

## Provost Update to Senate February 22, 2024

### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Previous updates to the Academic Senate and faculty newsletters can always be found at <https://provost.catholic.edu/newsletters>.
- Faculty should submit midterm grades for all students between Tuesday, February 20, and Friday, February 23.
  - Thank you again for doing this work since it is an important aspect of retention and service.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO NURSING

- The Conway School of Nursing's NCLEX (RN Licensing Exam) had a **first time pass rate of 95%**. This pass rate is a testament to the very high quality of our nursing program. We had 80 first-time "takers", with the next largest DC program having 46, implying that we have the largest undergraduate program in DC.
- By comparison with other high quality local programs, during the same time period in 2023, the BSN program at UMD had a first time pass rate of 81% and the first time pass rate for the MSN Entry programs at both UMD and Johns Hopkins it was 85%.
- Congratulations to Dean Nolan and the entire Conway School team of faculty, staff and students for this excellent work!

### UNDERGRADUATE UPDATES

- EAB/Cardinal Success Progress Report Campaign:
  - Created on 2/5/2024
  - Evaluations sent: 19,854
  - Responses from instructors: 5,195 (Response rate 26%)
  - Students marked at risk: 293 (5%)
- Midterm Grades:
  - Due February 23, 2024
- Admission Events:
  - Virtual Events: Feb 20-22
  - Cardinal Preview Day 2: April 5, 2024
- Reminder of Important Recording Policies:
  - [Classroom](#)
  - [Recording Policy](#)

### REPRESENTATIVE NEW GRANT AWARDS

- To Tanja Horn, Physics, \$346,024 from NSF for "REU Site: Physics Research in the Nation's Capital"
- Jeff Brosius, Physics/IACS, \$421,504 from NASA for "The Solar Atmosphere's Response to Impulsive Energy Input"
- To Ian Pegg, VSL, \$857,277 for "Atkins WRPS Capture and Hold Formulation Development for SLAW" & "Atkins WRPS DFLAW Melter Vitrification Testing to Improve Iodine Retention"

- To Chigo Ngwira, Physics/IACS, \$789,042 from NASA for “Extreme High-latitude Geomagnetic Variations and Their Drivers”
- To Frank Ferguson, Physics/IACS, \$771,614 from NASA for “An Increasingly Sophisticated Model of Silicate Grain Nucleation and Growth in Circumstellar Outflows”

### REPRESENTATIVE PROPOSAL ACTIVITY

- From Chris Raub, Biomedical Engineering, \$306,200 to NIH for “Determining Molecular Mechanisms of Damage and Repair in an Oral Mucosa Chip”
- From Martin Cordiner, Physics/IACS, \$1,484,268 to NASA for “The Origin and Evolution of Organic Matter in Interstellar and Planetary Environments”
- From BUrcu Kosar, Physics/IACS, \$560,531 to NASA for “Investigation of Green Afterglow Observed Above Sprite and Gigantic Jet Tops Based on Spritacular Project Database”
- From Peter Lum, Biomedical Engineering, \$439,256 to UTEP (subaward on DHHS prime proposal) for “Mitigating Health Disparities Post Stroke: Technology for Accurate Prescription and Dosing in Neurorehabilitation”

### UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

- **Invitation to Apply for an OER Award.** Faculty and other instructors are invited by the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) to apply for a 2024 Open@WRLC Course Transformation stipend. Awardees will receive \$2000 to convert a course from traditional textbooks to Open Educational Resources (OER) for the Fall 2024 or Spring 2025 semester. The stipend program is designed to promote a community of advocates among partnering institutions, create incentive to add to the availability of open course materials, and provide monetary support to acknowledge the effort required for curriculum redesign when adopting OER. Learn more and apply at [open.wrlc.org/grant](https://open.wrlc.org/grant). Proposals are due March 4.
- **AI Tools for Research.** The emergence of ChatGPT and other AI technologies has significantly transformed the landscape of library research, introducing complexities alongside innovations. In the February 9th workshop, [A Review of Generative AI Tools for Research](#), librarians Kevin Gunn and Charles Gallagher presented the pros and cons of the following platforms that can enhance your research mastery: Perplexity, Elicit, Consensus, Lateral, ScholarAI, Keenious, OpenAlex, Semantic Scholar, Research Rabbit, and Scite. These tools are engineered to streamline your research workflow, making the process more efficient and effective. Click on the link to watch the recording of this popular session.
- **Laboring for Justice Exhibit.** *Laboring for Justice: Monsignor George Higgins, Cesar Chavez, and the Unionization of California Agriculture* can be viewed in the Main Reading Room on the second floor of Mullen Library through May 2024. Monsignor George Higgins was the director of the Social Action Department of the forerunner of today’s U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This exhibit presents objects, articles, photographs, and letters from the [George Higgins collection](#) detailing the story of the Catholic Church and the United Farm Workers. Through these objects, a picture forms of cooperation between organizations seeking to better the lives of thousands, showing that social change is possible. A digital version of the exhibit can be found [here](#).

- **Eclipse Exhibit.** This small exhibit in the lobby of Mullen Library focuses on the solar eclipse coming this April, when the shadow of the Moon crossing in front of the Sun will pass over Mexico into Texas and then northeast into Maine and Canada. While the DC Area isn't in the path of totality, weather permitting, at 3:20pm on April 8th, we will experience between 85-90% of a solar eclipse.

### CUA PRESS UPDATES

- The Spring/Summer catalog has been issued. It features new books by Archbishop Di Noia, Thomas Joseph White, OP, and Thomas Weinandy, OFM Cap.
- The Press will distribute "Mother Teresa's General Letters to Her Sisters" on behalf of the Mother Teresa Institute, one of a growing number of publishers with whom we partner, to make their books available national and internationally..
- The editors of our series Catholic Women Writers wrote a piece that was published in First Things, <https://www.firstthings.com/article/2024/03/lost-women-novelists>, about their commitment to bring the work of overlooked authors back into print.
- Press author Helen Alvaré, author of our book *Religious Freedom after the Sexual Revolution*, was the Presidential Speaker at Catholic University in February.

### GLOBAL STRATEGIES

- Deadline for study abroad during Summer and Fall is March 1st.
- The Rome Center currently has 73 students
- Double degree agreement with the University of Piura, Peru and the Department of Economics is finalized
- OGS hosted Vice Chancellor and President of the Australian Catholic University Zlatko Skrbis on Feb. 1, 2024
- OGS hosted Dr. Sam Oh, a Distinguished Professor for Global Affairs at Sungkyunkwan University—an institution with a legacy as the oldest university in Korea and partner with Samsung.