

Faculty Focus

February 9, 2018
Volume 1, Issue 2

Special Interest Articles:

- Guest Speaker for Faculty Meeting on March 10th
- Student Success Initiative
- Black History Month at VIU
- Magna Commons Subscription

UPCOMING EVENTS:

African Culture Diversity Luncheon – February 13th
11:30am-1:00pm

Asian New Year Celebration – February 27th
11:30am-1:00pm

Black History Month Lunch & Learn – February 28th
12:00pm-1:00pm

Voices from the Field, “Humans in Cyber Operations” – March 1st
3:30pm-4:30pm

Faculty Meeting – March 10th 8:30am-11:30am



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Our Professional Development Plans (PDP) are tailored to the requirements of our accreditors. All active faculty (teaching at least one course per year) must have a completed PDP.

General requirements for PDP include one in-service training activity and one professional growth activity per year. An in-service activity is considered general skills training, such as classroom management techniques, and these activities are offered by VIU throughout the

year. Professional growth activities are specific to a content area, such as a seminar on cybersecurity or a webinar on data mining trends.

Documentation must be provided for all completed activities. For webinars, a “thank you for attending” email will suffice or a screenshot of the participants list with your name. Registration emails will no longer be accepted.

Please contact your dean if you need more information.



STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE

The Student Success Initiative (SSI) strives to provide student support by identifying at-risk students and coordinating the services necessary for their success.

Faculty members can identify students who need academic support and the SSI staff coordinates the services, follows up with the student to ensure completion, and recommends any further services needed.

While faculty members may see a student is struggling, the SSI

tries to get to root to the problem and can identify other support services that the faculty may not know is needed. For instance, a student may be experiencing academic difficulties due to external problems and the SSI may be able to provide counseling or other necessary support.

To refer a student or for more information, visit the [SSI online](#) or contact Allison Forbes at aforbes@viu.edu. Coming soon to the Faculty Portal!

Dr. Gibson Giving Training on Student Engagement

Dr. Angela M. Gibson will be our featured presenter on “Empowering Student Learning Through Engagement: Strategies for the Classroom” at the Faculty Meeting on March 10th.

She is an adjunct faculty in the graduate program for Educational Leadership at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, a facilitator for the Online Learning Consortium’s Online Teaching Certificate program, and she most recently was Professor of Arts and Humanities at the American Public University System.

Dr. Gibson earned her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Higher Education from Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and her M.A. in Human Performance Systems from Marymount University. She earned her B.A. in International Relations from GMU.





Please take our PD needs assessment survey!

The survey will only take a couple minutes and can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2B55G93>



MAGNA COMMONS SUBSCRIPTION

The Office of Academic Affairs has obtained a subscription for Magna Commons, an online support service for faculty and staff development.

Through Magna Commons, faculty members will have the ability to access online seminars and publications at their convenience. There are a variety of topics that are relevant to higher education professionals, ranging from classroom copyright guidelines and Title IX essentials

to learning assessment techniques and facilitating online discussions.

Magna Commons even takes care of the documentation for your PDP! After completion of a training, faculty members can download a certificate to send to their dean.

Registration instructions with the access code will be sent out by email.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY MAY 5TH

This year's commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 5th, and faculty members are strongly encouraged to attend.

The students have given feedback that they would appreciate this time with the faculty members who guided them to this success. Many parents travel from across the world to attend this graduation and this is a great opportunity to

create memories through pictures and congratulatory messages.

The commencement will be held at GMU's Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas. While the ceremony will begin at 11:00am, faculty members are encouraged to arrive by 10:30am and to stay after the ending at 1:00pm to take pictures with students.

For more information, contact Allison Forbes at aforbes@viu.edu.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT VIU

VIU is celebrating Black History Month through a series of events beginning February 8th through the end of the month. Faculty members are encouraged to bring their students to the events and infuse black history in their lessons.

A standing exhibition of a timeline of black history is set up in VD-301, the third floor conference

room. There is no schedule for this event, and faculty members and students can drop by at their own convenience.

On February 13th at 11:30am, there will be a Diversity Luncheon on African Culture. Faculty and students are invited to enjoy the food and celebration.

On February 28th at 12:00pm, there will be a Lunch & Learn with presentations from VIU's own faculty member, Dr. Theresa Poussaint, and Career Center Manager, Robyn Taylor. Don't forget to bring your lunch!

Contact Allison Forbes at aforbes@viu.edu for details.

SPIA CONFERENCE ON POLITICS & ETHICS, APRIL 30-MAY 1

The School of Public & International Affairs will be having a conference on politics and ethics on April 30th, followed by a professional workshop on ethics and leadership on May 1st.

The conference seeks to answer the questions: What is the role of ethics in American society and around the world today? What are the major ethical challenges

societies are experiencing and how are they being addressed? How do we find and develop ethical leaders? How do we as citizens and professionals respond to new ethical dilemmas? The Call for Papers can be found [here](#) and submissions are due by March 10th.

The professional workshop on ethics and leadership will be facilitated by LeaderShape Global UK. There will be limited seating at this event on the second day so early [registration](#) is encouraged.

For more details, please visit the website at <https://conference.viu.edu/wels/> or email wels@viu.edu.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION'S VOICES FROM THE FIELD

The School of Education's innovative speaker series, Voices from the Field, brings educators, administrators and researchers to speak on a variety of topics in higher education. All of the sessions are free and open to the public.

Dr. Heather Weger from Georgetown University gave the last presentation, entitled "The

Good, the Bad, and the Rubric: Designing and Using Rubrics Effectively", on February 1st. Next in the series will be Dr. Joseph Danks from the University of Maryland, Center for Advanced Study of Language. His presentation, entitled "Humans in Cyber Operations", will take place on Thursday, March 1st at 3:30pm in VD-301.

The Voices from the Field events count as in-service professional development activities and the sign-in sheet is used as documentation of attendance.

For more information, please contact the School of Education at sed@viu.edu.

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

The Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) visited VIU's campus on January 17th and 18th for our regularly scheduled recertification visit. While we await the official findings from the visit, we did receive feedback on the exceptionally qualified faculty at VIU. We issue a heartfelt thank you to all of you who helped make this visit success.

The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) has postponed VIU's initial certification visit due to circumstances beyond our control. We expect to have information about an upcoming visit very soon, and will share with the VIU Community as soon as we receive it.

If you have any specific questions about accreditation, please contact the Quality Assurance Department at qa@viu.edu.



VICE-PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Spring Semester at VIU promises to be a very active and energetic term. As you know, we have recently completed an accreditation visit and I was very proud of the comments made regarding your work with our students. February is Black History Month and a myriad of activities are being presented to bring understanding and perspective to the compelling events and extraordinary individuals

who have shaped the United States.

Lastly, we continue our faculty development offerings to you in two ways: the next Faculty Summit on March 10 when our topic will be strategies for greater student engagement, and the introduction of access to the Magna Commons Library with over 300 quality webinars available soon for all faculty.

We hope that you take advantage of as many of these events and training opportunities that enhance our knowledge and skills.



Congratulations to Dr. Mustafa Sarsilmaz who was recently selected to the editorial board of *The Journal of Immunology!*

DR. KLINEFELTER, SB DEAN RETIRING

Dr. Grace Klinefelter, the Dean of the School of Business, has announced that she will retire, effective June 30, 2018. She has been with VIU since August 2016 and has brought outstanding leadership to the school since her time here.

We hope that Dr. Klinefelter will continue to be active in the VIU community, perhaps through some online courses, after her move to South Florida.

In the meantime, an action plan has been put in place to ensure a Dean is hired before her retirement date so that the

transition will be as smooth as possible. A Search Committee is being formed to coordinate the recruiting and hiring process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email academicaffairs@viu.edu.

Welcome new faculty members!

- Dr. Mark Thaller (SB)

Have ideas for the new newsletter? FAQ Section? Opinion/Letters to the Editor? Faculty Spotlight?

Email Brittany Demes at: bdemes@viu.edu