As the semester and my time as Provost draw to a close, I find myself reflecting on my time here at F&M. Over the last three years, the College’s commitment to academic excellence, the dedication of the faculty and staff, and the resilience shown by each and every member of the campus community have been a true inspiration. Despite myriad challenges, we have always found a way to persevere while providing the best possible experience for our students. From pivoting to online instruction during COVID, to adjusting our policies and practices to address budgetary concerns, we have made difficult but necessary decisions to create the way forward.

I have no doubt that this excellence will continue in the years to come. I have been working closely with incoming Interim Provost Mary Osirim to ensure a smooth transition. The searches for tenure-track positions are in full swing with five of eight already having campus interviews. Implementation of our new strategic plan is also well underway, with the plan serving as a guide for the College's path to success and long-term financial sustainability.

I am grateful to have worked with so many talented and passionate people in pursuit of our shared mission. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to for F&M.

Sincerely,
Cam Wesson
Interim Provost

Dr. Mary Osirim

Mary Johnson Osirim has been named the new Interim Provost and Dean of the Faculty. She is Professor Emeritus of Sociology and former Provost at Bryn Mawr College. At Bryn Mawr, she held several other administrative positions including Dean of Graduate Studies, Chair of the Department of Sociology, Director of Africana Studies, and Faculty Diversity Liaison.

Mary’s research has focused on women, entrepreneurship, the state and non-governmental organizations in the microenterprise sectors of Nigeria and Zimbabwe, the development of gender studies scholarship in Anglophone Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as transnationalism and community development among African immigrants in the United States. Her teaching interests have included courses in the sociology of the family, gender and development, immigration, and economic sociology.

When asked about taking this position, Mary said, "I am pleased to join the F&M community and am looking forward to working closely with the faculty and staff in further advancing academic excellence at the College. My door at the Provost’s Office will be an open one and I encourage you to stop by and say “hi.” In the meantime, please save the date for a Welcome Reception on Thursday, February 2 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. I look forward to meeting all of you and wish you a joyous and restful holiday season!"

Retirements

Cindi Dinger, Academic Department Coordinator for Mathematics and Computer Science, is retiring at the end of this semester after 19 years with the College. Cindi said, "It’s been rewarding for me to know I’ve had an investment in the lives of young adults and their futures. I feel blessed that my faculty, fellow professional staff, and the campus community have been my second family through the life stages that my time here at the College has encompassed. In the coming months you might find me volunteering, tutoring, blogging, traveling, baking, creating an Etsy shop, and learning sign language, hand drums and the dulcimer. Oh...and most importantly, marrying my best friend and fiancé!"

Kathy Missildine is also retiring from F&M at the end of this semester. Kathy assumed the part-time position of Executive Assistant to the Central PA Consortium (CPC) in 2008. During her 14 years with CPC, Kathy worked with faculty, administrators, and students in planning, budgeting, and managing over 75 collaborative academic events with the three consortial colleges: Dickinson, Gettysburg, and Franklin & Marshall. These events included various symposia, workshops, and conferences. The new Executive Assistant to the CPC is Mary Moll, department coordinator of Africana Studies at Dickinson College; Kay Ford, Executive Assistant to the Provost here at F&M, will take over the Mueller Fellowship.
• **Julia Adams** published a book entitled *Musical Humor and Antonín Dvořák's Comic Operas*

• **Greg Adkins** published a book called *Quantum Electrodynamics: Atoms, Lasers, and Gravity*, as well as an article in Physics Reports entitled "Precision spectroscopy of positronium: Testing bound-state QED theory and the search for physics beyond the Standard Model"

• **Stephen Cooper** published a book called *The Philosophy, Theology, and Rhetoric of Marius Victorinus*

• **Susan Dicklitch-Nelson** received an LGBTI Global Human Rights Initiative supplemental grant of $212,500 for the F&M Global Barometers. Susan also published an article called "Transgender Rights are Human Rights: A Cross-National Comparison of Transgender Rights in 204 Countries"

• **Marco Di Giulio** wrote an article titled "The Origins of Israeli Deaf Ethnicity"

• **Dirk Eitzen** published a book called *Fooling with the Amish: Amish Mafia, Entertaining Fakery, and the Evolution of Reality TV*

• **Shari Goldberg** participated in an NEH summer seminar called "Philosophical Perspectives on Care"

• **Giovanna Faleschini Lerner** published a book entitled *Women and Migration in Contemporary Italian Cinema*, as well as a chapter in *Migration, citizenship, inclusiveness: Narratives of plural Italy, between imagination and policies for diversity* called "Spike Lee and the Afro-Italians behind the camera"

• **Alison Kibler**'s book project on feminist television activism in the 1970s was a finalist for the Cokie Roberts National Archives Fellowship. Alison also gave a talk called "The Long History of Hate Speech" and completed two book reviews, a manuscript review, and a promotion review.

• **Dorothy Merritts** was honored by the Geological Society of America with the 2022 Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division Career Award.

• **Emily Wilson** published an article called "The Geochemical Evolution of Santa Cruz Island, Galápagos Archipelago Front"

**Congratulations!**

[Click here](#) to submit your accomplishment

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**Director of the Faculty Center**

**Dr. Lyda Fontes McCartin** has been named as the new Director of the Faculty Center. In this position, Lyda will work collaboratively to support faculty in developing as outstanding teachers, scholars, and citizens. She approaches faculty development through an equity lens and loves working with faculty to create more inclusive classrooms that motivate students to learn and meet demanding academic expectations. She has written a book on inclusive assessment practice, given over fifty conference presentations, and published over two dozen manuscripts. She loves to travel, watch stand-up comedy, and usually reads several books at one time. You may run into Lyda and her spouse Charlie at the Buchanan Dog Park with their two dogs, Chai and Louise.
Provost's Office Initiatives Update

Center for Politics and Public Affairs

Since taking over as Director of the Center for Politics and Public Affairs in the fall of 2021, the Honorable and Mrs. John C. Kunkel Professor of Government Stephen Medvic has been busy. After spending much of last fall and some of this spring in the planning stages, the Center hosted a talk in the spring on redistricting. Following the 2020 census, the state’s legislative and congressional districts were redrawn and the Center invited some of those involved in the process to campus to discuss the results.

Over the summer, the Center hosted a deliberative forum in partnership with Lancaster City. A deliberative forum randomly selects people from a given area, provides them with information in advance about the problem to be discussed, and asks them to generate possible solutions. A representative sample of City residents gathered on campus in July for an in-depth forum focused on future land use in the City. They spent the day digging into the issue and sharing their thoughts with local officials. The forum was very successful and a plan is already in the works for a county-wide forum next summer.

The Center was also in demand this fall as Stephen gave numerous talks and media interviews about the midterm elections. He is currently working on analyses of the election results and he hopes to offer panel discussions this spring on recent and future elections in PA and the challenges facing our democracy.

Stephen’s vision for the future of the Center focuses on engaging the campus and community by connecting the work of the Center to the curriculum, offering opportunities for experiential learning, and serving as a resource to increase our collective understanding of modern politics.

Fall Research Fair

The annual Fall Research Fair was held during True Blue Weekend on Friday, October 21 in Mayser Gymnasium. During the summer of 2022, 102 Summer Scholar students received significant institutional support and collaborated on 65 research projects with faculty from the Hackman, Eyler, David Schuyler Urban Studies Fellowship, Center for Sustained Engagement with Lancaster, and Bolton Funds. During the academic year, students also received support from the Leser, Nissley, Rockhold, Lutrey, and John Marshall Fellow funds, the Center for Sustained Engagement with Lancaster, and research sponsored by other faculty grants. Visit the Fall Research Fair website to learn more about the projects and watch virtual presentations.
Committee on Grants

February 1, 2023: Summer Scholars deadline
Available funds: Hackman Fund, Decision Science, Decision Theory, and Distributive Justice, Eyler Fund, David Schuyler Urban Studies Fellowship, Humanities & Social Sciences Student Exploration Fund Scholars

February 8, 2023: COG Application Round 3 deadline
Available funds: Research Grants, Catalyst Fund for Student-Faculty Research

March 29, 2023: COG Application Round 4 deadline (if funds remain)
For summer scholars, applications must be made by the sponsoring faculty members who will design and supervise the research experience. For questions or more information, please contact Associate Dean Dan Ardia.

Learn more and apply

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.