

From: [Karen Olmstead](#)
To: [Karen Olmstead](#)
Subject: Academic Affairs First Monday email for April, 2022
Date: Monday, April 4, 2022 7:51:21 PM

Greetings, colleagues: Although Spring Break may have provided a small respite, I know that April is always a busy month at a time when our energy starts to flag (likely even more so after the last two tough years!). The scholar Mays Imad has written powerfully on [trauma-informed teaching](#) and [faculty support and development](#). She quotes the Persian poet and Islamic scholar Rumi, “Friends, we are travelling together.” And that we are. Thank you for your continued commitment and good work to meet the needs and goals of our students.

Enrollment: You may have seen the [article in the Washington Post yesterday](#) about university enrollment challenges, particularly at public comprehensives. My sincere thanks to all who continue to support our recruitment and retention efforts, including Admitted Students Day this Saturday (April 9th) and for our graduate and satellite programs. We’re still slightly ahead in first-year student enrollment for fall, 2022 but need to continue to focus on retention (thanks for all your advising efforts) as well as transfer and graduate student enrollment.

Good news to share:

- Congratulations to Amit Poddar, Judy Billups, Aaron Johnson, Argha Sen, Crista Hughes and the entire MASMI team on a very successful National Shore Sales Challenge last week. Teams from 38 campuses in the U.S. and Canada competed in multiple competitions. The competition is fully funded by several sponsors ranging from Perdue Farms to Salesforce and is one of the largest in the country. A ton of work well done!
- The Department of Computer Science (with logistical support from Jathan Austin and Carvel LaCurts (Mathematics)) held the first-ever Eastern Shore High School Programming Contest last week. Congratulations on an exciting and well organized event!
- Mamma Mia! rang in a return to live musical theatre at SU last week. Congratulations to all the students, faculty and staff involved in this ambitious production and to Director Blake Harris.
- SU has a vibrant [Americorps/Shorecorps Program](#) which filled 187 spots in their 2021-2022 program. In addition to service to the community and the valuable work and learning experiences this program provides to members, SU Americorps/Shorecorps provided over \$220,000 in tuition benefits (most participants are full-time students in the Seidel School, CHHS, or Accounting program). Thanks to Sara Heim and Sandy Pope for this well run and high-impact program.
- Good news keeps coming in. So far this cycle, five SU students and recent alumni have won Fulbright Student Awards for the upcoming year. Thanks to Kristen Walton and her team in the [Nationally Competitive Fellowships Office](#) and all faculty who mentor these students and write letters of recommendation.
- This fall, at least six SU students will ‘study away’ through [National Student Exchange](#) at campuses in Alaska, Georgia, and Minnesota among others.
- April is National Poetry month. Take a break and check out the work of SU poetry students in the Poetry Walk along the north wall of the first floor of the GAC.
- Things have been busy at the Nabb Center which was recently approved to house the City of Salisbury’s archives. Other recent projects include [Enduring Connections](#) which explores Delmarva’s Black History (with a database of more than 100,000 records and walking tour of Salisbury’s Black History). The Smithsonian is supporting the project by funding two in interns. Congratulations to Creston Long, Ian Post, and the entire Nabb Team on this great work.

- Congratulations to the following SU Faculty Mini-Grant Awardees: Vinita Agarwal (Communication); Brent Fedorko, Zac Townsend (Exercise Science); Carolyn King (English); Liz Kauffman, Jennifer Kruglinski, Brooke Rogers (Art); Stephen Oby (Social Work); Andrea Presotto (Geography & Geosciences); Gustavo Schneider (Management & Marketing); Melissa Stoner (Mathematics); and Jerry Tabor (Music).
- My thanks to SU's Medical Careers Society and the panelists discussing Healthcare Disparities last week. I heard this was a really informative session and look forward to watching the recording when available.
- Several SU Social Work Faculty members presented at and many others attended the [7th Annual Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Conference](#) last week. This is a terrific conference and I appreciate the strong engagement of SU faculty and leadership.
- Congratulations to Jim Forte who was awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.
- Last fall, more than 1,900 undergraduates participated in Gull Week! The Henson School recaptured the champion's crown with the largest percentage of majors participating (the Seidel School was a close second). Thanks to all students who participated, faculty who encouraged engagement, and Sarah Winger and the UARA team for another successful assessment of student learning outcomes. [Click](#) here for reports on previous Gull Week assessments.

Training, Opportunities, Resources and Reminders

- Tomorrow is [Giving Day](#)! Your gift, no matter how small, shows the commitment our employees have to SU and our mission. If you are an SU alumnus or alumna, your gift will be matched up to \$50. [Several other matching challenges](#) exist for specific programs and scholarships.
- [Registration is open](#) for the 2022 Chesapeake Studies Conference (June 1-3) and is free for SU students, faculty and staff.
- The College of Health & Human Services will offer FUSE (Family Unit Strengthened through Exercise) in two four-week sessions this spring. See the email from Autumn Romanowski for more information.
- As noted last month, a repository for **COVID-related artifacts** was established as part SU Archives in the Nabb Center. We encourage you to participate in this project by donating any materials that document your experiences during the pandemic. You can find more information, including how to contribute, [here](#).
- All SU faculty and staff are invited to participate in the self-paced Lumen Learning pilot *Exploration of Belonging for Educators: Creating a Sense of Belonging to Support Student Success and Well-Being*. The modules are designed to help participants foster a sense of belonging so that students feel valued and respected. The modules invite participants to examine their own personal journey with DEIB by exploring identity, bias, power, and how these factors come into the educational environment. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and modules will be open until June 30, 2022. To learn more and apply please visit [this website](#) or see the 3/4/22 email from facultydev@salisbury.edu for more information.

COVID-19: We are continuing to trend in the right direction! For the week ending 4/1/22, the weekly positivity rate at our Testing Center was 0 (N=528). In the past week, two Academic Affairs employees were reported as Not Cleared for a medical reason.

- The University Health Team has modified mask policy as follows: KN95/N95/KF94 masks will now only be required in instructional settings during instruction (except of instructors/

presenters who are at least 6 feet from others), on SU transportation, and in Campus and Student Health. Masks may be required during certain events (e.g., densely-populated activities at which appropriate physical distancing may not be possible).

- We encourage good mask etiquette of all (e.g., if others ask you to wear a mask, please do).
- KN95 masks continue to be available at the GSU information desk.
- We are communicating with the USM regarding what public health policies and infrastructure will be in place next academic year.
- We live in stressful times. Please encourage your students to seek any help they may need through [SU's Counseling Center](#) which offers 24/7 telehealth support through [timelycare](#). Employee support is available through the USM's Employee Assistance Program [ComPsych](#). If you haven't already done so, consider setting-up an account to learn about services available. When you register, our Organization Web ID is *USMEAP*.
- Please continue monitoring your SU email account and the [SU COVID-19 webpage](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding campus operations. Stay Informed updates are issued on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. as necessary.

As always, my heartfelt thanks to you as we travel together,
Karen

Upcoming Dates of Interest (bold indicates events added this month). For more detailed information regarding instruction-related dates of interest, please consult the [Registrar's Calendars](#). For information about Faculty Senate meetings, please consult their [webpage](#). If you want to share information about events/activities of interest to faculty across campus, please send them to provost@salisbury.edu at least three days before the first Monday of each month.

4/5	Giving Day
4/8	Department chairs/CHHS school directors send endorsements for Spring 2023 sabbatical applications to dean Faculty Friday!
4/9	Admitted Students Day
4/20	Anti-Racism Summit Follow-Up Event
4/22	SU Student Research Conference (SUSRC) Promotion (Round 2) recommendation from University Promotions Committee to Provost Relay for Life Recycle Madness
4/23	Admissions Open House
5/1	Deans send endorsements for Spring 2023 sabbaticals to Provost
5/2	Promotion (Round 2) recommendation from Provost to President
5/12	AY21-22 Retiring Faculty Celebration 3:30 pm (Worcester Room)
5/16	Notification of promotion (Round 2) outcome to applicant by President
5/20-21	Grad Walks at the Civic Center
5/24-5/25	General Education Signature Programs Workshops
6/1-3	Chesapeake Studies Conference Registration link
6/8	Employee Appreciation Day
6/20	Juneteenth Holiday (observed)
8/26-28	National Folk Festival
8/31	Deadline for final approval by President for Spring 2023 sabbaticals
Major events on the horizon	
July 2022	We are SU Campaign tentatively ends
Fall 2022	Identify workgroups for Middle States re-accreditation self-study
S23 thru AY23-24	Draft Self-Study design plan (Spring23) and work on Middle States

	self-study (Fall 23); expect visit from MSCHE liaison spring 23
Summer '23	Anticipated launch of Workday for Financials and HR
July 2024	Begin review of planning for new Student Information System (currently Gullnet)
Fall 24	New General Education Curriculum begins
AY24-25	SU Centennial Celebrations begin
AY24-25	2020-2025 Strategic Plan ends
AY24-25	Middle States reaccreditation (site visit likely in the spring semester)

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Please note, I send emails when I can. Please do not feel obligated to respond outside of your normal working hours.