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Have any interesting news items about faculty, staff, or students in your department? Submit them to Linda Steele (lsteele@frostburg.edu) for the next issue.

CLAS Departments Redesigning More Introductory Courses

A number of course redesign initiatives are taking place in several CLAS departments this semester.

Redesign of Developmental Math is in progress, with the results to date being extremely encouraging. The primary goal of the redesign was to reduce a gender achievement gap in the course. DWF rates in the traditional format of the course were 44% (males), 35% (females), and 41% (overall), a statistically significant difference. In fall 2011, after the redesign was fully implemented, the DWF rates were 19.7% (males), 21.3% (females), and 20.3% (overall) for students who were taking the course for the first time. The gender differences were not statistically significant. For all students taking the redesigned course, some of whom were repeating the course, the DWF rates were 18.9% (males), 20.5% (females), and 19.5% (overall). Again, the gender differences were not statistically significant. The redesign team includes Megan Bradley, Harriet Douglas, Jay Hegeman, Kim Kurek, and Beth Stallings.

CMST 102 completed its pilot semester last fall and is currently engaged in full implementation. They plan to report their results to the campus community later this spring.

The redesign of General Psychology continues to sustain the results achieved in its first year of implementation, which was 2008. Since that time, the department has seen a 50% increase in the number of psychology majors.

In addition, English and Math are planning to redesign ENGL 101 and MATH 102 next year. They are in the process of finalizing funding for their redesign.

Liberal Studies Major Seeing Growing Numbers

During the 2011-12 academic year, 59 students will graduate with the B.S. in Liberal Studies. This is an integrative, self-designed major that allows students to piece together different courses and/or disciplines as they construct a focus that emphasizes disciplinary knowledge and/or technical and practical skills. Since the program encourages thinking pragmatically about post-graduate activities, a major in Liberal Studies is a way for students to increase success in a graduate study pathway.

While completing the program, more than two-thirds of students complete an established internship or experiential practicum within their disciplinary

area of focus. Students can include within their focus transfer courses, another advantage offered by the program. Students are able to reduce their time-to-degree with greater efficiencies afforded through this major.

The recent institution of a capstone allows students to interact as a cohort and prepare a portfolio including a resume, narrative, course assessment, and PowerPoint presentation.

Upon completion of the program, over 40% intend to enter a master's program within one year of graduation.

First CLAS Undergraduate Research Symposium Planned for May 4

Preparations are underway for the CLAS Undergraduate Research Symposium, scheduled for May 4, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the ARMAH room of the Lane Center. Fifty different research and experiential learning projects will be presented by students and their faculty mentors as posters and visual presentations. Thirteen departments within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will be represented with 90 students and 30 faculty members participating in the event. Participants will have the opportunity to present their own work to their peers and observe experiential learning opportunities available in other disciplines.

A workshop for faculty mentors and students interested in information regarding the preparation of poster presentations was offered on March 9th from 2:00-3:00 p.m. and on March 13th from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Discovery Center of the Compton Science Center. Both workshops were well attended. In addition, Dr. Steve Simpson has agreed to give opening remarks for the symposium. Faculty mentors will be receiving further information by e-mail including notification of a due date for final presentation abstracts for the abstract booklets which will be printed for distribution at the symposium.

For questions or more information, please contact Karen Keller in the Biology Department, kkeller@frostburg.edu, x4174.

Four CLAS Faculty Granted Tenure

CLAS is pleased to announce that four faculty were recently approved for tenure: Eric Moore (Physics and Engineering), Michael Mathias (Philosophy), Erica Kennedy (Psychology), and Matt Ramspott (Geography). Congratulations!

Western Maryland Science and Engineering Festival Slated at FSU for April 21

Frostburg State University, Appalachian Laboratory, and the Allegany County Board of Education are collaborating to host the second annual Western Maryland Science and Engineering Festival. The event will be held on Saturday, April 21, 10AM-2PM with activities on FSU's upper quad and at the Appalachian Laboratory. The free festival is designed for students in grades K-12 and their families. Students will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on science investigations including an egg drop,

creating DNA necklaces, geocaching, fun with chemistry, and origami.

If you are interested in participating as a demonstrator or if you would like more information on attending, please contact Linda Steele (lsteele@frostburg.edu), x4137.

CLAS Receives College Preparation Intervention Program Grant for Outreach to Local High Schools

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recently received a \$40,000 grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to provide information to second semester high school juniors and next fall's seniors about the range of career options available through post-secondary education and prepare them to take college-level courses. This "Pathways to Success" Project will be done in collaboration with the Allegany County Board of Education and Allegany College of Maryland.

Participating students will have the opportunity to attend enrichment activities at FSU, including the Western Maryland Science and Engineering Festival, a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium, and the FSU Undergraduate Majors Fair. Workshops on the completing the college admission and financial aid process will also be conducted at the high schools.

Project activities have already begun, with a panel of eight FSU freshmen and three faculty/staff members recently visiting the four Allegany county public high schools and speaking to nearly 100 juniors. The team provided information and advice on the transition from high school to college, academic coursework at FSU, time management, and extracurricular activities.

"Unfortunately, high school students are often unaware of the rich array of career options available to them. This program will help address this issue," said Dr. Hoffman.
