Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful spring break. We are returning to a campus that feels very different from the way it did only a week ago. With the transition to mask-optional, we are entering a new phase of the return to normalcy, which no longer feels normal at all. As we navigate these changes, it is imperative that we continue to focus on being considerate, working as a team, and caring for each other and the campus community.

The faculty and professional staff of Academic Affairs are no strangers to this kind of collaboration. As you may know, the original proposed schedule for academic year 2022-2023 had a significant shortfall in the projected number of seats available for students. Faculty and department chairs worked quickly to address the issue for the fall semester by rearranging schedules, adding sections, and offering two more seats in classes across the board. This is one of many examples of how we have demonstrated our flexibility and dedication to our students and to our shared goals.

I would also like to remind faculty that F&M has been approved to teach summer courses fully online. Summer online learning provides a great opportunity for our students to catch up, get ahead, or take courses that work around their schedules, even if they can’t be on campus. If you would like to offer a summer course, either online or in-person, there’s still time – please contact Laura Medvic and your associate dean.

Sincerely,
Cam Wesson
**Professional Staff Updates**

**Associate Provost & Chief of Staff**

**Lina Ospina** has been named Associate Provost & Chief of Staff. In this position, Lina will oversee all Academic Affairs budgets, financial activity, and personnel matters. She will also be responsible for strengthening operational functioning in Academic Affairs and supporting its strategic initiatives. Lina received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Millersville University and her master's degree in organizational development and leadership with a concentration in higher education structure & policy from Shippensburg University. She has worked at F&M for three years and has over thirteen years of experience in higher education.

**Director of the Office of the VP for Finance & Administration**

**Lydia Brubaker** has been named Director of the Office of the Vice President for Finance & Administration. As Director, Lydia will lead the office's operations, manage special projects at the intersection of multiple areas, and help manage the flow of communications between the Office of the VPFA and other campus constituencies and external partners. Lydia received her bachelor's degree in theatre (directing concentration) and philosophy from Muhlenberg College. She has worked at F&M for twelve years.

**NSF Grant Award**

**Jennifer Morford and Kate Plass** have received a grant from the National Science Foundation to support their marine research project. Their research will focus on the relationship between iron sulfides and Molybdenum in ocean sediments. Learning more about this interaction will provide a better understanding of the sediment record and past ocean conditions, which can help to predict the impact of climate change. The project also features several opportunities for student involvement and will work to engage underrepresented groups in STEM. Using a cohort-mentor model where older students peer mentor younger students, the project will reach undergraduates across all four years. For younger students, this model can help break down the barrier for those who may be reluctant to join a research group because they worry they don’t know enough yet. Kate Plass noted that the project will work to expand both knowledge within the field and educational access for students.
Especially over this last year, F&M's Academic Department Coordinators have stood out as an example to the campus community. They have stepped up to ensure coverage for all of the departments and programs while adjusting to new challenges and reduced staffing.

**Melissa Betrone** has taken on Business, Organization, and Society in addition to Earth and Environment and Environmental Studies.

**Gina Brown** has taken on International Studies, in addition to supporting all of the language departments and programs.

**Tempie Forsythe** is now supporting Theatre and Dance in addition to Art, Art History and Film.

**Julie Gemmell** has filled in for several departments during vacancies and has worked to standardize the ADC training process across the departments.

**Deb Saporetti** is supporting the Writing Center as well as the English department.

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I would also like to welcome two new Coordinators:

**Samantha Binkley** - Anthropology, Classics, and Sociology
Samantha graduated from West Chester University with a degree in secondary education, specializing in English literature, and a minor in creative writing. While there, she was published in West Chester's literary magazine, Daedalus, and chosen to attend the Boldface Writing Conference. She previously worked at Santander Bank before deciding to return to the world of education.

**Samantha Seldomridge** - Biology and Public Health
Samantha received her bachelor's degree in history from Millersville University and her master's degree in public history from Southern New Hampshire University. She previously worked at F&M as an ADC for two years. After spending three years in the HR field, she was excited for the opportunity to return and grow with the Biology department.

Finally, I'm happy to share that **Kelly Schenke** has moved from Music to Philosophy, Physics & Astronomy, and Scientific and Philosophical Studies of Mind. Kelly was preceded in this role by **Lynn Johnson** who has retired after 12 years with F&M. We wish her all the best in her next chapter.

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**Thank you ADCs!**
Endowed Chair positions recognize distinguished faculty members who are dedicated to the College and to their field of study. Congratulations to the following newly appointed endowed chairs:

**Arthur & Katherine Shadek Humanities Professors**

**Jun-Cheng Liu** and **John Modern**

The Arthur & Katherine Shadek Humanities Endowed Chair was established in 1979 by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Shadek to recognize distinctive faculty in the humanities or humanist-oriented social sciences.

**Carmie L. and Beatrice J. Creitz Professor**

**Annalisa Crannell**

The Carmie L. and Beatrice J. Creitz Endowed Chair was created in 1985 by Carmie and Beatrice Creitz. An alumnus of the College and a teacher in the early years of his working life, Mr. Creitz had a special appreciation for the value of education as a means of preserving the finest ideals of society and for F&M.

**Charles A Dana Professors**

**Daniel Ardia, Fronefield Crawford, Jennifer Morford, and Amelia Rauser**

The Charles A. Dana Endowed Chair was established by Charles A. Dana, a legislator, industrialist, and philanthropist. In partnership with his wife, Eleanor Naylor Dana, they fostered development of funding programs primarily focused on cancer research, higher education, and the arts.

**Dr. E. Paul & Frances H. Reiff Professors**

**Janet Fischer** and **Joe Thompson**

The Dr. E. Paul & Frances H. Reiff Endowed Chair was established in 1966 by the Dr. E. Paul and Frances Reiff Foundation. Dr. Reiff, Class of 1903, was a physician in Philadelphia.

**Shirley Watkins Steinman Professor**

**Alexis Castor**

The Shirley Watkins Steinman Endowed Chair was established in 1987 through the John Frederick Steinman Foundation in harmony with Mrs. Steinman’s keen interest in the Classics.
Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

- **Jessica Haile** received F&M's Richard Kneedler Distinguished Service Award.
- **Nancy Kurland** received the Best Article Award for 2021 from the Family Business Review for her paper "Community Socioemotional Wealth: Preservation, Succession, and Farming in Lancaster County, PA."
- **Virginia Maksymowicz** received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Illuminate the Arts, and the Italian Consulate.
- **John Modern** received a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation and CSEwL.
- **Kate Plass** received a Cottrell Plus Post-baccalaureate award to support the lab research of senior Rebecca Luo.
- **Jennifer Redmann** received a 2020 Outstanding German Educator Award (Post-Secondary Level) from the American Association of Teachers of German.
- **Ashley Rondini**'s work has been quoted in the Chronicle of Higher Education report "Managing the 21st Century Parent." She also received a grant from the American Sociological Association's Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline.
- **Laura Shelton** won the 2020 Helen Delpar Award for the best article published in The Latin Americanist in 2019 for her work "Creating Modern Medicine and the Modern Nation in Northern Mexico: A Comparative Analysis of Nuevo León and Sonora, 1860-1930."
- **SherAli Tareen** received the American Institute of Pakistan Studies Book Award for his book *Defending Muhammad in Modernity*.
- **Ryan Trainor** received a 2022 Cottrell Scholar Award, a prestigious honor that recognizes academic excellence and leadership potential.
- **Mark Villegas** received a Visiting Faculty Fellowship from the Dresher Center for the Humanities and Inclusion Imperative Program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Look for the launch of the Celebrating Scholarship 2022 website to read about the various articles, books, chapters, and other scholarly and creative works submitted by faculty and professional staff.

**Click here to submit your accomplishment.**

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**Faculty and Professional Staff of Academic Affairs:**

If you have news you hope to see included in the next edition, please send it to Brittany Grear at bgrear@fandm.edu.