Colleagues:

More than previous newsletters, last month’s introduction seems to have struck a chord. Faculty and staff have approached me asking what they can do to help with enrollment growth. Increasing the number of students in our programs and in our College involves two things: recruitment and retention. Right now, it is vitally important that we focus on retaining our current students. We lose students from semester to semester and from year to year. Surprisingly, according to data provided by Associate Dean Traci Craig, only 10% of the students we lose over the summer are freshmen who would be entering their sophomore year. The vast majority are sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Almost three quarters of the students we lose have GPAs over 2.0. A third of those who do not return have GPAs above 3.0. In other words, these are good, if not great, students who are close to a degree. Why do they leave? I’m certain that there are financial reasons. There are also reasons that have to do with their majors and with overall student engagement. Setting aside the importance of their persistence to the College, leaving the University so close to a degree is the worst of all possible outcomes for a student, who would have nearly all the debt of a college career without the degree, which is the huge payoff. To increase our retention of students, we need to have more conversations with all of our students about how they are doing, how they are feeling and what we can do to help them. We need to aid them with the challenges and celebrate their accomplishments. In short, we need to reach out. We need to make sure that our students are right on track to graduate and that they see career possibilities in the future. We need to make certain that students, particularly in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years, know about internships, study abroad and the honor’s program. Finally, the University has a wealth of resources to help students at every point, no matter what the issues. If you have questions about retaining our students or would like Associate Dean Traci Craig to come and do a workshop with any department or school, please let us know. From now to the start of next semester, let’s do what we can—each one of us—to keep our students moving toward their degrees, one semester at a time. As I see it, mentoring and preparation for a fulfilling career and a rich and meaningful life are the hallmarks of the University of Idaho. Let’s turn our great strengths to this issue of retention.

- Andy
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sabbatical Applications

Sabbatical applications for the 2016-17 academic year are due Friday, October 30, 2015. Applications must be sent to the CLASS Dean’s Office (Jennie Hall; jenniej@uidaho.edu) by October 21 in order to receive a letter of support from Dean Kersten. Once all materials are secured, applications must be emailed to You Qiang, chair of the Sabbatical Leave Evaluation Committee, at youqiang@uidaho.edu. The instructions and application process can be found in FSH 3720, http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/fsh/3720.html.

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.

** FULL – NO MORE ROOM ** 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, October 8, 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.

** STILL A FEW SEATS OPEN ** On April 21-22, 2016, CLASS is delighted to host WILLIAM GERMANO, who is a Professor and Dean at Cooper Union and 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 either of these wonderful opportunities, please contact Sean Quinlan (History) <quinlan@uidaho.edu> by September 11th at the latest.

Fulbright Enrichment Program in November

The University of Idaho will collaborate with the Eastern Washington-Northern Idaho Chapter of the Fulbright Association and the U.S. Department of State to sponsor a special program for current and former Fulbright Scholars on the topic of “Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies and Outdoor Leadership." The program will take place on the University of Idaho campus and at the McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS) November 13-15. Space is limited, and anyone interested in participating should contact Professor Scott Slovic from UI English Department at slovic@uidaho.edu by September 30th.

Funding Opportunity: CLASS Summer Research Grants 2016

If you have a great research project that you would like to pursue and funding during Summer 2016 would help, please consider applying for a CLASS Summer Research Grant. The CLASS Summer grant program offers up to $2,500 for travel, equipment, supplies, or undergraduate or graduate research assistance to create a sustainable research or creative project. The grant can also be used by the PI as summer salary to fund the writing of a grant to a federal granting agency for the 2016 submission period. If you would like more information about this important opportunity, please email Associate Dean Traci Craig (tcrraig@uidaho.edu) and she will forward you the Call for Proposals.
UPCOMING EVENTS

CLASS Research and Creative Activity Showcase

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 be 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.

Common Read 2015: All the Light We Cannot See
Keynote Address by Anthony Doerr, Author

On Monday, September 14, Anthony Doerr will present a keynote address where he will tell the story behind his prize-winning novel All the Light We Cannot See. This event is free and open to the public. First-year students enrolled in an ISEM 101 will have priority seating.

Monday, September 14
6:00 PM
International Ballroom, Bruce Pitman Center

This event is sponsored by the Common Read Program and the Judith M. Runstad Lecture Series, with support from the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences and the Division of Student Affairs.

REMINDERS

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