As the academic year draws to a close, I would like to thank the faculty and staff of Academic Affairs for their hard work. Despite many challenges, we continue to make progress toward our shared vision of the future of F&M.

The creation of our new certificates will promote interdisciplinary work and add some much-needed flexibility to our curriculum. I’m grateful to EPC and to the various teams of faculty members who worked together across departments and divisions to develop these exciting offerings. The approved certificates offer a multidisciplinary approach to the selected topic and are well-structured, sustainable, and highlight a unique area of study.

The creation of certificates was an important part of the strategic plan and I am proud that we were able to reach this goal so quickly. By offering certificates in such high-demand areas as diversity and equality in education, sustainability planning, legal studies, health humanities, social entrepreneurship, data science, and language and communication, we are setting ourselves apart from other institutions. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to have these certificates ready for fall enrollment. Not only will they be an exciting option for current students, but they will also be a welcome recruitment tool for our Admission team. This initiative is a prime example of using our available resources in novel and creative ways to enhance our curriculum.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing everyone back on campus together in the fall.

Sincerely,
Cam Wesson
Faculty Retirements

Congratulations and best wishes to the following faculty who are retiring this year:

Misty Bastian
Lewis Audenreid Professor of History and Archaeology, Professor of Anthropology
27 years of service

Antonio Callari
The Sigmund M. and Mary B. Hyman Professor of Economics
43 years of service

Carol de Wet
Dr. E. Paul & Frances H. Reiff Professor of Geosciences
32 years of service

Robert Gethner
Professor of Mathematics
35 years of service

Stan Mertzman
Dr. Earl D. Stage and Mary E. Stage Professor of Geosciences
50 years of service

Glenn Ross
Dr. Elijah E. Kresge Professor of Philosophy
42 years of service

Kerry Whiteside
Clair R. McCollough Professor of Government
39 years of service
**Professional Staff Updates**

**Associate Director of the Office of College Grants**

We are excited to welcome Emily Seitz back to F&M. She previously served as Assistant Director for Fellowships and Grants from 2017 to 2019. Most recently, Emily has worked at the Clinic for Special Children as a Scientific Grant Writer and then as a Development Director. She holds a Ph.D. in History and Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies and brings 12 years of experience in development. In her role as Assistant Director, Emily's responsibilities will include pre-award support for faculty in finding funding, proposal and budget development, and navigating the submission and reporting procedure, as well as assistance with grants management at all stages of external funding. Her first day is May 16.

**Executive Assistant to the Provost**

Kay Ford has been named as the new Executive Assistant to the Provost. Kay has worked at Cornell University for over 18 years. She has held various roles during that time, including Executive Staff Assistant to the Vice President & CFO and Executive Assistant & Director of Operations for the Office of General Counsel. Kay is a licensed notary public and holds an AAS degree in business administration. In this position, Kay will provide high-level administrative support to the Provost, manage the Provost's calendar, organize multiple ongoing projects, and coordinate workflow of the Professional Standards Committee. She will begin on June 6.

**Faculty & Staff Accomplishments**

In 2021, F&M faculty and professional staff completed 126 scholarly and creative works including books, articles, presentations, chapters, and more. Visit the Celebrating Scholarship 2022 website for more information.

- Rachel Feldman received a Luce-AAR Advancing Public Scholarship Grant and recently had a documentary accepted into HotDocs Dealmaker
- Biko Koenig was selected as a 2022 Institute for Civically Engaged Research (ICER) Fellow
- Dorothy Merritts, Robert Walter, and Patrick Fleming published an op-ed in The Baltimore Sun about the Chesapeake Bay
- Dorothy Merritts has also been elected as a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences
- Christine Piro received a 2021 Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholars award from the Dreyfus Foundation
- Ryan Trainor received funding support from the Pittsburgh Foundation

Click here to submit your accomplishment
2022 Commencement Awards

Bradley R. Dewey Scholarship Award
Carol de Wet

This award is given annually to the faculty member who best exemplifies the ideal of the scholar whose research efforts reflect and inspire excellence and enlighten teaching. The award is given to recognize a research program of consistently high quality, or to encourage a scholar to bring to fruition research in progress.

Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award
Jennifer Redmann

This award is given to faculty members who have demonstrated a sustained excellence in teaching. Although teachers with very disparate styles have won this award, they are all fully engaged in their disciplines, eager to share their ideas, and deeply committed to helping students establish their own intellectual lives.

Distinguished Service Award
Ken Hess

This award recognizes a faculty member whose leadership in the area of service has had a positive impact on the quality of campus life.

Spring Research Fair

The 2022 Spring Research Fair brought over 280 presenters and visitors together in a showcase of the recent research accomplishments of F&M students and faculty. With support from internal and external grants, more than 85 students participated in research projects throughout the academic year and over the summer. Click here to learn more about the presentations and watch virtual talks.
Entrepreneurship at F&M

While some may have the misconception that Entrepreneurship is just for business majors, the program was designed to benefit students across the curriculum. Director Joaquin Villarreal points out that it is compatible with the liberal arts experience; the program is experiential and experimental, collaborative, diverse, and uses the scientific method to achieve goals and build sustainable ideas. By working with faculty members across divisions, elements of Entrepreneurship are applied across campus, providing a lens for how students can apply their education after graduation. The program offers several unique experiences and projects including the Incubator program, the 3-Day Startup weekend, and the new-for-2022 Demo Day. Held in April, Demo Day is a pitch competition where students present an innovative idea to a panel of experts. The panel selects a winner who is awarded seed funding and the project moves into the Incubator program in the fall for further exploration and development. The inaugural winner was "The Cave," an online discussion tool by Mateo Latorraca Rodrigo '23.

The latest addition to the Entrepreneurship program is the new Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship. This certificate is designed to teach students to identify and think critically about problems and needs in the world around them, expose them to entrepreneurial mindsets and techniques that empower them to create sustainable solutions, and apply their knowledge in a project-based, experiential way.

Center for Sustained Engagement with Lancaster

Founded in 2019, the Center for Sustained Engagement with Lancaster (CSEwL) works to increase community scholarship by supporting research here in Lancaster County. CSEwL Executive Director Ramon Escudero said that in addition to research, the Center also seeks to build community engagement and partnerships with local organizations.

Over the past year, CSEwL has provided funds to support a variety of local faculty research projects. Some of these projects include a community compost site in Musser Park with the Lancaster Compost Co-op, a pilot project for town halls with the City, an investigation of the Conestoga Trail with the Lancaster Conservancy and Lancaster Hiking Club, and more.

The Center currently has three co-directors: Jerome Hodos, Kostis Kourelis, and Dan Ardia. Jerome and Kostis will be ending their terms in June while Dan will stay on, along with new co-director Eve Bratman. The Center also has a new home; as of last week, the Center is now housed out of the Spanish American Civic Association (SACA). Located in the Southeast neighborhood of downtown Lancaster, the new location will make F&M more accessible to local organizations seeking collaboration.
Biodesign

This year, Dan Ardia of the Biology department and Magnolia Laurie of the Art, Art History & Film department co-taught a course in biodesign. A rapidly growing field, biodesign fuses art and science to create sustainable solutions to real-world problems.

Dan and Magnolia created the course together after attending a panel called "Biofabrication, Climate Change, Arts & Sciences." Inspired by the discussion, they began working on a plan and presented it to F&M’s Creativity, Innovation, and the Future of Work Initiative, who funded the project. The class combines the liberal arts traditions of critical thinking and interdisciplinary study with innovative concepts and a collaborative teaching style.

The course culminates with competing in the international Biodesign Challenge in June, where schools from all over the world submit a biodesign project. F&M students developed two prototypes throughout the year, then held an internal competition in March to decide which one would advance to the Biodesign Challenge. While the principles of biodesign can be applied to many different industries, students chose to focus on local environmental issues of air quality and stormwater management.

The winning project was an air filter created using local, sustainable materials. The filter is made using the invasive tree of heaven plant. This tree is also a favorite of the spotted lantern fly, so creating the filter with this material actually helps to combat two invasive species. The tree is turned into charcoal, which is then activated and works like a carbon filter to purify the air. After the air filter was selected, students worked collaboratively to finish the prototype.

Next month, students will participate in the Biodesign Challenge, going up against other teams from all over the world. F&M is the only selective liberal arts college in the competition. Congratulations and good luck!