



News from the Provost By Hugh F. Lena

The Flu

H1N1 ('swine') flu will most certainly have some impact on academic operations this year. Southern colleges and universities have already experienced an uptick in cases once they began their academic year last week. I want to assure you that the campus community will be regularly updated about a flu outbreak, using all available communication methods. Important information about prevention tips, flu symptoms, and state and federal resources is posted – and will be updated as needed – on the College's Web site at: www.providence.edu/h1n1.

Faculty who are absent from class (e.g. due to illness) should abide by the provisions of the *Faculty Handbook* [10th ed., § 4.4.2.e] and immediately notify their department chair or program director. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the chair/director to arrange for a substitute or, in situations where this is not possible, to inform the students concerned.

All penalties for student absences due to the flu should be waived and each faculty member should develop a plan for the continuation of academic work during the period of absence. Course syllabi and/or instructions should inform students how to continue their course work in the event of their absence or during the instructor's absence. The College's course management system, ANGEL, and e-mail can be creatively used for communication and the submission of assignments during this period. Faculty and students who are ill should have no incentive to return to the classroom while they are ill. The Office of Academic Affairs will continue its planning to ensure continuity in the academic enterprise and we will keep you informed of developments.

New Faculty Update

Of the thirty one newly hired full-time faculty members, twenty two are tenure-track, including nine who were hired from full-time teaching positions at other institutions and four who were post-doctoral fellows elsewhere. All of the tenure-track faculty are terminally qualified, with ten completing their degrees in the last five months. In all, eighteen academic departments have welcomed new faculty members. The departments of English and math & computer science have three new faculty and the departments of accountancy, art & art history, biology, finance, history, management, marketing, sociology, and theology each have two.

New Faculty Orientation was held on August 26, 2009. In addition, various mandatory and optional workshops for the new faculty members were held

Core Curriculum Debate

As we approach the fifth year of curriculum review, it is imperative that the College move ahead with reform in our core. The Faculty Senate needs to approve a proposal for a new Core Curriculum early this academic year and get it to Father Shanley at the earliest possible date. Further delays in approving a new curriculum will only hamper our efforts to advance academic excellence at the College and limit our ability to raise the necessary resources for its implementation. I encourage all faculty to take part in this important process.

Curricular reform is never an easy process and vigorous debate is a necessary, and useful, part of the process. However, the discussion must be civil and respectful of others. A number of faculty, students, and staff have expressed their dismay over some of the comments made on the various discussion lists last year, and thus, their reluctance to jump into the fray for fear that their ideas will be the subject of derision. The Faculty Senate discussion list is read by students, staff, and alumni, as well as faculty members. Insensitive and derogatory remarks personally directed toward others are inappropriate in this forum. Let's be civil in this dialogue.

Academic Affairs Newsletter

The information presented in this newsletter reflects the hard work of all of us in Academic Affairs. Our objective is to ensure that all members of Academic Affairs and others in the community are aware of the services, changes, new developments, and projects that are happening in our division. As always, we invite you to submit information/articles for publication in this newsletter. We wish you all the best for a productive academic year!

in the subsequent week. New Faculty Orientation will continue throughout the year with additional academic and social programming.

"Presenting...Our New Faculty!"

The Center for Teaching Excellence and the Office of Academic Affairs are hosting this annual event in a new venue and with a new format. The newest members of our academic community will share and discuss their teaching and research interests with colleagues in an informal setting. Join us for the social networking event of the fall semester!

November 5, 2009
3:00–5:00 p.m.
'64 Hall

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Did You Know?

Important Dates/ Reminders:

- Join the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Instructional Technology Development Program for an Open House on September 14, 2009.
- Academic Convocation will take place on September 16, 2009.
- The "Conversation with the Teacher of the Year" (sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence) is scheduled for September 21, 2009.
- A tenure workshop for probationary faculty is scheduled for September 25, 2009.
- The President's Fall Faculty and Staff Meeting will be held on October 7, 2009.
- The Committee on Aid to Faculty Research (CAFR) will host a Q&A session regarding the application process for the 2010-2011 grant cycle on November 12, 2009.
- The New Faculty Luncheon will take place on December 15, 2009.

**"Who dares to teach
must never cease to
learn."**

— John Cotton Dana

Assessment & Accreditation Update

Annual Assessment

The Office of Academic Affairs will be contacting those departments/programs that have not yet submitted 2008-2009 annual assessment reports (reports were due by June 30, 2009). Please submit your report if you have not already done so, or, if you have not already been in contact with Brian Bartolini regarding your report submission.

Student Course Ratings Program

As mentioned in Hugh Lena's memorandum (dated September 1), the College has transitioned to a mandatory student course ratings model. Brian Bartolini, Catherine Gagne, and Catherine Pantano have created a variety of materials to coordinate and support the course ratings program and are available to assist individuals and groups in this process. Soon, they will provide department chairs and program directors with additional details via an e-mail announcement.

Campus-Wide Surveys

Two campus-wide surveys are planned for the Fall semester: (1) an Orientation feedback survey (administered to those students who participated in the Orientation program) and (2) the CORE Alcohol Survey (administered to a random sample

of undergraduate students regarding drinking and related behaviors).

Assessment on the Web

Please remember that the College's internal assessment Web site includes a variety of assessment resources, reports, and datasets: <http://internal.providence.edu/assessment>.

Activity Insight from Digital Measures

All Ordinary faculty are encouraged to enter service and scholarly contributions in the Web-based information management system for faculty, Activity Insight. Additional information is available at: <http://internal/assessment/DigitalMeasures/>. If you have questions or need assistance please contact Cathy Gagne at x2540 or caragao@providence.edu.

Accreditation Update

The College's two-year interim report is due to NEASC on January 15, 2010. Items on which the College is expected to report demonstrated success include: (1) assuring the effectiveness of the College's faculty evaluation system and (2) clarifying the role of the College's mission in the faculty hiring process. Brian Bartolini has been documenting the College's progress and will draft the report. Please contact him with any comments or questions.

News from the Phillips Memorial Library

Delivery Service

Faculty, activate delivery of library items to your office today! The Phillips Memorial Library delivery service is available to faculty and staff members. Complete the activation form and one of our student commons assistants will deliver library materials to your office Monday through Friday between 12:00 and 4:00 p.m. Please read our FAQ (<http://providence.libguides.com/content.php?pid=49641&sid=413927>) for more

information on this service. If you have any questions, e-mail us at library@providence.edu or call the Circulation Desk at x1993.

Walk-In Borrowing

Beginning September 14, 2009, Providence College faculty, staff, and students will be able to enter and use the Brown University library by showing only their Providence College ID. The CRIARL faculty card will no longer be necessary.

Did You Know?

Faculty Handbook

All faculty members will receive the 10th edition of the *Faculty Handbook* in their campus mail box within the next week. The Handbook can also be referenced online at <http://www.providence.edu/Academic+Affairs/Faculty+Info/handbook.htm>.

Classroom Diagrams

Academic Affairs, in collaboration with the Instructional Facilities Advisory Committee, has developed and posted classroom configuration diagrams in the College's approximately eighty general use classrooms. Each diagram includes a list of "Faculty Responsibilities for Classroom/Lab Environments," as well as contact information for key facility support units. As noted in the *Faculty Handbook*, faculty have responsibility for the care and use of their assigned classrooms. Please also note that classrooms@providence.edu is available for individual faculty to report non-emergency classroom issues. E-mail communications to this address are distributed to Academic Media Services, Physical Plant, Enrollment Services, Information Technology, and others. Faculty are encouraged to report all general classroom issues through this address.

2009 Beloved Community Award

The Institute for the Study & Practice of Nonviolence [ISPN] honored Providence College and its Feinstein Institute for Public Service with the 2009 Beloved Community Award at its August 21, 2009 graduation ceremony. The award recognized PC's partnership and its support of ISPN's Beloved Community Summer Jobs Program that provides training and summer jobs for at-risk youth in Rhode Island.

Fellowship Coordinator

Dr. Michael J. O'Neill, assistant professor of philosophy, has been named the College's first fellowship coordinator.

New Students Welcomed

Approximately 960 freshmen and sixty three transfer students arrived on campus for orientation during the first week of September. The entering freshman class includes twenty three valedictorians, fourteen salutatorians, and ten National Merit finalists, semi-finalists, and commended students. Fifty seven percent of the Class of 2013 came from public high schools.

Office of Academic Affairs

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