

**Subject:** [Faculty-dean] Newsletter

**From:** "Jill Tiefenthaler" <jmt@wfu.edu>

**Date:** Fri, 5 Sep 2008 15:35:29 -0400

**To:** <faculty-dean@lists.wfu.edu>, <faculty-calloway@lists.wfu.edu>, <lawfaculty@wfu.edu>, <faculty-divinity@lists.wfu.edu>, <faculty@mba.wfu.edu>

**CC:**

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2008-2009 academic year!

I am pleased that we are ready to begin a new year and look forward to important progress this fall. In this newsletter, you will find news of gifts and programs that enhance our academic mission, new appointments, and faculty development opportunities. Thank you for giving these important items your close attention.

In addition, I want to share the agenda that the deans and my office will pursue this year and ask for your input now and as we move through the fall. Flowing naturally from our strategic plan, our questions are:

- § How can we make each opportunity to **hire a faculty colleague as a way to strengthen the department, the school and the Wake Forest academic community** as a whole? What practices and policies will insure that we add to the distinctiveness of our academic profile each time we add to the faculty body?
- § How can we use the **promotion and tenure processes** to accomplish the same goal? Are there practices, policies and forms of communication that will help us do more to improve academic excellence, the quality of our community, and opportunities for equitable progress through the academic ranks all across the intellectual spectrum?
- § What are the **very best forms of mentoring and advising** for this community? Are there stronger ways to support and advise students, junior faculty, and staff than those we are using now? If so, how can we strengthen these for the best effect?
- § What are our best forms of **interdisciplinary collaboration** now, and how do we anticipate our patterns of collaboration changing in the future? As more and more scholars and students depend on robust interdisciplinary collaboration as a foundation for their academic careers, what can we do to support and encourage their interaction and their work?

As we consider these questions, I hope we can be very attentive to sustaining several distinct values, including **our commitment to diversity** in all of its forms and the importance of **timely and effective communication** among our constituencies and outside the University. I believe that this approach will add to the general health of our very strong community and support us as individuals as well.

In this spirit, I plan to establish a consultative process for discussion of each of these important issues. Throughout the year, the deans and I will be creating specific opportunities for you to add your voice and energy to this work, but in the meantime, please commit to recruiting the very best colleagues to our academic community, be intentional about diversity, and encourage and pursue interdisciplinary collaborations in your own research and teaching, wherever appropriate. I invite your comments and questions to me directly at [jmt@wfu.edu](mailto:jmt@wfu.edu). I hope to hear from you soon.

With warm regards,

Jill Tiefenthaler  
Provost

*New Support for Academic Work*

## Planning grant awards for interdisciplinary research centers

The first call for interdisciplinary research center planning grants generated 11 center proposals in Spring 2008.

Thanks to all those who submitted proposals. Six planning grants have been funded for the 2008-2009 academic year. The topics and principal investigators are:

- Bioethics (Mark Hall and Nancy King)
- Energy and Environment (Robert Browne and Richard Williams)
- Functional Health (Jack Rejeski and Daniel Kim-Shapiro)
- Global Humanities and Cultural Diversity (Mary Foskett and Margaret Bender)
- Microenterprise (Betsy Gatewood)
- Molecular Signaling (Gloria Muday).

These groups will generate full center proposals over the coming year.

Center planning grants were reviewed by the Research Advisory Council (the list of members is available at <http://www.wfu.edu/rsp/office.html>). Look for another request for proposals for center planning grants in the spring.

## Renovation of academic space

Now we are beginning to see the impact of over \$3 million in funding capital projects that was allocated to academic units for this current year.

Thanks go to facilities management associate vice president Jim Alty and his staff, who worked so hard to complete the renovations of classrooms, labs, offices, and public spaces over the summer. In addition, thanks to all of the faculty and staff members who gave critical input on these renovation projects. By improving the collaboration between those who design and renovate and those who use these spaces, you have contributed to successful capital improvement. Please note that the **deadline for applying for capital funding for FY10 is October 29, 2008**. The guidelines and an application form are available at <http://www.wfu.edu/provost/rfp/index.html>.

## Strategic initiative funding for 2009-2010

As we begin the 2009-2010 budget process, we hope to once again have funds for a few strategic initiatives at the unit level.

Vice presidents and deans may submit requests for either planning grants or recurring funding for initiatives that address strategic priorities.

Faculty members, department chairs, and program directors should submit their proposals to their dean for review and priority setting. **Deans and Vice Presidents should submit requests by Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**. For the form, see <http://www.wfu.edu/provost/rfp/index.html>. Last year, this process resulted in new funding for several unit, school, and university initiatives including the new faculty travel program, funding for the undergraduate research center, the graduate school's post-doc program, and diversifying the library's collection as well as pilot programs in the Chemistry, Mathematics, English, and Religion Departments and the Divinity School.

## Upcoming faculty development workshops

The Offices of the Provost and Research & Sponsored Programs (ORSP), and the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) are hosting a number of workshops for faculty in the coming year. Those include:

- Robert Browne (Biology), Dilip Kondepudi (Chemistry), and Emily Wakild (History) will lead a TLC workshop on “Teaching Sustainability” on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at noon in Benson 344F.
- Deborah De and Cynthia Sollod, grants managers from the North Carolina Biotechnology Center (NCBC), will present two workshops: “Funding Opportunities through the North Carolina Biotechnology Center” and “Fundamentals of Successful Grant Writing: Tips from a Funding Agency Perspective” on the afternoon of October 14, 2008.
- Sam Gladding (Counseling), Dan Johnson (Biology), and Randy Rogan (Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Communication) will lead a TLC workshop and discussion on “Mentoring Graduate Students” on Thursday, October 30, 2008 at 3 PM in Room 204 of the ZSR Library.
- Harry Titus (Art) will discuss the new Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Center (URECA) and share news about how you and your students might benefit from its programs on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 11 AM in the Little Mag room in Reynolda Hall.
- Russell Wyland, Program Officer from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), will be on campus on February 17 and 18, 2009. He will lead workshops on current NEH grant programs and NEH proposal writing best practices and meet individually with interested faculty.
- Next April (date to be confirmed), Fulbright program officers will present a workshop outlining faculty and staff opportunities for international training, teaching, and study through various Fulbright programs. Faculty and staff also will have the opportunity for one-on-one sessions with officials from the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, a branch of IIE on contract with the U. S. Department of State.

Registration for all of these faculty development opportunities will take place through the Professional Development Center's web page ([pdc.wfu.edu](http://pdc.wfu.edu)). Please visit the Provost's website (where links are provided to the TLC, PDC and ORSP pages) to learn more about all of the professional development opportunities available on campus.

## ***Faculty Recognition and Awards***

### **Professor Kim-Shapiro to be first recipient of the new Harbert Family Distinguished Chair**

President Hatch is pleased to announce a generous gift from Raymond J. and Kathryn Harbert (P'06) to establish the Harbert Family Distinguished Chair for Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship. The chair will be awarded to an outstanding teacher whose work is of international renown. The Provost will administer the chair and use it, when possible, to retain an outstanding Wake Forest scholar. We are grateful to the Harbert family for helping to signal Wake Forest's commitment to outstanding teaching and scholarship.

I am pleased to announce that Professor of Physics Daniel Kim-Shapiro is the first scholar to receive the chair.

Professor Kim-Shapiro researches the biophysics of hemoglobin and other proteins, and is renowned for his research on sickle cell anemia. As co-leader of a team that includes Wake Forest graduate and undergraduate students, recently he discovered chemistry in hemoglobin that can help scientists pursue better treatments for such conditions as myocardial infarction, pulmonary hypertension, stroke and atherosclerosis, as well as sickle-cell anemia. This research is supported by major grants from the National Institutes of Health.

Professor Kim-Shapiro completed his Ph.D. at U.C. Berkeley in 1993, and came to Wake Forest in 1996. He attended Carleton College as an undergraduate and then served as a Peace Corps volunteer, teaching physics in Zaire for two years before going to graduate school. Professor Kim-Shapiro is highly regarded within the University and the larger Winston-Salem community, as well as internationally in the fields of physics and medicine.

### **GMAC Chair awarded to Professor Patel**

I am pleased to announce that Professor Ajay Patel has been named the GMAC Chair in Finance. In addition to serving the university as Dean of the Babcock Graduate School of Management from 2004 to 2008, since joining the faculty in 1993, Professor Patel has earned a reputation as an outstanding teacher-scholar. He received Babcock's Educator of the Year Award in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2002, and the 2001 Kienzle Teaching Award, given to the faculty member who represents the highest standards of teaching excellence.

In 1997 and 2000, Professor Patel was honored with the Outstanding Faculty Award for the Babcock School's Charlotte evening MBA program. Professor Patel's expertise is in corporate financial management and international finance. His current research focuses on executive compensation, corporate governance and foreign direct investment strategy.

### **New Q&A feature on the Wake Forest website highlights faculty research**

Thanks to a new initiative by Creative Services, the Wake Forest home page now includes a new feature on Wake Forest faculty members and their research.

Each week a different scholar will be profiled in a question and answer format, which will also appear on Window on Wake Forest, the Parents' page, and the Faculty News page. In addition, Creative Services is expanding coverage to produce more stories on faculty scholarship and creative work and academic programs. See the feature on the WAKE Washington program for an example of this new way to highlight faculty and student achievement. <http://www.wfu.edu/wowf/2008/20080818.qa.miller.html>.

### **Research accomplishments**

Continued efforts to seek external research funding produced a record year with almost \$9 million in external awards received. We have also seen a steady stream of impressive publications of books and articles. So far in 2008, Wake Forest faculty members have published more than 30 books including groundbreaking monographs, compelling fiction, and important textbooks! Congratulations to all! Highlights include:

- The faculty requested over \$49 million in new support in 2007-2008. The total is up almost \$8 million over 2006-2007 requests.
- The Department of Health and Exercise Science received the most external funding at \$1.76 million, followed closely by Biology and Physics. The Department of Biology received the most awards at 18, followed by Physics, Health and Exercise Science, and Anthropology.
- The Department of Computer Science more than doubled the amount received last year.
- One faculty member won a Guggenheim Fellowship (Sarah Watts, History) and three faculty members won Fulbright Fellowships (Sylvain Boko, Economics; Jon Duchac, Calloway; and David Weinstein, Political Science).
- Several faculty members were principal investigator on two or more new external research awards (Jennifer Burg, Computer Science; Errin Fulp, Computer Science; Ellen Miller, Anthropology; and Miles Silman, Biology).
- Faculty members in English produced three interesting works of fiction (Eric Wilson's *Against Happiness: In Praise of Melancholy*, John McNally's (co-authored with Owen King) *Who Can Save Us Now? Brand-New Superheroes and Their Amazing (Short) Stories*, and Justin Catanoso's *My Cousin the Saint: A Search for Faith, Family, and Miracles*).
- Several recent books are evidence of the growing impact of the faculty's research in international studies including Jeanne Simonelli's (Anthropology) *Crossing between Worlds: The Navajo of Canyon*

de Chelly, Sylvain H. Boko's (Economics) *New Economic Partnership for African Development and the Future of Economic Policy in Africa*; Peter Siavelis' (Political Science) *Pathways to Power: Political Recruitment and Candidate Selection in Latin America*; and Angela Hattery (Sociology), and Earl Smith's (Sociology) *Globalization and America: Race, Human Rights, and Inequality*

- Other important new monographs include Marina Krcmar's (Communications) *Living without the Screen: Causes and Consequences of Life without Television*, Claire Hammond's (Economics) *The Benefits of Subsidized Housing Programs: An Intertemporal Approach*, Simone Caron's (History) *Who Chooses? American Reproductive History since 1830* and Ulrike Wiethaus' (Religion and American Ethnic Studies) *Foundations of First Peoples Sovereignty: History, Education and Culture*
- The teacher-scholar ideal is also exemplified by the publication of important textbooks that bring the Wake Forest name into classrooms around the world. Some excellent examples include Rick Harris' (Babcock) *Managerial Economics: Applications, Strategy, and Tactics*, Dilip Kondepudi's (Chemistry) *Introduction to Modern Thermodynamics*, Sam Gladding's (Counseling) *Counseling: A Comprehensive Profession*, and Michael Furr's (Psychology) *Psychometrics: An Introduction*.

Special thanks to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs for their efforts in supporting faculty research! The full listing of research grants and book publications is published quarterly by this office.

## ***Appointments***

### **Mark Welker appointed Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs**

Mark Welker,

William L. Poteat Professor of Chemistry and formerly associate provost for research, has been appointed to a three-year term as associate provost for faculty affairs. In his new role, Mark will coordinate faculty development initiatives, which are a strategic focus of the Provost Office's work, as well as continue to supervise the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. Mark is now in his 22nd year as a Wake Forest University

faculty member and holds joint academic appointments in the departments of biochemistry, cancer biology, and the Comprehensive Cancer Center at the School of Medicine.

As principal investigator on several million dollars worth of externally funded proposals and with over 60 publications and three patents credited to his research group, Mark exemplifies the teacher-scholar ideal. He has also served as research adviser to many senior scientists, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, undergraduates, and high school students. His efforts as a mentor were recognized on the national level from 1994-99 when he was named as a Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar by the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation.

## ***Announcements***

### **Opening Convocation – September 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m.**

Opening Convocation will be held on Thursday, September 18, at 4:00 p.m. in Wait Chapel. Please make every effort to attend and encourage your students to join you. The event will be followed by a picnic on Hearn Plaza for all students, staff, faculty and their family members from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

This year convocation will highlight the vibrant role of culture and the arts in the Wake Forest community. Our convocation speaker, David Lubin, Charlotte C. Weber Professor of Art, will explore how the arts spark curiosity, provoke intellect, and engage the imagination in a talk titled "Disturbing the Peace: Wake Forest and the Arts."

In addition, the award-winning Wake Forest Debate Team will be recognized, and the Waddill Excellence in Teaching Award, Reinhardt Award for Distinguished Teaching, Schoonmaker Faculty Award for Community

Service, and the Award for Administrative Excellence will be conferred.

### **Dean of the College search update**

The search for the next Dean of the College is proceeding on schedule. Over the summer, the chairs of all college executive and advisory committees solicited nominations for the search committee from their committee members.

They forwarded these nominations to the collegiate senators, who named the search committee with the aim of achieving appropriate divisional representation. I am grateful to the following faculty members for agreeing to serve on the search committee.

- Terry Blumenthal, Shearer Professor of Psychology
- Carole Browne, Professor of Biology
- Simone Caron, Associate Professor of History
- Christa Colyer, Associate Professor of Chemistry
- Mary Foskett, Associate Professor of Religion
- Richard Heard, Associate Professor of Music
- Nina Lucas, Associate Professor of Dance
- Barry Maine, Professor of English
- Jim Powell, Associate Professor of Classical Languages
- Helga Welsh, Associate Professor of Political Science

To this group, I have added Interim Dean of the College Paul Ribisl, *ex officio*. The next steps are to consult with the college faculty and form the position prospectus. We will keep you informed as the search moves forward.

### **Gift to develop program for first generation students**

President Hatch is pleased to announce a generous gift from Steven M. Scott (P '97, '00) to support a program for first generation college students at Wake Forest. The goal is to recruit and admit first generation college students as well as to support them throughout their college careers. Professor Herman Eure, Associate Dean of the College; Martha Allman, Director of Admissions; and I will host several conversations this fall to get faculty input on this important program.

Please contact my office if you are interested in participating. Our goal is to launch a pilot program next fall.

### **Save the Date – Rethinking Admissions Conference**

On April 15-16, 2009, the Provost's Office will host its first annual conference on issues in higher education. *Rethinking Admissions*

will bring together scholars and admissions professionals to frame and debate the value of standardized testing, the use of interviews, and how to assess applicants' creativity. Please contact Joseph Soares, Associate Professor of Sociology, ([soaresja@wfu.edu](mailto:soaresja@wfu.edu)) if you are interested in participating.

### **QEP Annual Report**

The 2007-2008 Annual Report on the University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is available at

<http://www.wfu.edu/provost/> under the *International*

link. The report charts the progress of our internationalization efforts over the past year and includes upcoming plans associated with our international endeavors.

### Thursdays at Starling

Please mark your calendars for this year's Thursdays at Starling series. This once-a-month event, jointly sponsored by the Office of Admissions and the Provost's Office, highlights the outstanding research, teaching, community engagement and programming of Wake Forest faculty across the Reynolda campus.

Each event begins with a wine and cheese reception at 4:00 p.m. at Starling Hall (The Admissions Office), followed by a formal program at 4:30 p.m.

Send your suggestions for programming to Michele Gillespie, Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives, [gillesmk@wfu.edu](mailto:gillesmk@wfu.edu).

2008-2009 Dates:

Thursday, September 4, 4:00 p.m., Starling Hall

Thursday, October 2, 4:00 p.m., Starling Hall

Thursday, November 6, 4:00 p.m., Starling Hall

Thursday, February 5, 4:00 p.m., Starling Hall

Thursday, March 5, 4:00 p.m., Starling Hall

Thursday, April 2, 4:00 p.m., Starling Hall

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Thank you for your attention to this newsletter.

The Provost's Office seeks your comments, suggestions, and ideas for its continued development. To comment or suggest items to include, please be in touch with Provost Jill Tiefenthaler at [jmt@wfu.edu](mailto:jmt@wfu.edu).



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Faculty-dean mailing list  
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