



FACULTY NEWSLETTER

November 30, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I hope everyone had a restful Thanksgiving weekend and you are rested and ready for the push to finals and the conclusion of the fall 2021 semester!

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As I mentioned at an Academic Senate meeting earlier this month, I have decided to take a new track when sharing information with you as members of the faculty and academic staff. Instead of flooding your inbox with messages every month, I will post my regular reports to the Academic Senate to the [Faculty Newsletters and Updates page](#) on the Provost Office website. These reports have more timely information and can be disseminated quicker than monthly newsletters. When you go to the website, you will see that all previous newsletters and reports to the Academic Senate have already been posted, and new reports will be posted as soon as they have been presented to the Senate at their meetings.

Hopefully this will provide you more information with fewer emails...a winning combination!

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At the start of this newsletter, I will emphasize the important work that you have been doing as faculty researchers and scholars that may not have been mentioned in previous newsletters.

The Conway School of Nursing

- Professors **Deirdre Carolan Doerflinger**, **Marye Kellerman**, and **Janet Selway** were each named Distinguished Educators in Gerontological Nursing by the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence.

- Professors **Janice Agazio** and **Bonnie Benetato** published an editorial in a recent issue of *Research in Nursing and Health* entitled "Walking with Students During the Time of a Pandemic." The editorial can be found online at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/nur.22172>.
- Professor **Nalini Jairath** and her doctoral student Major **Sandy Snyder** received a grant award from the Geneva Foundation and TriService Nursing Research regarding Major Snyder's research project titled "Effects of Deliberate Practice vs. Task Training Approach U.S. Army Reserve Nurse and Combat Medics."
- Recent alumna **Dora Ifon** (Ph.D., 2016) is the recipient of the Veterans Administration Rehabilitation Research and Development Career Development Award. She is investigating electrical stimulation and vitamin D supplementation effects on bone health in individuals with chronic spinal cord injury.
- Alumna **Katemanee Moonpanane** (Ph.D., 2021) published an article entitled "[Adjusting the Family's Life: A Grounded Theory of Caring for a Child with Special Needs in Rural Areas, Thailand](#)," which reflects the tremendous challenges associated with marshalling services for special needs children in Thailand. The article is a product of Dr. Moonpanane's doctoral dissertation written under the supervision of Professor **Janice Agazio**.

The National Catholic School of Social Service

Faculty members from NCSSS gave the following presentations at the 67th Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education in Orlando, FL, which ran from November 4 through 7.

- **Roslynn Scott-Adams** and **Danielle Parker** presented on "A Caste System: The Leadership Trajectory of African American Women in Academia".
- **Eun Koh** and **Laura Daughtery** presented on "Behavioral and Educational Outcomes of Children in Informal Kinship Care".
- **Jo Ann Regan** presented on "Academic and Support Strategies for Underrepresented Minorities in Social Work Education".
- **Michaele L. Zajicek-Farber** presented on "Mitigating Trauma of African American Children and Families With a Community Integrated Home-Based Intervention".
- **Laura Daughtery, Eun Koh, Danielle Parker, and Roslynn Scott-Adams** presented on "A Culturally Humble Response: A Social Work School's Challenge Responding to Injustices".
- Finally, **Michael Massey** and **Kimberly Sims** presented on "Reviving Group Work Practice: Building Cross Racial Solidarity for Social Justice".

A full listing of the presentations and events at CSWE APM 2021 can be found at https://cswe.org/getattachment/Events-Meetings/2021-APM/2021APM_FinalProgram.pdf.aspx.

School of Engineering

- Professor **Tonge Tonge** had his article "Congo Basin and Planet Sustainability: A Novel Approach" published in the *International Journal of Earth & Environmental Sciences*.

As always, if you would like to share positive information from your academic department or school, I would love to include it in future newsletters and Academic Senate reports as space allows. I ask you to send this "good news" to Assistant Provost David Long at longdp@cua.edu.

I also encourage you to look at the work your colleagues are doing in terms of interviews and media outreach by visiting the [Faculty in the Media](#) website, and look at the previous Academic Senate reports to find announcements on grant and research activity that Ralph Albano and his office have highlighted as representative of the work being done at the University.

Thank you to everyone as you continue to research, publish, and share your findings with the academic community!

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University Research Day Abstract Submissions Due January 28, 2022:

University Research Day (URD) at The Catholic University of America is a day when students, faculty, and staff come together to celebrate, share, and learn about the exciting research taking place at Catholic University.

Over the past six years, URD has showcased the work of hundreds of students, faculty, and staff, including research on the economics of farmers in Ghana, evangelization in the New World, the effect of mindfulness in child development, and the automatic detection of concussions, among many others.

URD 2022, which will take place on April 7, 2022, will include opportunities for posters and oral presentations. The virtual poster session will consist of posters with 5-minute pre-recorded videos and a live Google document to ask and answer questions throughout the day. Oral presentations will be recorded and presented during live Zoom sessions on URD and will include a live question and answer period with the presenters. If public health conditions permit, we hope to include several in-person oral presentation sessions on campus via Zoom.

If you are interested in presenting a paper, poster, or interactive demonstration, please complete the abstract submission form available on the [URD Abstract Submissions page](#). Abstracts must be received by January 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. to be considered. Submissions received after that date will not be reviewed.

More information is available at <https://research-day.catholic.edu/>.

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A more formal announcement on the Christmas/New Year's break will be issued in the coming days, but before that email goes out, I want to stress that all academic buildings will remain open until the start of the break on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

There is an expectation that the entire University campus will be closed from that time (Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.) until Monday, January 3, 2022. This means that all faculty and staff members must anticipate your needs before the University closes on Wednesday, December 22.

Please remember that over the Christmas break heating in buildings and other utilities will be set to minimum levels. In the event of inclement weather, snow removal and salting will be limited.

In years past, my office has granted exceptions for faculty and academic staff members to return to campus to use their offices or other academic facilities. This year, only the following exceptions will be considered:

- Research activities where a delay would have significant financial impact or catastrophically disrupt the research project or protocol.
- The staffing of laboratories with animal experiments where a delay would result in euthanasia or loss of a colony or as needed to support critical research.
- The staffing of laboratories with activities to maintain living tissues, plants, or animals, to prevent a catastrophic loss of data.
- Deadline-driven research activities, such as experiments close to completion or articles/papers/books close to submission, or activities with short-term deadlines whose pause or deferral would lead to catastrophic delay or loss of research results.

If you believe entry to your building meets the requirements listed above and you need to request an exception, you must submit your request by Thursday, December 9 at 12:00 noon [by Google Form](#). The request will be forwarded to

Assistant Provost David Long (longdp@cua.edu) for final authorization. The approved list of exceptions will then be submitted to the Department of Public Safety from the Provost's office.

Due to continued major construction projects taking place in McMahon Hall, that building will be closed to all occupants throughout the break.

Exceptions will only be given for Monday, December 27 through Friday, December 31 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. No weekend or extended hour requests will be granted.

Please note that no undergraduate students and graduate students are allowed on campus during the Christmas break except for those who have been approved as essential members of research laboratories.

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These are the important upcoming dates for all of us as we close the fall semester:

Wednesday, December 8	Patronal Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holiday & Reading Day; no classes)
Friday, December 10	Last day for January 2022 graduation candidates to submit diploma application in Cardinal Students Final date to deposit theses and dissertations for January 2022 graduation
Sunday, December 12	Reading Day
Monday, December 13	Last Day of Classes
Tuesday, December 14 through Saturday, December 18	Final examination period
Tuesday, December 21	All final grades due in Cardinal Students by 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 8, 2022	Degree conferral for students completing degree requirements in Fall 2021 semester

I again highlight the date and time of **Tuesday, December 21 at 3:00 p.m.** as the deadline for submitting grades in Cardinal Students.

Every semester I receive reports from the University Registrar on the number of faculty members who have missed the deadline and the number of courses without entered grades. While I am always happy to say that the number of late grades has gone down from semester to semester, I want to reach zero this semester.

I cannot stress enough that your grades need to be completed and submitted on time.

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Finally, as I have done in my two previous December newsletters, and despite the fact that we are only in the first days of Advent with today's celebration of the Feast of Saint Andrew, I submit the following Christmas reflection that I hope will bring our celebrations into perspective.

Christmas Eve is the loveliest night of the year—the night that strikes a chord and evokes a response in every Christian heart.

All over the world, Christians gather to celebrate this Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, and when we gather, we are not alone.

We are united in spirit with those who have celebrated through the centuries, in catacombs and cathedrals, in public ceremonies and secret Masses, in simple parish churches or royal chapels, on the Solemnity of the Nativity.

We are united in spirit with those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith—parents and grandparents with whom we spent our Christmas childhood, those dear to us with whom we are forever bound in flesh, faith, and love.

No Christmas Eve ever stands alone; it is fueled, charged, intensified with the memory of years gone by.

This loveliest night of the year is the night of happiness, hope, and joy, and our sometimes peculiar ways of celebrating Christmas make happiness, hope and joy real in our lives. The trees, whether real or artificial, that stand in the corner of our living rooms, family rooms, dens, or hallways; the candles in our windows; the lights and figurines that decorate our homes; the presents wrapped and gathered under the tree; the holly and the ivy; the carols hummed in a crisp winter air; the kind words and warm greetings that fall from our lips, all of these things make Christmas real to us. It brings the rather abstract ideas of happiness, hope and joy

into the tangible, the touchable and the human. Christmas is transformed from a promised event into a lived experience. It becomes bigger than a simple, 24-hour day, which could never hope to contain our feelings and emotions.

Our Scripture readings on Christmas Eve show that happiness, hope and joy exist because of the love our God shows us. The prophet Isaiah describes the joyful response of God to his Chosen People and God's faithfulness to the covenant with Israel, even when Israel was not faithful. God's love and joy knows no bounds and cannot be contained, and God will save his people Israel, making Israel's "vindication shine forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch." All those who believed that Israel was defeated and left for dead by a God who forgot them will instead see a nation that shimmers like "a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem held by God." Even though the people turned away from God, God did not turn away from them, and in fact promised to bring about their salvation.

On Christmas Eve, we look into a simple manger for the salvation promised by God. We look into a manger and come face to face with the central truth of our faith—the mystery of the Incarnation, that the God who promised vindication and victory for his people became man to bring to his people that vindication and that victory in person.

All those events that we remember on this night "took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means God is with us."

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." The prophet Isaiah rejoiced with these words centuries before the events of Bethlehem, yet we gather on this loveliest night of the year filled with the same feelings of happiness, hope and joy as Isaiah, because the abstract idea of a God who loves us has become tangible, touchable, and human.

We gather on this loveliest night of the year because God, who promised our salvation in days past, fulfilled that promise in the coming of his Son.

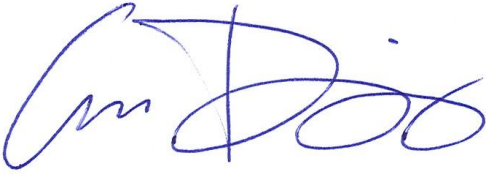
We gather on this loveliest night of the year with Christians throughout the world, and throughout the ages, because this night is not just the remembrance of a promised event. It is the experience of happiness and hope, joy and love.

Emmanuel. God is with us always...and in a most tender and special way on this loveliest night of the year.

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I hope you and your family have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas, and may we all celebrate a Happy New Year 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Dominguez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Aaron Dominguez, Ph.D.

Office of the Provost

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