



College of Arts and Sciences Office of the Dean

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This Month's Wisdom:

Always read
something that
will make you
look good if
you die in the
middle of it.
~P. J. O'Rourke

Summer Profit Sharing Produces Return

CAS benefitted financially from the distribution of "profits" related to the last two robust summer enrollments experienced in the college. The CAS Leadership Group helped me work out how to return 50% of that one-time funding to the departments. The money will be available for use in the departments for a variety of longstanding needs and ranged from a low of around \$3000 to a small department to a high of \$17,000 to a large one. The criteria for determining the funding involved overall contribution to the total FTE for the summers of 08 and 09; FTE growth; and actual profit margin contributed by the departments. In addition, the Honors, Student Success, and Advising groups will receive some funds from those reserved in the dean's office to thank them for supporting the achievement of high enrollments. Thanks to all who contributed to the FTE growth or helped the college decide on the best way to distribute the funds. We expect the funds to be distributed within the next two weeks. The other 50% will be used primarily to enhance our summer offerings in 2010 to see if we can keep this profitable trend going.

PJ O'Rourke Packs the House

As the 5th Jerry Maygarden Distinguished Public Service Lecturer, P. J. O'Rourke drew over 400 people to his evening address, "Pirates in Neckties," last week in the CFPA. His diatribe against politicians and big business struck a responsive chord among the faculty, students, and community members who were in attendance. PJ also completed a student-oriented session on creative writing for English, Com Arts, and Honors students in the afternoon. In a note he sent just this week, PJ complimented the beauty of the campus, the impressiveness of the faculty, and the enthusiasm of the many community supporters he met. Regarding UWF students, he commented, "And your students...words fail me." They combined seriousness of mind, lightness of touch and good manners in a way that is almost unheard of in kids their age. That they had good questions was pleasing. That they listened to the answers was amazing." Thanks to all who came out to support this event.

CAS Departments Sponsor Big Events TODAY

- BARABARA LARSON and the Art Department will be sponsoring a conference today on "Darwin and His Impact," an interdisciplinary

celebration of his contributions from 3-5 in Bldg 58, Rm 101.

- JOAN DUER and the Psychology Department will be hosting a conference this week called "CAMPP/NAMP Combined Conference: Challenge and Opportunity" downtown at the Bowden Building. UWF has long been a leader in trying to get national recognition for the legitimacy of the master's degree in the care provider network.
- Writers in the Gallery opens today with the appearance of fiction writer Joseph Skibell who will be reading from his novel "A Blessing on the Moon." Reception starts at 7 outside the Art Gallery with the reading beginning at 7:30.

T&P Update

The CAS Personnel Committee (Chair DAVID BAULCH, RAID AMIN, MAT NCUBE, ED RODGERS, CHRIS POMORY, and TERRY PREWITT) have their work cut out for them in the next few weeks as they review the dossiers of candidates. Eight faculty are going up for tenure and promotion to associate. Three faculty members have submitted dossiers for consideration of professor status. Good luck to all the candidates. They are in good hands.

The provost is hoping to schedule a faculty forum on the status of tenure and promotion implementation, scheduled to be rolled out next fall. The forum should provide an opportunity for review of challenges departments have experienced in retrofitting their expectations to the university criteria.

Budget Update

As usual, there is good news and bad news. The good news is that, if the present course holds steady, there should be no mid-year meeting of the legislature that will result in mid-year budget cuts. The bad news is that state revenues continue to be unimpressive. We anticipate that this will result in a projected 5% budget cut that will loom in connection with the legislative work that takes place in the spring. Currently, we think that higher education may be held harmless through the mechanism of increasing tuition to offset the percent. Consequently, we may end up with less differential tuition to support our growth, but at least it means that we have good reason to hope there are no layoffs or program reductions brewing. Also, as usual, this is just the first of many economic projections that will develop over the course of the year. Stimulus funds have given us some much needed breathing room.

Holiday Gala Slated

Following last year's successful model, UWF will hold a buffet luncheon to celebrate the holidays on Dec 1 from 11-1 in the Field House. Please make a note on your calendar to join your colleagues to exchange good cheer and celebrate the end of another semester.

SSE Open House Slated for First Week in Feb

Every day the building changes as the builders finish the floors, place the artwork, and set up plans for moving. Still on time, still under budget. We are pleased to announce that Peter Diamandis, the driving force behind various the X Prize competitions, will be serving as the keynote speaker during

the opening week festivities the first week in February. The X Prize represents an educational nonprofit institute whose mission is to create radical breakthroughs in complex problems (e.g., space travel, fuel efficiency) for the benefit of humanity.

Math Ranked #1 in State

The Math/Stat Department got some great news a while ago about the quality of their instruction in various “gatekeeping courses.” The department ended up being ranked first in the state in the success of the courses based on withdrawal rates and percentage of passing scores. Math has made huge gains in student achievement based on their redesign of gen ed using time divided between face-to-face and required computer lab activities. This is solid recognition for the transformative work they have been accomplishing.

Teaching/Advising Awards Under Revision

The “Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Advising Awards” may be undergoing some refinement in the process and criteria for decisions. New guidelines being considered elaborate what constitutes the successful application portfolio, links award criteria to the new university descriptors in the tenure and promotion document regarding distinguished teaching, and provides a more complete articulation of criteria for superb advising. Additionally, the six awards may be divided more formally into five recognitions for teaching and one for advising. Chairs will be encouraged to nominate worthy candidates and self-nominations will remain acceptable under the new protocol. Winners of the awards receive \$2000 and public recognition at the Spring Honors Convocation.

The Distinguished University Professor selection process will begin in the next few weeks. Currently FRANK ANDRASIK (Psychology) serves as one of the two DUP recipients, an honor that includes funding to enhance projects, course release, and obligations for mentoring UWF peers. Frank and Ron Bush (COB) will also serve on the selection committee for the next DUP.

Sadly, the Teaching Improvement Program (TIP) Awards will not be operating this year due to the impact of budget cuts and the shortage of funding we have in recurring funds.

CM Countdown

CHARLIE MAE STEEN is entering her final month of employment after nearly three decades of service. (For fun, watch her do the equivalent of a victory dance if you say the word “retirement” around her). We will be celebrating her many contributions on her last day of employment, December 7. Please plan on stopping by CAS Conference Room to wish her well between 2 and 4 p.m. PAULA WILSON will be joining us later this month.

Excellence Committee Appointed

The Provost has invited faculty members to serve as committee members who will consider opportunities that enhance the UWF experience for high achieving students. Chaired by GREG TOMSO (English), the committee will be looking at questions about the resurrection of Phi Kappa Phi, whether a Phi Beta Kappa chapter is a good idea, student competitiveness for national

scholarship opportunities and other enrichment opportunities. JIM ARRUDA (Psychology) will be representing CAS on this committee.

Resource Requests Go Digital

Thanks to the assistance of KAREN GOLDSCHMDIT, we have put in place a digital system to maintain current lists of requests that departments generate related to staffing needs, equipment, and space. The hope is that make a one-stop spot for entering what you need and identifying when the need is met that we can reduce the frustration involved in multiple requests that don't go anywhere. We will have some carry-forward at the college level that will be used to address some of the longer standing needs in the college we hope before the end of the semester. We are waiting on some clarity about the computer lab replacement funding before we determine where the carry-forward investments should go, but chairs have been encouraged to submit requests related to equipment, furniture, or other nonrecurring items that need repair, replacement, or face-lifting.

Reminders and Notes to Faculty

- **BOOK ORDERS OVERDUE.** As you turn in your book orders (preferably this week if you haven't done so), please give some thought to ways to save money for students who have been particularly hard hit this fall with new fees and rising book costs. If you haven't visited the Orange Grove resource sponsored by the state, this might be a great time to see what you can use without cost to the students.
- **OFF CONTRACT WORK.** Just a note of clarification for those who should be completing "conflict of interest" forms: Anyone who is working off-contract for compensation should complete this form to ensure there is no conflict of interest. Textbooks, grants, and honoraria are exempted from this process, but those who are engaged in ongoing work assignments that show any potential for conflict should file an annual report. There is no need to submit a form if you are not engaged in an activity that generates outside income.
- **GOOGLE MAIL.** "G" day happens at the end of the week. Attachments that are large (over 20 meg) may not make the migration from old system to new. We will also need to flatten out nested folders in the Outlook system to allow Google Mail full power in helping us sort. It will require some change but the cost-savings is estimated to be in excess of \$100,000 and we hope the new search system, once we get it figured out, will bring some advantages as well. Remember, you should be taking a calendar holiday this weekend to facilitate the smooth transfer of data from Outlook to Google.
- **ADVICE ON WITHDRAWING STUDENTS.** Faculty have discretion regarding whether a student who has officially withdrawn can stay on in the class to help out with success on second registration. However, we ask that if you agree to allow one withdrawn student to stay for their own good, that same courtesy should be extended to other students in the same status to avoid complications associated with apparent favoritism. Once students have withdrawn, no further work should be graded nor can they withdrawal decision be reversed.

- CLASS ROSTERS WITH PHOTOS. We are optimistic that student photos will accompany class rosters, beginning with Fall 2010. Although some details need to be worked out especially related to online students, this practice should facilitate faster learning of student names.
- CONSIDER "MSE." Many faculty find it helpful around the midway point of the semester to do an informal "mid-semester evaluation." For faculty eyes only, the feedback to questions like, "What do you think is working to help you learn?" or "Should we be doing anything differently to improve your learning?" can give you some direction to make changes that can have a positive effect on formal evaluations at the end of the semester.

Dean's List

- Kudos to SHARON SIMMONS and DAVID ALGEO for the roles in representing the future in the Science and Engineering Building at the iTen Wired Summit before 150 people. Lots of networking resulted that may facilitate stronger community relationships.
- BRENDAN KELLY has just been named the Director of National Forensics. In this role he will bring UWF in more attention as a place where forensics is outstanding.
- GREG TOMSO (English) and KEVIN KERN (Theatre) both recently got recognition from the CASE Foundation regarding their nominations for the Florida Professor of the Year. This is one tough competition and they both represented UWF very well in the competition.
- BILL WEBER and a legion of volunteers helped get another successful BEST competition across the finish line. (My hearing is just now coming back to normal).
- Kudos to CAS Council for their ambition in taking on two important projects this year: student retention and developing a standard annual evaluation reporting format. They also managed very rapid turn around of CCRs and grad admission guidelines. I am most appreciative of all of these efforts.
- LEONID YANOVSKIY is celebrating his 10th season as concertmaster with the Pensacola Symphony. During this anniversary year, his students placed first and second in the state violin competition.
- GREG LANIER was just elected as the President-Elect of the National Council of Honors programs.
- The Nursing Department reports glowing success in their latest round of NCLEX results: 96.77% of the UWF students who sat for the exam were successful. Congratulations on that hard work.
- "Pippin" was fun, fun, fun, but special recognition this round goes to LEAH ARINGTON for developing the best choreography seen on our stages in recent years.
- "Next Exit History" is being exported to sister institutions in the SUS. Congratulations to the History Department, PATRICK MOORE, and TIM ROBERTS for bringing this project to the marketplace.
- MELANIE SUTTON (Computer Sciences) has been named Orange Grove Scholar for CAS. In this role she will be helping UWF contribute to the open source text material to help bring down costs for the students.
- JUDY JONES outdid herself in assisting with details on the PJ O'Rourke visit. We can always rely on her delightful creative touch to help CAS put its best foot forward.
- Welcome to our newest CAS citizens: Aiden Kern (son of KEVIN and Natalie KERN) and Carissa Lee Bennett (daughter of CRYSTAL and Peter BENNETT).



Editorial Note:

Please don't be shy about tooting your own horn on any accomplishments that add to the glory of your department and the college. I don't always know what events may be transpiring that contribute to our reputation for excellence, so help me out by dropping an email to me if there are things that are appropriately bragworthy.
Jane