

From: [Karen Olmstead](#)
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Subject: First Monday Update from the Provost for October, 2020
Date: Monday, October 5, 2020 5:16:16 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Colleagues: As we enter the sixth (!) week of classes, I want to thank you all again for your good work and fortitude this semester. This has been such a challenging year and we have a way to go yet.

With the **General Election a month away**, many of us are pre-occupied with the voting process and outcome. The Office of Diversity & Inclusion will be offering a workshop for faculty on Thursday, October 22 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. titled *Election-Proof Your Classroom: Tools for Building Trust, Establishing Community Standards, and Managing Hot Moments*. Led by Lara Schwartz, founding director of the [American University's Project on Civil Discourse](#), this interactive online session lays the groundwork for productive dialogue across difference; de-escalation and connected communication techniques; and collaborative feedback to address concerns raised in classes. Check your email later this week for more information. Also, if possible, please avoid high-stakes assignments or assessments on Nov. 3rd and 4th. It's likely that many students will be pre-occupied with the election those days (and probably longer). Finally, our colleagues at the Institute of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement (PACE) have created a [website](#) with helpful information about voting.

Regarding more routine business in October, **thank you all for your great work advising students**. As I mentioned last year, one of the most important conversations in my life was with my academic advisor. What was a routine hour for my advisor (with a student he had never met before), provided something I hadn't been able to develop on my own: a goal and a plan for my future. The impact of good advising is always paramount to our success as an institution, but perhaps more now than ever. Thank you for your continued great work in advising and mentoring students. I know you will ask them how they're doing and how we can help to keep them focused and moving forward on their education.

Good news to share:

- Congratulations to Dean Andrew Martino and our colleagues at the SU Foundation for the recent announcement of a **\$1.5M planned gift from Robert and Glenda Clarke to support programming and students in the Honors College**. Glenda and Bob Clarke met at SU in 1968 and reconnected with the campus after relocating to the Eastern Shore in 2012 after their successful careers in education. Our thanks to the Clarkes for their incredible generosity.
- SU received a Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund award of \$487,455 for a **College Readiness Bootcamp** to support high school juniors/seniors and recent grads. College Readiness Bootcamp programs will address learning gaps due to COVID-19 school closures, support the participation of Horizons and other low-income students in our Summer Enrichment Academies (SEAs), and development of micro-credentials/digital badges for program completion. Laurie Henry, Seidel School Dean, is the Principal Investigator with SU team members Heather Porter, Heather Holmes, Andrea Suk, Maarten Pereboom, Chrys Egan, Mike Scott, Diallo Sessoms, and Vince Genareo plus Beth Sheller and Ruth Malone from Wicomico County Public Schools. Great work and collaboration!
- Congrats to Associate Dean Mark Muller and colleagues in the Henson School of Science & Technology on the formal approval of SU's newest degree program, the **B.S. in Integrated Science**. The Integrated Science B.S. allows students to develop programs of study in two or more STEM disciplines and creates a flexible major, with a foundation in science and technology, that is best suited to their individual interests and career goals.

- The **Fulton School of Liberal Arts Awards** typically are bestowed in May of each year, but the pandemic delayed the announcement. Please join me in congratulating the award winners:
 - Chairperson: Lori DeWitt, Communication
 - International Education: Sally Perret, Modern Languages/Salisbury National Office of Competitive Fellowships
 - Research Mentor: Yuki Okubo, Psychology
 - Civic Engagement: Andrew Sharma, Communication
 - Scholarship: Heidi Fritz, Psychology
 - Service to Fulton and the Community: Bill Wolff, Art
 - Support Staff: Patti Filutze, Philosophy and Michelle Hirsch, Communication
 - Teaching: Manav Ratti, English and Rachel Steele, Psychology

Training, Resources, and Reminders

- As noted above, *Election-Proof Your Classroom: Tools for Building Trust, Establishing Community Standards, and Managing Hot Moments*; Thursday, October 22; 3:00-4:30.
- School/college curriculum committee training for Curriculog (our new online curriculum management platform) is underway. Training materials will also be available on the Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum Committee websites.
- A key objective of our current strategic plan is to “Develop and articulate an identity that distinguishes SU as an outstanding public regional comprehensive University committed to academic excellence and student success.” To that end, Salisbury University is undergoing a [strategic communication brand initiative](#) to clarify key attributes and understand how to best tell our story. SU’s Brand Exercise Project Steering Committee asks that you take a 10-minute survey to give your input to this important initiative (see email send from Brand@salisbury.edu on 10/1).
- Our membership in the [National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity](#) provides access to a wide array of resources, including monthly writing challenges, preparing tenure and promotion materials, self-care in a time of uncertainty, discussion boards, and more. Don’t forget to tap into this rich resource.
- If you haven’t done so already, please complete the Information Security Training modules (see email from SU IT Training (ittraining@salisbury.edu)). The modules range from Phishing Fundamentals to FERPA and provide important information to you and which is part of our institutional compliance responsibilities.
- And, final nudge (I know how busy you all are), please complete the Coronavirus training available in MyClasses if you haven’t done so already.

COVID-19 Information on the [COVID-19 websites](#) is constantly being updated as is the Faculty Senate MyClasses Canvas Site. The weekly results of testing (9/26-10/02) produced a less than 1% positivity rate. Starting this month, people can [select an appointment time](#) that suits their schedule rather than being assigned a time. Self-swabbing is also a new option. Campus community members who are considered at high-risk or who live with those who are should feel free to contact Campus Health at campushealth@salisbury.edu or 410-677-0006 for assistance with parking or scheduling a testing time reserved for high-risk individuals.

As noted previously, to facilitate communication about COVID-19 and any other issues you’d like to discuss, we are planning Faculty Town Halls every other Thursday at 4:00 p.m. The focus of these events is on faculty and our teaching, scholarship and service missions, but staff in Academic Affairs are more than welcome to attend. We’ll use the same format with deans or others reading questions from the chat or calling on faculty to ask questions/make comments. If you would like to submit a question or comment (anonymously or not), you can do so through the Questions/Feedback box on the [Academic Affairs webpage](#). Please submit your questions by noon on the day of the Faculty Town Hall which are scheduled for **10/8, 10/22, 11/5 and 11/19** at 4:00

pm via Zoom:<https://salisbury.zoom.us/j/97901159546?pwd=QlM2aWowUlZuT3NlTXpzL3ZtV3Ezdz09>

Meeting ID: 979 0115 9546

Passcode: 245794

One tap mobile +13017158592, ,97901159546#

My monthly office hours are schedule for the fourth Friday of every month at 11AM:

Topic: Provost Open Office Hour

Meeting ID: 621 049 135

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://salisbury.zoom.us/j/621049135>

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.

Again, I want to thank all of you for your thoughtful work, expertise, and resilience in this truly difficult time,

Karen

Upcoming dates of interest (new events and deadlines in bold) – See the [Registrar's Calendar](#) for important dates

10/5 [Faculty Mini-grant applications](#) due

10/8 Faculty Town Hall (see above for Zoom info)

10/22 Election-Proof Your Classroom: Tools for Building Trust, Establishing Community Standards, and Managing Hot Moments Workshop (see above)

10/22 Faculty Town Hall (see above for Zoom info)

10/23 Virtual Celebration for Retired Faculty (postponed from May, 2020) 3:00 pm via Zoom

11/5 Faculty Town Hall (see above for Zoom info)

11/6 Last Day to drop a class in regular session (Grade of W)

11/19 Faculty Town Hall (see above for Zoom info)

12/4 Last Day to change grade of I awarded in Spring 2020 semester

12/18-12/20 Commencement Exercises for May and December 2020 graduates

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