

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Tracy M. Stewart, Ph.D.
Interim Provost/Senior VPAA

DATE: April 1, 2026

SUBJECT: Academic Affairs Report for April 2026

Provost & Associate Provost

- It was announced by Fr. Marina that Weidong Zhu, Ph.D. has accepted the appointment as the Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs effective July 2026.
- Dean Mark Higgins has announced his retirement at the end of the Academic Year. A meeting is set for April 8th with KSOM Faculty and Staff to obtain input on the Dean position in preparation for a search.
- The Provost's Office is working with Fr. Marina and IT/Cindy Greene to acquire Lightcast software for market research, providing competitive landscape analysis in support of department/program/university development and revision of new program and degree offerings. This will also directly address goals on the strategic plan.
- The Faculty Appreciation Day Celebration is scheduled for April 14th from 5:00 – 7:00 pm, in the DeNaples Ballroom 407. The Provost Enhancement Awards will be presented, and we will also recognize the faculty members who will be retiring after this academic year.
- The Faculty Development Board has awarded the following summer grants:
 - Dr. Michael Allison - *Contemporary Politics and Economics in Guatemala*
 - Dr. Laura Chapman - *Exploring Sense of Belonging in a Synchronous Distance Education Program*
 - Professor Kate Cummings - *Profession Insecurity and the Role of Profession-Based Self-Esteem*
 - Dr. Madeline Gangnes - *Collection of Archival Materials and Notes Regarding Depictions of "Foreign" Lands and Peoples in Young Folks*
 - Dr. Cara Krieg - *Preparation of Nest defense and social competition in female house wrens: constraint or behavioral syndrome?*
 - Dr. Amelia Randich - *"Emended description of the genus Henriciella: morphological and phylogenomic analysis identifies two subgenera with different reproductive strategies"*
 - Dr. Sangita Saha - *"Modern" Consumer: Middle-Class Bengali Women, Consumption, and the Market in Colonial Bengal, 1850-1930*
 - Dr. Marc Seid - *Fire, Ants and Herbivory in Savannah Habitat.*
 - Dr. Navid Shahrouzi - *AI Application Hardware Accelerator Using Uni-and-Bi-Directional Multi-Ported Memory in FPGAs*

- Dr. Mary B. Tabit - *Publishing on the process: Collaborating with students to revise a career development course for psychology undergraduates*
- Dr. Argyrios Varonides - *Quantum Coherence in Nanoscale Devices: Double Quantum Dot Modeling for Next Generation Quantum Electronics*
- Dr. Habib Zanzana - *Contagious Images: Disease, Desire, and the Cinematic Body in Global Film*
- 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/Leslie Ortiz - *Trading Hour Overlap and Financial Market Spillovers*
 - Dr. Sara Chan/Lauren Wall - *Overall Human Flourishing: A core value that should be present in all education*
 - Dr. Christopher Howey/Mark Karcutskie - *Correlation between a physiological mediator for energy mobilization and timber rattlesnake movements*
 - Dr. Beatriz Martins Fontoura/Sophia LaMastro - *Evaluation of Hog-Waste Biochar as a Soil Amendment for Crop Cultivation in Martian Regolith*
 - Dr. Beatriz Martins Fontoura/Aliya Shahum - *Assessment of Contaminants and Adulteration in Global Coffee Beans*
 - Dr. Marc Seid/Hope Covage- *Associative Learning and Memory Loss in *Camponotus Floridanus**
 - Dr. Jong-Hyun Son/Maxwell Dombrowski - *Melatonin Rescues Developmental Hypoxia-Induced Disruption of GABAergic Synaptic Connectivity and Anxiety-Like Behavior in Zebrafish*
- Rank & Tenure - Please join me in congratulating our faculty colleagues who received promotion and/or tenure this year. I am grateful to the Board on Rank and Tenure, deans, chairs, department members and other faculty who participated in this thoughtful and rigorous review process. Below are the 2025/2026 Rank and Tenure results effective August 31, 2026.

○ Dr. Howard Fisher	Communication	Professor
○ Dr. Jinghan Cai	Economics/Finance	Professor
○ Prof. Sheli Pratt-McHugh	Library	Professor
○ Dr. Cyrus Olsen	Theology	Professor
○ Dr. Amanda Marcy	Accounting	Associate
○ Dr. Ashley Driver	Biology	Associate
○ Dr. Laura Chapman	Health & Human Performance	Associate
○ Dr. Deborah Budash	Occupational Therapy	Associate
○ Dr. Bibi Khan	Biology	Associate/Tenure
○ Dr. Cristen Walker	Nursing	Associate/Tenure
○ Dr. Laura Skoronski-Chavez	Nursing.	Associate/Tenure
○ Dr. Julie Murphy	Nursing	Associate/Tenure
○ Dr. Christopher Fremaux	Philosophy	Associate/Tenure
○ Dr. Joshua Reynolds	Psychology	Associate/Tenure
○ Dr. Vincent Farallo	Biology	Tenure
○ Dr. Spencer Galen	Biology	Tenure

○ Dr. Mehmet Bastug	CJ, Cybersecurity & Sociology	Tenure
○ Dr. Emily Gerstle	Health & Human Performance	Tenure
○ Dr. Paul Sampson	History	Tenure
○ Prof. Sylvia Orner	Library	Tenure
○ Dr. Joseph Klobusicky	Math	Tenure
○ Dr. Christopher Hauser	Philosophy	Tenure
○ Dr. Geng Liu	Physics & Engineering	Tenure

Strategic Planning & Division, College, and Departmental Planning

- The University Planning Committee is coordinating the implementation of the strategic plan, including recommending first year priorities & identifying responsible areas and campus partners. Several of these initiatives will directly overlay the work of the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan. This spring, each academic dean and vice president has been asked to develop a plan for their respective college and division. The Deans of CAS, KSOM, LCHS, and WML are engaging faculty in this process, which will have impact on a broader Academic Affairs divisional plan to outline goals that will cross over Academic units and guide our alignment with the strategic plan. Plans developed at the college and divisional level, along with the strategic plan, will guide the development of departmental goals for the year ahead. These are established and reported via the Annual Planning and Reporting process, which will open in early April. Departmental reporting, completed by academic chairs, is due by June 30. Learn more about the strategic plan at www.scranton.edu/strategicplan.

Middle States Accreditation

- Our Self-Study process is well underway. Co-chairs Dr. Mike Jenkins and Dr. Sarah Kenahan are leading the Steering Committee in navigating first year milestones, which includes hosting MSCHE staff at the recent Self Study Preparation Visit on March 25th, and working with Steering Committee members to staff working groups, each assigned to one of the seven MSCHE standards. This spring these groups will prepare plans of work to meet the milestones established in the study design, identifying anticipated resources and information relevant to their standard. They will also utilize unique lines of inquiry developed by the Steering Committee that align with our mission & strategic plan. Information about the study is available at www.scranton.edu/selfstudy.

Educational Assessment

- The Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) continues to navigate spring events and activities in support of our Comprehensive Plan for Student Learning Assessment. Among these have been investigating opportunities within new Brightspace modules that may support assessment; working with the Associate Dean of CAS and new CAS assessment committee in reviewing learning outcomes and updating and simplifying the CAS program assessment report template; supporting the current GE assessment cycle, and hosting several events supporting faculty navigating assessment-related questions in the GE to ICC transition. This work will continue into the next year as a new framework for ICC assessment is developed. An assessment showcase for faculty to share examples of recent assessment work is planned for April 22 from 3-4:30 p.m. in ELH 235. All

faculty are invited to attend to support and learn from their fellow faculty. Lastly, as part of the updated [Provost's Faculty Enhancement Awards](#), consider nominating a faculty member or department for the Award for Assessment and Educational Effectiveness. This award honors departments or programs that use clear learning outcomes, sustained assessment practices, and "closing-the-loop" strategies to strengthen curricula, support student success, and contribute to program health, accreditation, and institutional effectiveness.

- The OEA also hosted a rubric writing workshop on March 24. Six faculty attended, and they represented CAS, LCHS, and KSOM.

Faculty Searches

We have hired 5 new faculty since last month's report

- David Sannino Assistant Professor Biology
- Yuzo Yanagitsuru Assistant Professor Biology
- Samantha Kelly Faculty Specialist Education
- Margaret Maurer Assistant Professor English
- Collin Brice Assistant Professor Health & Human Performance

College of Arts & Sciences

- All faculty searches approved in Fall 2026 are concluded (Math, Mechanical Engineering, Philosophy, Communication, Chemistry, Theology, Microbiology, Special Education, Physiology, and English/Theater). More recently approved searches are underway: Writing (faculty specialist), Philosophy (VAP funded through EATC), and Criminal Justice (VAP).
- Dean Barry gathered faculty across the university who are editors, associate editors, and assistant editors of journals to share best practices. She will convene the group to do a panel discussion for faculty across campus in fall who want to learn about them, including those who aspire to such editorial positions in their respective disciplines.
- Dean Barry has established a Dean's Faculty Advisory Board which consists of representation across CAS: Christine Zakzewski (STEM; tenured), Yamile Silva (HU; tenured), Jason Shrive (SS & faculty specialist), and Fr. John Levko (STEM; tenured). They have reviewed their charge and charter and roles and responsibilities as well provided feedback on a few matters to advise the dean. They will meet monthly during the fall and spring semesters, and the current membership has agreed to serve through Spring 2026.
- The revised CAS Mission, along with new Vision and Values statements have been circulated to all CAS faculty and staff on two occasions for feedback online. Additionally on 3.26.26 a listening session about these statements and the draft CAS Strategic Plan was held. While online feedback originally was due on 3.31.26, Dean Barry has extended the deadline to April 17th to allow all department chairs to discuss with their departments at their upcoming April meeting. The feedback will inform revisions to the draft, which in turn will be solidified and send onto the University Planning Committee and Interim Provost by the end of the spring semester.
- The release time for scholarship policy is in the process of revision and was shared with all CAS faculty. An overhaul of this document has occurred given the faculty feedback and a finalized document will be shared in early April has been shared with the CAS faculty.

- Dr. Joe Kraus will join Dr. Sean Brennan come fall to co-direct the University Honors Program.
- Continued thanks to all faculty and staff who have assisted with Royal Days, Admitted Students' Days and who will assist with the inaugural Junior Open House and Graduate Open House.
- The Department of Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity and Sociology Department has proposed a name change that is in the curriculum process having just been approved by the CAS Curriculum Committee and Dean's Conference and continues along its journey. Their proposed new name is the "Department of Crime, Justice, and Security."
- The Assessment Committee for CAS (ACCAS) is continuing to work through the PLOs for each program.

Leahy College of Health Sciences

- RSA Grant - The Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program has received a five-year grant, totaling nearly \$1 million, from the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Eighty percent of the grant funds will go directly to student scholarships and most of the remainder will support broadened accessibility through online and hybrid learning formats.
- Go Baby Go - The *Go Baby Go* program is in third year modifying toy ride-on cars for children with mobility impairments. Under the supervision of OT faculty member Stephanie DeNaples, the cars are being modified in spring 2026 by an interdisciplinary team of 91 students across 11 majors (NEUR, CJ, OT, PT, ENGR, and others).
- Leahy Clinic - The Edward R. Leahy Jr Clinic for the Uninsured continues to expand the services we are providing to our community. Under the umbrella of the Leahy Clinic, and in collaboration with the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, we currently offer services through the following clinics: Medical, PT, Low-vision OT and Counseling and Behavioral Health. Last year we had over 1000 patient visits. Sixty percent of our patients require interpretation services, so we are thrilled to announce that the Leahy Clinic has just been awarded a \$100,000 2-year grant from the PA Department of Health to expand our language translation services. We continue to increase the number of students who can volunteer and have hands-on learning experiences in the clinic. In 2025, there were 3000+ U of S student volunteer hours (14 majors and all colleges), 1331 GCSOM student volunteer hours, BSN clinical hours, 17 U of S faculty volunteers. The Leahy Clinic does not receive funds from the University but is supported solely by grants and donations. We received \$158,000 in grant support in fiscal 2025.
- Departmental Reorganization - Plans are underway for the faculty and staff in three departments, HHP, HAHR and OT, to be reorganized into two departments. There will be no changes to three departments: Nursing, CHS and PT. One department will include Kinesiology, Public Health, Health Administration (undergrad and grad) and Human Resources (undergrad and grad). The temporary department's name will be Health and Human Performance until the faculty can decide on the permanent name. The other

department will include Occupational Therapy (MS and OTD), Communication Sciences and Disorders and Speech Language Pathology. The temporary name will be Occupational Therapy and Communication Sciences and Disorders until the faculty can decide on the permanent name. The plans are for this administrative change to be in place for Fall semester 2026. There will be no changes to the location of faculty and professional staff offices or program-related spaces. The LCHS Deans Office will be working closely with departmental leadership to support programs, faculty and staff through this change. A notification will go out to students at a later date, but they will continue to be guided by their program directors and LCHS Academic Advising as they are currently.

Kania School of Management

- Following approval of reaccreditation by the Board of Directors of AACSB, the peer review team's report has been distributed to department chairs.
- A memo outlining new policies consistent with zero-based budgeting was discussed with department chairs and will be distributed to KSOM faculty.
- We have developed an undergraduate student senior exit survey that will be administered to seniors graduating in May 2026.
- We are finalizing our Mission Vision Statement and our Strategic Plan. The college will be voting on these at our next faculty staff meeting.
- Departments are preparing for accepted student days on March 28 and April 11.
- On April 25, 2026, KSOM will be inducting the following alumni into the Hall of Fame:
 - John Dionne
 - Mary Beth Farrell (posthumous)
 - Linda McGowan
 - Tom O'Brien
 - Frank Pearn

Weinberg Memorial Library

Ignatian Core Digital Literacies Workshop

- When: Wednesday, August 19 and Thursday, August 20, 2026
- Where: Charles Kratz Scranton Heritage Room, Library 5th Floor
- Join us for a two-day faculty development workshop on improving how we teach digital literacies in ever-changing information environments. As artificial intelligence (AI) tools, applications, and outputs permeate the landscape, our approach to teaching students to use digital systems effectively and responsibly to gather, evaluate, use, and create new information must evolve. Attendees will develop their knowledge and pedagogy in support of the new First Year Digital Literacies (FYDL) attribute of the Ignatian Core Curriculum (ICC) with an emphasis on the ethical dimensions of information literacy. The workshop will be led by a team of faculty librarians with expertise in teaching information discovery, evaluation, and use in dynamic and complex information environments. Attendees will learn how they can partner with us to effectively teach students the digital literacies they need as ethical and responsible researchers. This workshop is funded by the Ethics Across the Curriculum initiative and includes a \$500 stipend for attendees. Registration will be announced in late April 2026.

Electronic Resources Management Subcommittee

- The Electronic Resources Management Subcommittee of the Library Advisory Committee has formed and will review the following resources: [2026 Spring ERM Review.xlsx](#)
- Faculty members have until April 17th to submit anonymous feedback on the resources being reviewed. To submit your feedback, use this form: [Weinberg Memorial Library: Electronic Resource Review](#).
- The Dean's decisions based on the Fall 2025 subcommittee's recommendations are available here: <https://www.scranton.edu/academics/wml/libadcomm/libadvdocs.shtml>

Environmental Art Show

- The Environmental Art Show theme for 2026 is Nature Reimagined and will be held from April 13-22, 2026, in the Charles Kratz Scranton Heritage Room, 5th Floor, Weinberg Memorial Library. A virtual exhibit will go live on April 13th in conjunction with the exhibit. The Art Show is free and open to the public during library operational hours.
- An Artist Talk and closing reception will be held on April 21, 2026, at 5 pm in the Charles Kratz Scranton Heritage Room. Dr. Patrick Beldio and Student Fellow Gabriella Palmer will be speaking about their current work.

Professional Achievements

- Prof. Marleen Cloutier was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Lackawanna Historical Society on March 18, 2026.

IDEA Center

- Recent Events
 - 3/10/26 - Hosting information and work sessions to promote the Environmental Art Show, *Nature Reimagined*
 - 3/13/26 - Hosting an educational event for the SMART Program through the Center for Social Justice
 - 3/17/26 - Hosting an event for the Student Life department
 - 3/19 - Hosting Old Forge School District field trips (round 1)
 - 3/24/26 - Hosting a Rotary Club networking event
 - 3/26/26 - Educational programming for students from the United Neighborhood Center
 - 3/28/26 - Traveling to the NEPA Girls STEM Competition with student volunteers (volunteers welcome on ROYALSYNC)
 - 3/30/26 - Old Forge School District field trip (round 2)
 - 3/31/26 - T-shirt and blanket printing for the Jane Women's Kopas Center
- IDEA Center Upcoming Events
 - 4/1/26 - Podcast interview with author, Charles Bufalino
 - 4/7/26 - Theology course introduction to 3D Design
 - 4/8/26 - Bat Box Construction event with the Society for Sustainability and Conservation
 - 4/9/26 - OT department visit - 3D design and Scanning
 - 4/13/26 - Educational programming for students in the SOAR program with the NEIU 19

- 4/14/26 - Educational programming for students in the STRIVE program with the NEIU 19
- 4/16/26 - Presenting at the Communications Symposium
- 5/5/26 - SBDC Networking and Certification Presentation
- 5/8/26 - Holy Rosary Duryea Field Trip - 7th and 8th grade
- TBD - Kim Meckwood Presentation - From Conception to Fruition
- TBD - Less Stress Week - Prayer Rock Creation Event
- Regarding Old Forge Field Trip
 - Thirty 8th Grade students from Old Forge attended the IDEA Center to be University of Scranton students for the day! They toured the new facilities of Weiss Hall, worked with the laser engravers in the IDEA Center, and completed a group entrepreneurship challenge.
 - Part of the field trip was covered by WNEP News and can be viewed here: <https://www.wnep.com/video/news/local/lackawanna-county/old-forge-students-explore-entrepreneurship-at-university-of-scrantons-idea-center/523-3150d1c4-4a34-4cfd-a98c-498ca0a9816b>

Curriculum Updates: Signed by the Provost

Sixteen ICC transition proposals forwarded by the CCC were accepted.

SLP 581A Residency Field Placement I	2/3/2026
SLP 581B SLH Assessment & Intervention I	2/3/2026
SLP 581C SLH Assessment & Intervention II	2/3/2026
HADM 120 Revision to PUBH 120 Identifier from Final	1/20/2026

Center for Teaching Excellence

- Accessibility Tool for Brightspace - On March 12, we had a demonstration of Anthology Ally, an accessible content tool that can be integrated into Brightspace. Representatives from the OSSS, IT, and faculty participated in the demo. A recording is available for interested faculty members who could not attend. CTE staff also met with representatives from YuJa Panorama, another accessible content tool option. We are awaiting pricing information and will schedule a demonstration for the faculty if obtaining the tool is financially feasible. We hope to select an accessible content tool to work within Brightspace to help us prepare to meet the updated accessibility standards for educational content.
- People’s Choice Workshop - As we approach the end of the Spring 2026 semester, we have time to offer a few more workshops before summer begins, but we’d love faculty input on what would be most helpful. To that end, we are excited to offer a “People’s Choice” Workshop.

[We invite faculty members to complete this short form to weigh in on preferred topics or to suggest new ideas.](#) We are collecting responses through April 13. As always, sessions will be offered both in person and via live stream. Dates for the final workshops for Spring 2026 are as follows.

- Thursday, April 23, at 11:30 – 12:30 LSC 591
- Tuesday, April 28, at 11:30 – 12:30 STT 5114
- Thursday, May 14, at 11:30 – 12:30 LSC 591

Registration for the workshops on the My Scranton site, using the Employee CTE Events Card. The event is listed under Brightspace (D2L) Workshops. [We will announce the winning topics on the CTE Community Viva Engage page.](#)

- Rutgers Online Learning Conference - On March 16, the CTE staff, including senior TechCon Logan Kiernan, participated in RUOnlineCon, an annual conference focused on the evolving field of online and hybrid education. Our panel-style presentation, *TechCons: Student Expertise in LMS Support & Online Learning*, highlighted how the TechCon program at the University of Scranton leverages student expertise to strengthen online learning support and expand the institutional capacity of the CTE department. We discussed recruitment and training of the TechCons and the benefits of the program for both faculty and the TechCons. If you have yet to work with a TechCon, they are a valuable resource. They are available through the end of the Spring semester and during the Summer session. [You can see their schedule here.](#)
- Transitioning to Teams - The June deadline for sunsetting Zoom on campus is quickly approaching. [Support materials are available on the CTE website.](#) Also, it is not too late to request a department-specific Teams transition workshop before the end of the semester. Please contact Mary Jane at ext. 4040 to arrange for a session.
- Course Evaluation Tool - We are now beginning the steps to implement our new course evaluation tool. [Explorance Blue](#) was the tool we selected in close consultation with the Course Evaluation Committee. We truly appreciate the guidance of Dr. Jerry Muir to help us make the best decision for the University of Scranton. We will share the details of the implementation timeline when it is available.
- Professional Video Captioning or Audio Descriptions - It was brought to our attention that not only do we have 1000 hours of professional (human-created) captioning available with our Panopto license, but this time can also be used for professional audio descriptions. Audio descriptions are an accessibility feature that provides audio narration for essential parts of a video for users with low vision. There may be things you show in an educational video that you are not describing orally. Audio descriptions fill in these details but can be more challenging to include than captions. Our current 1000 hours expire in June, and we would like to see them used. [If you would like any video captioned or have audio descriptions added, please request that service using this form.](#)

Office of Student Support & Success.

- The OSSS sends a newsletter to faculty each semester with updates and helpful information. In the spring edition, OSSS reminded faculty how to access a pre-recorded presentation on the accommodation process delivered in Fall 2025. The newsletter also highlighted how to schedule meetings with OSSS staff in classrooms, departments, or individual meetings.
- Tutoring Services: OSSS employs 120 tutors who have conducted 1,649 tutoring sessions so far in Spring 2026 (5,939 sessions this academic year). OSSS provides tutoring in 40 subjects across 157 different courses.
- Writing Center: Sixteen Writing Center consultants have met with 156 students, completing 296 total consultations to date (1,180 this academic year).
- Academic Coaching & Student Support: OSSS graduate assistants have conducted 270 academic coaching sessions to date (871 this academic year).

- **Students Receiving Academic Accommodations:** A total of 773 students on campus are approved for academic accommodations, with 487 currently active. During the 2025–26 academic year, OSSS received 222 accommodation requests: 180 in Fall 2025 and 42 in Spring 2026 to date. This is 20% of the incoming class and up from 16% in 2024-25.
- **Exams Proctored:** OSSS has proctored 747 exams to date (2,806 during the full academic year). OSSS continues to experience challenges related to limited testing space, often utilizing conference rooms and staff offices to accommodate exam proctoring needs.
- **Note-Taking Accommodations:** OSSS employs 199 note-takers. Note-taking services are provided in 370 classes, supporting 176 students who receive note-taking accommodations in one or more courses. Three courses remain unfilled for note-taking support, most commonly due to limited student interest and the HR hiring process, including I-9 documentation requirements.
- **Professional Service & Outreach:** The OSSS manager serves on several committees, including Retention, MSCHE (Standard 4 Co-Chair), and the AI Policy Committee. The manager has participated in 15+ meetings, workshops, and presentations, sharing information about OSSS services, metacognition, and study skills, reaching over 900 student impressions.

International Students & Scholar

- The University of Scranton has been re-designated as a sponsor of an exchange visitor program by the U.S. Department of State. This re-designation will continue to allow us to host exchange visitors such as professors, research scholars, short-term scholars, and students in the J visa category.
- Executive and Regulatory Actions of the U.S. Government continue to affect student ability to schedule and successfully obtain a visa to study in the U.S.

Study Abroad

- Twenty-eight students are studying abroad for the Spring 2026 semester. They are attending programs in Spain (8 students), Italy (8); France (3); Denmark (2); Japan (2); Australia (1); Czech Republic (1); Ireland (1); Morocco (1); and the United Kingdom (1).
- Four faculty-led study abroad courses are approved for Summer 2026. These include T/RS 396 Christ, Resistance and Reconciliation in Germany; PS 384 Leadership through the Ages - Czech Republic; KNES 296 Sport and Physical Culture in Ancient Greece; and S/CJ 295: Global Crime, Justice & Security – Argentina.
- Numbers for the Summer term are lower than usual, with an estimate of 40 to 50 currently planning to study abroad. (Due to a long break between Fall and Spring semesters, Intersession study abroad participation was exceptionally high, with over 150 students going abroad.) Numbers for the Fall semester look typical, with about a dozen students planning to study abroad. (Spring is always more popular than Fall). Students have until April 15 to complete their Summer or Fall applications.

Fulbright

- Senior Rebecca Doyle, a Neuroscience & Physiology major, has been selected as a semi-finalist for a Fulbright funded master's degree program in Science & Music at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland. The university has officially accepted the student onto their master's program for the 2026-27 year. Fulbright expects to announce finalist winners in April 2026.
- The Fulbright U.S. student competition for the 2027-28 award cycle will launch shortly. The total number of awards being offered in the upcoming competition seems to be generally similar to the 2026-27 numbers.

Graduate Academic and Student Services

- Graduate Assistant Information - Graduate assistant position allocations for the 2026–2027 academic year have been distributed to each dean's office. Departments have been informed of their respective hiring allocations through their dean's offices.
- Graduate Program Committee - The Graduate Program Committee (GPC) has met throughout the spring semester to discuss several key priorities. Topics to date have included graduate assistant allocation processes, identification of strategic priorities to enhance graduate education, and opportunities to create earlier entry pathways into graduate programs for undergraduate students. Upcoming meetings will focus on addressing programmatic challenges, strengthening student support, and exploring new initiatives.
- Graduate Student Commencement Speaker - In early March, a call for applications for the 2026 Graduate Commencement Speaker was distributed to all graduating graduate students, both online and on campus. Applications are due Friday, April 3, 2026.
- Graduate Student Survey - Planning is underway for the development and administration of a graduate student survey aimed at assessing student satisfaction and identifying opportunities for improvement. Findings from this survey will help inform strategic priorities and guide ongoing enhancements to graduate education for the Strategic Plan.