

Letter from Interim Provost Dr. Myrna Gantner
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Academic Affairs

Newsletter.....from the Office of the Provost



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**Letter from
Interim Provost
Dr. Myrna Gantner:**

Academic Affairs is off to an exciting start this year, with new faces in Sanford and Mandeville Halls, the beginning of a strategic plan for our division, and work underway toward becoming a LEAP campus.

Inaugural *Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium* Focuses on LEAP West Initiatives



Over two days in June, the Provost's Office hosted its inaugural *Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium* at the Newnan campus. Modeled after the successful summer faculty symposium at the University of Georgia, the UWG symposium brought together

We welcomed David Jenks as Interim Associate Vice President (AVP) for Academic Affairs and Cher Hendricks as AVP for Academic Initiatives and Faculty Development. Denise Overfield, in addition to serving as AVP for Research, has also been named Dean of our new Graduate School. This summer, the Deans and AVPs took part in a two-day retreat and drafted a strategic plan for Academic Affairs, and we are excited to share this on campus over the next few months and get your feedback. David Newton, LEAP Coordinator, will be reaching out to faculty and staff across all divisions to take part in our LEAP campus initiative, with the goal of having a draft LEAP plan by May 2017.

We look forward to working with you this year on these and other exciting projects.

Sincerely,
Dr. Myrna Gantner




faculty from across colleges and departments to address the topic, “*Liberal Education and America’s Promise: Possibilities for LEAP West.*” Dr. Micheal Crafton, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs observed that, “LEAP West has the potential to be a game changer for undergraduate education at West Georgia and to affirm to everyone that West Georgia is dedicated to the principles of academic rigor and quality, not just for the sake of rigor or quality, but to prepare our students for a life after graduation whether it’s admission to a graduate or professional program or to enter the workforce.”


While at the symposium, faculty participated in one of four working groups associated with LEAP guiding principles: experiential learning and high impact practices, first year experiences, capstone experiences and signature work, and common intellectual experiences. The symposium was facilitated by Dr. Lee Knefelkamp, Senior Fellow with AAC&U, and featured a presentation by members of the LEAP Organizational Team from Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville. At the conclusion of the symposium, each faculty work group presented formal recommendations to the Provost which will be used in the development of UWG’s LEAP West Action Plan over the coming academic year.

Faculty expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work across disciplines to enhance the quality of educational experiences for West Georgia students. Melanie Hildebrandt from the Economics Department stated, “The symposium confirmed for me the need for cross-campus collaboration with an intentional focus on liberal arts education and also specifically an emphasis on engaging students in their learning process.”

For more information about LEAP, visit <https://www.aacu.org/leap>.

For more information on how to get involved, contact us here:

 Dr. David Newton - Faculty Coordinator for LEAP West Initiatives

 Dr. Cher Hendricks, Associate Vice President for Academic Initiatives and Faculty Development

The Graduate School Returns

The Graduate School has been reestablished as of July 1, 2016 under the direction of Dr. Denise Overfield. Dr. Overfield, Associate Vice President for Research, is now also Dean of the Graduate

School. Dr. Toby Ziglar will serve as Assistant Dean, a position that will benefit from his experience as Director of the Office of Graduate and International Admissions. Other staff members include Alicia Freed (Coordinator of Graduate School Communications), Alice Wesley (Office Assistant), and Tonya Richie (OGIA Records Coordinator). On August 15th, the team will also welcome Chiffon Baulding as a new Records Coordinator.

The Graduate School Advisory Committee, the Graduate Programs Committee of the Faculty Senate, and the staff of the Graduate School are focused on developing a graduate school that is student-focused and service-oriented. They seek to identify obstacles and opportunities for policy and procedural improvements with the goal of ensuring the best graduate school experience possible for students.

To prepare for the changes that are taking shape within the program, Mandeville Hall is undergoing renovations to create a central space for the Graduate School staff. International Education Abroad and International Student Admissions and Programs will also be housed on the first floor of Mandeville. The project is currently on track for completion by January 1, 2017.



Quality Enhancement Plan Update

UWG is now at the beginning of its second year of the full rollout of our [Quality Enhancement Plan \(QEP\)](#).

If you're teaching a QEP course this semester, make sure you know about these important updates:

- Dr. Laura Beasley has joined the QEP team as the new Faculty Fellow. She will be available for training and support for all QEP-related faculty.
- The QEP Lunch and Learn series will continue with new sessions in the fall and spring semesters.
- We are now using a revised score reporting template. Please delete any previous versions, and use only the new version. Check your recent email from QEP Director Nadya Williams for that template. If you would like help with any part of the QEP, contact the Center for Teaching and Learning.



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VPAA Website



Questions? Email Us Here.

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