

the 411 on Academic Affairs

360-Degree Evaluations for Deans

We appreciate the time and feedback from faculty contributing to a 360-degree evaluation of the academic deans. From these evaluations we have already completed individual sessions with the deans and the finance office to review the school and departmental budgets and to begin a comprehensive planning process that mirrors the institutional process. Additionally, this summer the deans will participate in a two-day leadership retreat focused on their professional development both holistically and operationally at FSW. When faculty arrive in the fall, the deans will share the outcomes of this retreat and their areas of focus for the upcoming year. Continual feedback guides the professional development for our administrators and I want to commend you for taking time and providing thoughtful insight to the needs of the faculty, departments and the schools.

Research Ad-Hoc Committee

In my open letter to faculty just after assuming the role of Interim Provost, I committed to several ad-hoc committees to explore various aspects of academic affairs. One of those areas is exploring the expansion of scholarly activities at FSW, including sabbaticals, and continuing to assist faculty with research grant opportunities. I would like for faculty members who have interests in these areas to please respond indicating their interest in serving on this ad-hoc committee. I would like to bring this group together before the end of the spring semester so they can begin discussing ways that we can map out our direction in scholarly pursuits, including if we should continue what is now known as the ARC grants and how scholarly activities are rewarded at the College. Those interested in being part of this committee or recommending someone should respond to provost@fsw.edu.

Academic Affairs Accolades

Bob Rauschenberg Gallery Director Jade Dellinger was invited by the State Department on a Fulbright-Hays grant to travel to Venezuela this month. There he presented five lectures on Bob Rauschenberg, the Gallery and FSW to college and high school age students at binational centers including the Universidad Metropolitana. He also met with various major museum directors for talks on bringing Venezuelan artists to the Rauschenberg Gallery at FSW in the future.

Two of our professors traveled with their classes internationally during Spring Break. Dr. Bruno Baltodano and eight students in his Comparative Politics class traveled to Nicaragua. There they explored the political system and met with various community groups, the 1970s revolutionary leader Eden Pastora, and government officials, including the Vice President of Nicaragua, Omar Hallelevens.

Professor Brad Holley and students in his French classes traveled to Annecy, France. They stayed with French host families and participated in intensive French language courses at the Institut Français des Alpes (IFAlpes). They also visited museums, cathedrals, a 13th century castle and went on a guided snow-shoe hike.

Congratulations to Dr. Lisa McGarity and the students of the Collier Campus for another successful GreenFest Expo. The student presentations were outstanding and Dr. McGarity's enthusiasm for reusing, recycling, and repurposing was most certainly embraced by the participants.

I would also like to recognize Professor Joyce Rollins and the School of Education for hosting the first ever FSW Dr. Seuss Celebration benefiting children from Franklin Park and Villas Elementary schools. This was a fantastic event promoting literacy and community building.

Finally, many thanks to Professor Cindy Campbell, Dr. Rona Axelrod, Professor JoAnn Lewin and the Holocaust Memorial Week Committee for the great deal of time and effort they put into coordinating the 2016 Talbot Spivak Holocaust Memorial Week events. The team should be applauded for their leadership in this annual event that continues to educate students and the community about the Holocaust and honor its victims and survivors.

Commencement 2017

As you know we are about to have our final commencement ceremony at Germain Arena. Since we will begin having commencement at the Suncoast Credit Union Arena, I am putting together a joint committee from student affairs and academic affairs made up mostly of faculty to plan for our first on-campus ceremony in spring 2017. If you are interested in shaping how we recognize our graduates or wish to recommend someone, please email me at provost@fsw.edu.

As always, please feel free to email any questions or comments at jeff.stewart@fsw.edu.