has shown that by intentionally offering these experiences for students they will be better prepared for graduate school and/or work in the human services, responsible corporations and government, etc. Faculty, please contact Karen Evans if you have an idea for a service-learning component in your classes. We will work with you to make those connections and provide support for you. Also, stay tuned for announcements regarding our new and improved CELAR because we want students to know about how they can enhance their Albright College experience through internships, off-campus study, research, and civic engagement.