Colleagues:

Every August, you can always bank on a few things: the hottest day will be student move-in day, talk will abound — surprisingly in many parts of Idaho — about the Packers winning the SuperBowl (yes, I am from Wisconsin), and we will begin sharpening our focus on the work of advancing the College this year. Four goals will be paramount: 1) recruiting more students for next year, 2) retaining more of our students from this semester to next and from this year to next, 3) improving our communication inside and outside of the College, and 4) developing new academic programs and new opportunities for faculty and staff to engage in the growth of all aspects of the College. We will provide more details about this year’s themes in other newsletters. That said, I still have an open door policy. Please stop by to share ideas. Finally, I look forward to seeing you and your families at the CLASS Welcome Back Reception on Wednesday, August 26 at the 1912 Center (details below).

- Andy (andrewkersten@uidaho.edu)

A Note from Associate Dean Traci Craig

The first few weeks of the semester are always a busy time for both faculty and students. During this time the focus tends to be on our teaching and I hope you will use the momentum this builds to encourage your students to get involved on campus. This is also a good time to reach out to students from spring (and summer) that may have incompletes in your courses and ensure they are still on track for a timely completion of the coursework. While we often focus on students who may have had challenging previous semesters, please also take time as you meet with students that you know are doing well to congratulate them on their achievement. Also, remember that early warning grades are due by September 22nd, so as you build your course syllabi be sure there is some graded work or early indicator work that would allow for a grade to be calculated by the 22nd of September. These early warning grades enable us to help students who get off to a rough start identify resources that can help them ultimately succeed in your course and in their academic careers.

Scholarship can sometimes be put on hold early in the semester as course preparation and service work gear up again for the new term. Many of you have successfully managed to keep your scholarship at the forefront of your schedules, but for those of you who find it challenging to balance this important work during the first weeks of a term, I would encourage you to try something new this semester. First, tell your students at some point this semester about your research interests (even if not directly related to the content of the course you teach). Help students to see the breadth of what your work entails and how your love of the field translates into the classroom. Make time for your research. Talk to your colleagues about what strategies they employ to balance workload. Do they set aside particular times of the day for writing or reading? Do they squeeze in a bit of writing here and there or require large blocks of time? Try to do something to move your scholarship forward every day, even if it is only to identify an article or sketch out
an outline of work. We have some great opportunities for you this year with speakers from Oxford University Press and Cooper Union coming to discuss opportunities for publishing books. Watch this newsletter for announcements about internal grant opportunities (e.g., Seed Grants, CLASS Key Fund and Olsson Early Career Awards) and other resources available for those seeking external funding. I am always happy to help you get a project started or find ways to pursue something new, so please feel free to contact me for more information or with any questions.

Finally, we often think of advising as an end of semester activity; but the reality is that we often do advising year round. I want to encourage you to make use of degree audit notes. As you have phone conversations, email exchanges or in person meetings with new and current students, please note in the degree audit any course suggestions, changes of curriculum, resource referrals, or other information that might help another adviser assist the student if you are not available. Should you have questions about any of these processes or features, please let me know. We will have an advising workshop for CLASS faculty and advisers in early October. More details will be announced in the next newsletter. In the meantime, I am always happy to answer questions or provide information you might need.

--Traci (t.craig@uidaho.edu)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advising

Please plan to attend the advising symposium on Friday, September 11, 2015 in the Bruce Pittman Center. Registration is free, but do be sure you register online here: http://www.uidaho.edu/academic-advising/acada/advisingsymposium. The schedule will post soon and even if you cannot attend all day, it may be useful to you to identify a session or two that can help you build your advising skill set to better serve our students and improve our retention rates across the college. New faculty may be particularly interested in attending a session on Degree Audit Basics (10:30-11:20). Those more familiar with degree audit might benefit from the 1:30-2:20 Advanced Degree Audit session. There is a wide range of sessions to choose from and the details for those will post on the web shortly. There is also a lunch and keynote address (11:30-1:15). We hope you will register and we would love to see you there!

Remember that Student-Athletes have holds on their accounts that require them to meet with an adviser in Athletics before they can add/drop a course or change their registration. Also, students on academic probation will have to meet with an adviser (1st and 2nd years with Kristi of Lexi and 3rd and 4th years with the faculty adviser in their department) to have that hold removed before they can add or drop a course online. These deadlines come up quickly, please try to be available to help students as they make these changes to their schedule in the first two weeks of the semester.

Research and Creative Activity

Please join us on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, for the CLASS Research and Creative Activity Showcase in the Whitewater/Clearwater room from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Faculty and students from across the college will present their work as part of a college-wide poster session and exposition. Encourage your students to come find out how they might get involved in research, and join your colleagues to find new synergies for your own work and learn more about the range of activities supported by the Seed Grants, Olsson Early Career Awards, and Key Fund grants. The Human Communities Research Consortium (HCRC) is
pleased to be able to unveil the first annual showcase of this kind for the college. If you are interested in presenting in the Showcase, please contact Sean Quinlan for more information: quinlan@uidaho.edu.

If you are interested in participating in the HCRC Writing workgroup, we meet every other Monday from 12:30-1:30 to workshop scholarly and creative works with an eye toward moving work into final stages for publication or presentation. Papers are pre-circulated one week in advance to all attendees. The first five minutes are spent by the author providing a brief overview of the work. The remaining time in the session focuses on friendly and constructive feedback with the goal of helping authors revise and finalize their work. The workshop has also helped authors respond to reviewer and editorial comments on previously submitted work. All fields/disciplines are welcome and encouraged to participate. We look forward to a year of friendly and productive work. If you are interested in joining us, please email quinlan@uidaho.edu by September 8th to indicate your interest in participating and we will add you to the list.

Upcoming Faculty Workshops: Getting Your Book Published

This upcoming academic 2015-16 year, CLASS is proud to be hosting two extraordinary opportunities for faculty development.

On October 8–9, 2015, we are proud to be welcoming SUZANNE RYAN to our campus. Ryan is a senior acquisitions editor at Oxford University Press and she has worked extensively with prospective authors for developing academic book proposals and other large-scale research projects. She will be giving a formal talk on Thursday, 10:30–12:00 on the dynamics of academic publishing. She will then be working one-on-one with approximately six faculty members, reading and commenting upon their respective book proposals.

On April 21-22, 2016, CLASS is delighted to host WILLIAM GERMANO, who is a Professor and Dean at Cooper Union, and who is the author of Getting It Published: A Guide for Scholars and Anyone Else Serious about Serious Books as well as From Dissertation to Book. Like Ryan, Germano will be giving a talk and then working individually with approximately 12 faculty members on their book proposals.

Obviously, space is limited! If you are interested in either of these wonderful opportunities, please contact Sean Quinlan (History) <quinlan@uidaho.edu> by September 5th at the latest.

Idaho Humanities Council Invites Proposals

The Idaho Humanities Council invites proposals for Mini and Major grants, and Research Fellowships for consideration at the Council’s fall grant round. The deadline for grant proposals is September 15, 2015. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact IHC staff in advance of the deadline to discuss their project ideas before drafting a proposal. Research Fellowships are special awards to scholars to support research in any field of the humanities. They are for up to $3,500, awarded only once a year, and may be used to support expenses related to research, including travel to special archives, lodging, and related expenses. Information about Mini and Major grants, grant guidelines and the online application are available on the IHC website: www.idahohumanities.org under “Grants.”

Firefighter Policy for Students Actively Fighting Fires at the Start of the Semester

As we approach the opening of fall semester, we may have students who are actively fighting fires. If your college/department receives a call from a student, below is the university’s firefighter policy regarding students who need to delay their return due to fighting fires.
The University of Idaho’s Firefighter Policy accommodates students who serve in critical capacities on the fire lines and are called to action just prior to the start of the semester. Students:

- May request a delayed return if they are fighting an active fire and are called out on an emergency.
- Need to contact their advisor and instructors of their fall classes to inform them of their expected date of return, and the reason for the late start.
- Are responsible for all assignments/quizzes/tests they miss, this is not an excused absence.
- Must pay tuition on or before August 24. If tuition cannot be paid on or before August 24, the late fee will be waived for students who notified us of their delayed return.
- Contact the Office of the Registrar if they decide not to return fall semester.

Students who are on firefighting crews not actively fighting a fire, and choose to stay on after August 24, are not eligible to request a delayed return.

Students may contact the Office of the Registrar to notify the University of their delayed return to the semester. The Office of the Registrar will email the information to Housing & Resident Life, Financial Aid, Student Accounts, and the Dean of Students Office.

To notify the University about a delayed return, contact the Office of the Registrar at (208) 885-6731 or email registrar@uidaho.edu.

We are undoubtedly all grateful for the work these women and men do for our region and communities, so please be accommodating and support these students as they navigate the beginning of the semester. Associate Dean Traci Craig, tcraig@uidaho.edu, is also a resource if needed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN US!!!  CLASS Welcome Back Reception
Wednesday, August 26
1912 Center (412 E. Third Street – Old Moscow High School)
4:30 – 6 p.m.
CLASS Faculty, Staff, Retirees and their families are all welcome! Come meet new colleagues, catch up with current friends and enjoy a beverage and hors d’oeuvres.

REMINDER

University of Idaho Benefits Annual Enrollment takes place October 16 – November 4, 2015.

IMPORTANT DATES

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