

May 4, 2022

Dear colleagues,

As we move into our final days of the semester, I hope everyone is feeling a sense of accomplishment. Although this has been a difficult year and a difficult past week, we are ending with sense of resilience and renewal. It has been reaffirming to return to our in-person year-end events, including our community-centered Science Open House, Hawk Tank Business Plan Competition, WellPAC De-Stress Fest, Performing Arts Extravaganza, Admission Gold Tour and Open House, Art Gallery exhibition of senior work, “Drag Me to FLC” Drag Show, and CSWS “As Seeds, We Grow” exhibition—and this is just a partial list. Thank you for all of your efforts to create a positive end to the year.

CONGRATULATIONS

Please join me in congratulating our newly tenured and promoted colleagues! Our tenure and promotion review process concluded last month, and the Board of Trustees confirmed these tenure and promotion recommendations this month. We’ll raise a toast to our colleagues at our informal “Last Day of Classes” celebration (below), with a more formal recognition party to come in the fall. Congrats, all!

TENURE and PROMOTION, effective AY 2022-2023

- **Ruth Alminas**, *from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Political Science*
- **Carolina Alonso**, *from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Sociology*
- **Christie Chatterley**, *from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Physics and Engineering*
- **Paul DeBell**, *from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Political Science*
- **Michael Grubb**, *from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Chemistry*
- **Susumu Iwasaki**, *from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Health & Human Performance*
- **David Vasquez Hurtado**, *from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Sociology*

PROMOTION to FULL PROFESSOR, effective AY 2022-2023

- **Lee Frazer**, *from Associate Professor to Professor of Adventure Education*

PROMOTION to SENIOR LECTURER, effective AY 2022-2023

- **Renee Beeton**, *from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer of Chemistry*
- **Jaymee Carozza**, *from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer of Health & Human Performance*
- **Kevin Cavanaugh**, *from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer of Chemistry*
- **Aurea Cortes-Palomec**, *from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer of Biology*
- **Sandi Dang**, *from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer of Mathematics*
- **Andy Gleason**, *from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer of Geosciences*

EVENTS

Allow me to highlight a few of our celebratory events as we head toward graduation.

Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities Symposium: Thursday, May 5, 9:00am-7:00pm

Come see the extraordinary research and creative activities our students have completed under the mentorship of our excellent faculty. Our all-day Research & Creative Activities Symposium features oral presentations, an art exhibition, a graduate fair, and an event celebration and award ceremony.

For detailed information (events, times, locations), please see emails from Dr. Missy Thompson and visit the Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities Symposium website.

Last Day of Classes Celebration: Friday, May 6, 4:00-6:00pm (Berndt Tent)

Faculty, come grab food and drink while exiting your last classes! This is informal gathering with no programming, but we will make sure to recognize our colleagues who received tenure and promotion this year (above) and over the past two years with their celebrations disrupted by COVID.

Admission “Thank You” Reception: Tuesday, May 10, 3:30-5:30pm (Kroeger Hall)

The Admission Office is hosting a reception to thank everyone for helping to recruit in another strong class of incoming students. Please join Admission in the Kroeger Hall backyard for refreshments, lawn games, and good conversation. See Jess Savage’s email to RSVP.

Commencement: Saturday, May 14, 8:00am onwards

Please see my email outlining Commencement details. We will be holding one outdoor ceremony on Ray Dennison Memorial Field—it will be wonderful to come together as one community to celebrate our students as they walk across the stage. Robing will start at 8:00, with the Procession at 8:55. After the ceremony, please join students and their families for a reception in the San Juan Dining Hall.

PROJECTS

Outdoor Learning Pavilion

Sneak peak! Our outdoor learning pavilion—which we are affectionately referring to as our Sky Pavilion—is coming to life. We’ve received design plans from Reynolds Ash + Associates, the contracted architecture firm. The pavilion features a classroom area (with a whiteboard and projection system) and expanded space for performances and gatherings (seating 100 people). One of the external walls features a mural that can be repainted by students or visiting artists. The space around the pavilion will become our Indigenous garden; a group has started to plan these garden elements. Designs are still being tweaked, funds being raised, and ideas developed. Preview the designs below—I’ll circulate more information as soon as it is available.





First Generation Support

Dean Jesse Peters has been working with Dean Jeff Dupont, TRIO, Career Services, and the Academic Hub to consolidate access to support for first generation students at FLC. They will develop a web portal for easy access to programming and support services. Additionally, Dean Peters was awarded a \$5000 grant from Alpine Bank to start a faculty and staff support team for first generation students. Look for announcements over the summer and as we approach the fall semester.

Animas High School

The School of Education will be collaborating in greater depth with Animas High School. Please be on the lookout for a new FLC website offering up-to-date information on interaction between our two institutions! In the meantime, any academic requests or inquiries pertaining to AHS should be sent to Dean Jenni Trujillo. Any operational requests or inquiries should be sent to Steve Schwartz. They will serve as point people at FLC in order to create a systematic approach to developing this new partnership. More information is coming soon, as their new Head of School has just been hired and will begin working mid-summer.

Classroom Refresh

Teaching & Learning Services, Facilities, and IT are continuing to upgrade our classroom spaces—with more classrooms to be refreshed for the fall. Please see their recent report on this planning, sent via email and archived on our Academic Affairs Strategic Initiatives website.

Summer Experimentation

We've positioned summer as a new space for courses offering academic support and excitement. In addition to our PEAK programs, our new X-week, Maymester, August Summer Bridge programs have strong enrollments. We have built assessment into these offerings and will report out this programming in the fall.

Academic Affairs Curriculum Development

Many thanks to the Curriculum Committee and all academic departments for working on our curriculum analysis and upgrading project. We predict more student success—improved retention and graduation rates—will result from this “mapping the major” work. Thank you, all.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

An exciting FLC development is the creation of mini-conferences focusing on specific teaching issues. We are ending the year with two mini-conferences that will provide space for collaboration and innovation.

“Teaching First Year Students Mini-Conference”: May 11-12, 12:00-5:30pm

Focusing on best practices for teaching First-Year students, this mini-conference features sessions on Belonging and Relevance for First-Year Students, Backward Course Design, Asset-based Teaching, Using Student Data to Inform Teaching, Humanizing Your Teaching, and Connecting First-Year Students to Campus Resources, among many others.

“Skyflex: Using Digital Learning to Boost Student Success”: May 17, 8:30am-4:00pm

Teaching & Learning Services is offering a day of dialogue and discovery on expanding the use of digital learning spaces. This collaborative conference will help to shape a vision for digital transformation at FLC. Events include a guest speaker, student and faculty perspectives, tech demos from our FLC expert colleagues, and a gallery walk exploring the post-pandemic FLC.

“BULLET BRIEF” FROM THE DEANS:

What exciting work is underway in departments and programs this month?

School of Arts & Sciences: Dean Peters shares this month’s updates:

- Celebrating the launch of the new Performing Arts Department, our Music and Theatre faculty and students held a fantastic Performing Arts Extravaganza in the Concert Hall on April 22. The event includes dance performances, small chamber ensembles, jazz band, choir, orchestra, a scene from *Sweeney Todd*, a scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, among many others.
- The SkyWords Common Read Author event has been rescheduled to fall. Pulitzer Prize Winner Natalie Diaz, author of *Postcolonial Love Poem*, is our featured Common Read author and will now be joining us in the fall, with her reading rescheduled to September 13. This will be a great way to kick off the fall semester.

School of Business Administration: Dean Elias shares this month’s updates:

- As the semester comes to an end, SOBA will be recognizing students who have gone “above and beyond” this year. The Student Awards Ceremony will be held May 5, 1:00-2:00pm in the EBH Atrium.
- SOBA will also be celebrating its first graduating class from the Computer Information Systems program.
- The Fennell-Saegert Student Marketing Agency program will be held this summer, May 23-July 8. Dedicating 40 hours a week to the program, student consultants will work with Ska Brewing company to develop two new products to add to their line of beverages (one non-alcoholic and one alcoholic). We hope to see FLC student-recommended Ska beverages in stores.

School of Education: Dean Trujillo shares this month’s updates:

- The Southwest Indigenous Language Development Institute (SILDI) students from the three Ute tribes (Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Northern Ute) presented teaching lessons 100% in Ute language this past Saturday, May 30 at FLC. Students are working toward a certificate to teach Ute language in community or school settings.

- Teacher Education students completing licensure at the both the graduate and undergraduate levels will celebrate their student teaching experiences in a Professional Exhibition on May 12 at 5:00pm in the ballroom. Area educators, alumni, family and friends will be in attendance.
- The first FLC cohort of educators earning a Master of Arts in Education: Principal Licensure will graduate at spring commencement adding 18 new school leaders to the Four Corners, as well as New Mexico and the Front Range.
- Students in Adventure Education presented a Senior Poster session in Adventure Education Program Planning and Design. View the posters at the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

“PEDAGOGY CORNER”: TEACHING RESOURCE from TLS

What does Teaching & Learning Services recommend as a pedagogy resource that provides insight and inspiration?

- **Spring Clean Your Canvas Course.** Did you know that all PDFs and other documents in the Files section of your course contribute to your overall accessibility score? Take a moment to clear out any files you're no longer using as those can affect your accessibility.
- **[Accessibility in Canvas with Ally](#).** You can improve the accessibility of your course using Ally, an accessibility checker integrated into Canvas. In Ally, you can create alternative text for images, readable text for screen readers, and more. If you need help making the files you want to keep accessible, we're here to help! Just email us at tls@fortlewis.edu.

“HIGHER ED SPOTLIGHT”: TRENDS and CONTEXTS IN HIGHER ED

How does the work we engage in at FLC align with trends in higher education?

- To gain interesting insights into some of the national trends facing higher education, please see this Hanover Research report—it offers an overview of some of the pressures and opportunities facing higher education. It contains sections on providing the needed skills for employment, enrollment strategies that meet students where they are, institutions focusing on practicality over prestige, grant funding, measurable diversity, equity and inclusion results:

[2022 Trends in Higher Education \(1\).pdf](#)