

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Tracy Stewart, Ph.D.  
Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: April 4, 2025

RE: Provost Report

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## 1. PROVOST UPDATES

- Associate Provost, David Marx, announced his intention to retire July 1. We will honor his contributions and say farewell at a later date but please take the time to personally thank him over the next few months.
- I have requested that the Senate hold an election for faculty to serve on a search committee to find a permanent replacement for this role. I hope to be able to announce the committee membership before the May Senate meeting. I am taking the opportunity to work with the direct reports of both the Provost and the Associate Provost to consider more optimal organization of the divisional offices and services.
- The continued flow of Executive Orders and the implications of the Dear Colleague Letter (and FAQs) continue to demand attention.
- The Artificial Intelligence draft policy has received in-person and survey feedback. Thanks to all who shared suggestions, compliments, and concerns. George Aulisio and I plan to bring it to Cabinet April 8 and to the UGC on April 10.

## 2. SEARCHES UPDATES

- **Provost/Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs**  
Fr. Marina announced that the process of identifying our next Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs will begin shortly and the position will be advertised nationally in late June/early July. The following individuals have agreed to serve on the search committee:

<b><i>Board of Trustee Representatives</i></b>	Joseph Collins Crystal Newby, Ed.D.
<b><i>Faculty Representatives</i></b>	Teresa Grettano (CAS) Lori Bruch (LCHS) Jordan Petsas (KSOM) Maria Squire (CAS)
<b><i>Professional Staff Representative</i></b>	Jonathan Kirby
<b><i>Administration Representatives</i></b>	Patricia Tetreault, Committee Chair Timothy Doyle
<b><i>Student Representatives</i></b>	Kaitlyn Johnson, (CAS Class of 2027) Megan Davis, (LCHS Class of 2027)

Patti Tetreault has graciously agreed to chair the committee. Koya Partners of Diversified Search group, a national search firm with substantial experience working with Catholic and Jesuit institutions, will assist us in the overall process.

As in the past, members of the University community will have the opportunity to participate in the process. Additional information will be provided as the search progresses.

- **CAS Associate Dean**

The Search Committee chair for the reconfigured CAS Associate Dean position has reviewed applications and will begin interviewing candidates via zoom with the plan to bring in finalists in mid to late April.

- **Office of Health Profession Director**

Nicole Ferentino, who is currently the Assistant Director of the Gesinger Commonwealth College of Medicine Center of Learning Excellence and formerly a visiting instructor in the Biology Department at the University of Scranton, will be taking over as Pre-Health Advisor this summer. The search for the now full-time administrative assistant for this office is currently being finalized.

- **New Assistant Dean of LCHS Academic Services Hired**

Dr. Christina Brundage is the new Assistant Dean of LCHS Academic Services. Christina comes to the University after serving as Academic Advisor and Peer Advisor Program Supervisor at Penn State Scranton and Director of Advising and Career Development at Marywood University. Christina has extensive experience in student retention, success and engagement. She has also held other academic support positions in the higher ed setting. Under her leadership, LCHS academic support services will continue to meet the individual needs of our students, while at the same time using data to improve the overall student experience and student and college outcomes.

### 3. **FACULTY SEARCHES**

To date we have hired ten new faculty and searches continue. Below is the list of faculty hired:

Margaret Lakomy	Visiting Assistant Professor	Chemistry
Nathan Henceroth	Assistant Professor	Political Science
Marlon Toro-Alvarez	Assistant Professor	Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity & Sociology
Swathi Ragulan	Assistant Professor	Counseling & Human Services
Samantha Scott	Faculty Specialist	Theology/Religious Studies
Sangita Saha	Assistant Professor	History
Beatriz Fontoura	Assistant Professor	Chemistry
Yun Yu Sara Chan	Assistant Professor	Philosophy
Jacob Zoromski	Visiting Assistant Professor	Mathematics
Albert Turano	Faculty Specialist	Operations & Analytics

### 4. **FACULTY APPRECIATION CELEBRATION**

The Faculty Appreciation Day Celebration is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 pm, in the DeNaples Ballroom 407. The Provost Enhancement Awards and the Faculty Senate's Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award will be presented. We will also recognize the faculty members who will be retiring after this academic year.

## 5. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

***President's Fellowship for Summer Research – The Faculty Research Committee has awarded the following faculty and students a President's Fellowship for Summer Research:***

Dr. Jinghan Cai/Ronald Prislupski	<i>Does Trading Hour Extension Increase Information Content? The natural Experiment from Hong Kong</i>
Dr. MaryJane DiMattio/Sarah Lyons	<i>Exploring Emotional Intelligence Qualities among a Sample of Bedside Nurses</i>
Dr. Michael Hague/Alexa Martinez	<i>Understanding the Variation in Prevalence and Transmission of Wolbachia Bacteria in Insect Host Populations Over Time</i>
Dr. Christopher Hauser/Terese Shimkus	<i>Free Will, Sin, and the Saints: The Problem of Heavenly Freedom</i>
Dr. Riddhiman Medhi/Matthew Jasienski	<i>Hydroxypropyl Cellulose Functionalized Hollow Gold-Silver Nanoshells as Environmental Sensors for Organic Pollutants</i>
Dr. Kenneth Monks/Daniel Cerra	<i>Lurching Forward With Historical Proofs</i>
Dr. Amelia Randich/Alyssa Cosklo	<i>Investigating Morphological Plasticity in the Bacterial Genes <i>Henriciella pelagia</i></i>

### **Affordable Learning Implementation Grants**

The Library seeks faculty applications for Affordable Learning Implementation Grants. Affordable Learning aims to reduce the financial burden on students by eliminating expensive for-cost textbooks and course materials with no-cost or low-cost educational resources. Accepted applications can also use an additional fund (up to \$200) to purchase library materials not currently owned, subject to licensing terms.

If you are interested in purchasing new material, please contact the Affordable Learning Committee ([affordablelearning@scranton.edu](mailto:affordablelearning@scranton.edu)) prior to submitting your application to ensure that appropriate licensing options are available. For a list of links to available OER and appropriately licensed Affordable Learning resources, visit the [Library's OER Research Guide](#). Please visit the [Affordable Learning Implementation Grants web page](#) for more information and reports from previous recipients.

## 6. ANNUAL PLANNING AND REPORTING PROCESS

The [Annual Planning and Reporting](#) cycle for administrative and academic departments is open from early April through June 30. Department chairs and other individuals assigned to prepare reports for their department will have received instructions and guidance from the Office of the Provost. This process captures departmental reporting of activities and outcomes from the most recent academic year, including documentation of student learning assessment activities and the use of assessment results; departmental plans and goals for the next academic year; and resource requests for planning the following fiscal year. Information gathered from these reports forms a basis for our annual University Strategic Plan Progress reporting. In various reflection blocks, departments reflect on future challenges,

opportunities, and needs, informing planning within Academic Affairs and at the institutional level.

Chairs should engage their faculty and staff in the preparation and review of these reports, which are submitted to the college dean for review and approval. Returning to a prior practice, this summer each chair will meet with their Dean and the Provost to review the report and discuss its context in overall academic planning.

## 7. GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICES

- **Graduate Assistant** applications were due for priority consideration on March 1. As of April 3, there are currently 1,029 applications for the fall 2025 semester. Faculty have been requested to review and submit their decisions prior to May 1. As of today, there are 16 new graduate assistants who have been hired.
- **A Graduate Social** was held March 28 in the Graduate Student Hub in McGurkin Hall. There were 16 graduate students who attended from the nurse anesthesia, business analytics, accounting, counseling, chemistry, and human resources programs.
- **Online Course Migration** - 100% of all online (previous Risepoint) courses have been migrated to our Brightspace Learning Management System. Faculty have access to their courses 45 days prior to the start of the term and students have access 21 days prior.
- **Graduate Studies Catalog** - a call for updates to the graduate studies catalog has been sent to academic departments, deans offices, and student support offices for updates for the 2025-2026 academic year.

## 8. GLOBAL INITIATIVES

### *Spring 2025 Semester Study Abroad Students*

- In the Spring 2025 semester, our 32 student host university sites include Australia (2 students); Barcelona (4); Lisbon (3); Tokyo (1); Kyoto (1); Madrid (2); Florence (6); Rome (3); Galway (2); London (1); Edinburgh (2); and Dingle (5).

### *Forecast for Summer 2025 Study Abroad*

- About 30 students plan to study abroad at partner universities this summer.
- About 35 students plan to go on faculty-led study abroad courses this summer.
- Numbers will be confirmed after our study abroad application deadline of April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### *Summer Faculty-led Study Abroad*

Faculty-led Study Abroad in Summer 2025 include:

Germany	Dr. Michael Azar	Theology/Religious Studies
Greece	Dr. Joan Grossman and Dr. Andrew Venezia	Kinesiology
Spain	Dr. Michael Jenkins and Dr. Sinchul Back	Criminal Justice
Uganda	Dr. Cyrus Olsen and Dr. Marc Seid	Theology/Religious Studies and Biology

## 9. FULBRIGHT UPDATE

- Fulbright award winners for the 2025-26 year are likely to be announced by the Fulbright organization at the end of April. We have two students at the semi-finalist stage. One for Study/Research in Norway; and one for an English Teaching Assistantship in Taiwan.
- Fulbright has just released application information on their site this week for next year's award competition (for the 2026-2027 academic year). Students wishing to apply for Fulbright awards for the 2026-27 year start their applications this spring/early summer and complete them by September 2025.

## 10. CURRICULUM APPROVALS

Course Change	Date Posted
HPRO 480: Internship in Public Health I	12/12/24
OT 750: Advanced Assessment Across Life Span	12/12/24
OT 780: Capstone Experience	12/12/24
ACC 531: Advanced Auditing	2/5/25
ACC 536: Advanced Managerial Accounting	2/5/25
ACC 540: Contemporary Financial Accounting Topics	2/5/25
ACC 541: Financial Reporting Fraud	2/5/25
ACC 550: Applied Accounting Research	2/5/25
ACC 538: Accounting Communication	2/17/25
OIM 251: Excel for Business Applications	1/28/25
COA 106: Coaching Principles	3/12/25
KNES 440: Advanced Physiology of Sport and Exercise	3/14/25
<b>New Course</b>	
ACC 571: Accounting Analytics	2/5/25
ACC 572: Information Systems Control	2/5/25
BIOL 343: Humans & Evolution-in-action	1/31/25
PS 366: Environmental Justice	3/7/25
KNES 381: Internship in Kinesiology II	3/14/25
<b>Program Change</b>	
CHS Accelerated MS ABA Program	12/12/24
Accelerated MSN Proposal	12/12/24
Early & Primary Teacher Education Program	1/31/25
MAcc Program	2/5/25
MS Secondary Education Program in World Languages	2/17/25
Enterprise Resource Planning – Grad. Cert.	12/17/25
MHA – Health Informatics Specialization	2/14/25
Public Policy and Service	2/14/25
BS Secondary Education Citizenship with History Program	1/31/25
Kinesiology Program	2/13/25
MBA Specialization in Health Care Management	3/6/25

## 11. UPDATES

- The third call for CAS Student Research Fund will go out this week and is due on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Be sure to spread the word to your undergraduate students: [College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Student Research Grant Application Process | Dean's Office | College of Arts and Sciences](#)

- End-of-year events celebrating our students and their achievements (e.g., Celebration of Student Scholars on April 30<sup>th</sup>).
- There are two upcoming events which bring in high school students to campus:
  - ❖ Andrew Hayes competition in Physics on April 11<sup>th</sup>
  - ❖ National History Day State Finals on April 12<sup>th</sup>
- Michael C. Munger, Ph.D., professor of economics, political science and public policy at Duke University, will be the principal speaker at the spring **Henry George Seminar** at The University of Scranton. Dr. Munger will present “Platforms, Giants and the Neo-Brandeisian Turn in Antitrust,” on Thursday, April 10, in the McIlhenny Ballroom of Scranton’s DeNaples Center. The event begins at 4 p.m.
- **Summer Academy for Speech & Language Enrichment**  
Open spots are available for friends and family of the University community in The University of Scranton’s Summer Academy for Speech & Language Enrichment! This engaging free program is designed for children in grades 1-5 to build and strengthen their communication skills in a fun, supportive setting. We are especially looking to support children who are working on fluency (stuttering) and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC).

*Dates: June 16 – July 3; Monday – Thursday; 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM  
At Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children,  
537 Venard Road, Clarks Summit, PA 18411*

If you know a child who would benefit from this free program, please share this opportunity with their family. Spots are limited, so we encourage early registration. To inquire/sign-up, email: [summeracademy@scranton.edu](mailto:summeracademy@scranton.edu)

- **Interdisciplinary Advocacy and Social Justice at the Inaugural Cultural CareFest.** Cultural CareFest, sponsored by a Diversity Initiatives Grant from the Office of Equity and Diversity, successfully attracted over 100 attendees to an interdisciplinary professional conference. This innovative event was a collaborative effort involving graduate students from the *Diversity and Social Justice* counseling course, Counseling Honor Society Chi Delta Rho, and students from various disciplines within LCHS (including Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Counseling) and across the University of Scranton campus.

Under the leadership of Dr. Krisy Elrod and Dr. Megan Whitbeck, Assistant Professors in the Counseling and Human Services Department, the conference fostered cross-disciplinary dialogue and offered new professional insights on serving diverse populations in Scranton. Cultural CareFest exemplified the university's commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration, social justice education, advocacy, and nurturing a compassionate community dedicated to equitable care.

- **Expressive Arts Group Brings Joy and Connection to LCHS Students**  
In the spirit of embodying Jesuit values of care for the whole person, the recent Expressive Arts Group offered through the Counselor Training Center proved to be an

uplifting success, creating a supportive space for students of the LCHS to destress and connect before spring break. Under the mentorship of Dr. Krisy Elrod, Assistant Professor in the Counseling and Human Services Department, graduate counseling students lead participants in various expressive arts activities, integrating visual art, writing, movement, drama, music, and imagery into the therapeutic experience. These sessions provided practical, experiential training for the counseling graduate students and created meaningful opportunities for LCHS participants to connect, reflect, and unwind in a safe and welcoming environment.

- **Royal Nurses again win the Student Nurse Challenge**

Five undergraduate senior nursing students from participated in the *Student Nurse Challenge* at East Stroudsburg University on February 27, 2025. Once again, our Royal Nurses pulled off a first-place win. The *Student Nurse Challenge* is based on the College Bowl program where teams from the Student Nurse Association of Pennsylvania (Northeast and Lehigh Valley regions) compete by answering NCLEX-style questions.

- **40<sup>th</sup> PT Anniversary Celebration**

During the Fall 2024 semester, the Department of Physical Therapy celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their first graduating class, the Class of 1984. The weekend festivities opened with a Welcome Mixer at the Backyard Alehouse on Friday night. Many former and current students attended for a night of reminiscing and networking. On Saturday, John Salva, PT, OCS ('98, MPT '99) presented a continuing education course titled, "Managing Shoulder Impingement with Regional Interdependence: Going Beyond Scapular Punches and Sidelying External Rotation." Attendees included students and clinicians from PT classes of 1985 through 2025. In the evening, the celebration concluded with an alumni dinner in the DeNaples ballroom. The keynote speaker, Angela Stolfi, PT, DPT ('97, '07), shared a message on the value of mentorship and its impact on the physical therapy profession.

- **Mental Health and Health Care Students Collaborate at Interprofessional Education Event**

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, over 100 students from four disciplines in LCHS came together to participate in an interprofessional education (IPE) event. Faculty and staff from counseling, occupational therapy, nursing, and health administration recognized a need for additional training to help students learn how to work collaboratively with other health and mental health professionals as the healthcare field continues to move toward integrated care.

Students from each discipline were grouped together to form mock treatment teams. First, they got to know each other by introducing themselves and educating the group on the role their unique profession plays in client care, the philosophies of their field, and settings they typically work in. Students then read through a client case and collaborated as a team to discuss their approach to culturally responsive, client-centered, holistic mental health care. Discussion leaders facilitated the conversation as students answered questions about initial goals for the client based on their professional role, approaches to treatment, and how to make decisions as a team about prioritizing client care.

- To celebrate the construction of the University's newest building, Weiss Hall, the Weinberg Memorial Library is looking back at the campus's architectural evolution since the University's founding in a new online exhibit entitled "**Advancing the Mission: Campus Transformation at The University of Scranton Since 1888.**" With photographs, architectural drawings, maps, newspaper articles, and historical records from the University Archives, the exhibit explores how campus planning and construction have transformed the University and contributed to the advancement of its mission. To view the exhibit, visit [www.scranton.edu/library/advancingthemission](http://www.scranton.edu/library/advancingthemission).
- **Online catalog of University Art Collections** - In collaboration with the Hope Horn Art Gallery, the Weinberg Memorial Library has launched an online catalog of University Art Collections. The public catalog contains most campus artworks, with plans to add more over the Summer of 2025. The Catalog can be accessed here: [www.scranton.edu/UniversityArt](http://www.scranton.edu/UniversityArt).
- **The 2025 Environmental Art Show** will be held in the Charles Kratz Scranton Heritage Room on the 5th floor of the Weinberg Memorial Library from April 7-17, 2025.
- The following **Schemel Forum** events will round out the Spring 2025 Semester. These events are free for students and faculty to attend; however, we kindly request that you register in advance by emailing [rose.merri@scranton.edu](mailto:rose.merri@scranton.edu) or calling 570-941-4740.
  - **Schumann: Music, Mood Swings & Madness**  
Creative artists are especially vulnerable to mental illness, and the German composer Robert Schumann is one of the finest examples of the blurred boundary between genius and insanity. Richard Kogan, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medical College, and Artistic Director, Weill Cornell Music and Medicine Program, will explore how the racing thoughts, flight of ideas and sharpened imagination of Schumann's hypomanic states induced prodigious bursts of creativity until the onset of psychosis led to his tragic final years in an insane asylum.  
*Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine Auditorium, 133 at 6:00 pm.*
  - **Allergic: Our Irritated Bodies in a Changing World**  
In her new book, MacPhail sets out to unravel the mystery of why the number of people diagnosed with allergies has been steadily increasing over the last half century, placing a growing medical burden on individuals, communities, families, and our healthcare system. A holistic and historical examination of allergies, "Allergic" spans from their first medical description in 1819 to recent innovations. MacPhail makes surprising discoveries and connections between climate change, pollution, and biologists, that underscore how interconnected our bodies are to our environments.



**Theresa MacPhail, Ph.D.**, Medical Anthropologist, Writer, and Associate Professor of Science and Technology Studies at Stevens Institute of Technology. Her writing has appeared in Slate, The Los Angeles Review of Books, Public Culture, Limn, and Expertise: Cultures and Technologies of Knowledge.

*Wednesday, April 30, Brennan Hall, Rose Room, 509 • 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

- **My Russia: What I Saw in the Kremlin**

At the height of the Cold War, Jill Dougherty and her twin sister began studying the Russian language. It launched her on a journalistic career that would span half a century, reporting on Russia for CNN from the White House, the U.S. State Department, and Moscow. In her new book, "My Russia: What I Saw in the Kremlin," Dougherty recounts her experiences in Russia, her reporting on Russia's leaders, and her encounters with Vladimir Putin. Join her as she presents her book and her predictions for where Russia is headed.

**Jill Dougherty**, Russia Expert, former CNN Moscow Bureau Chief, and Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University's Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies.

*Friday, May 9, DeNaples Center, McIlhenny Ballroom, 4th Floor •  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.*