



Academic Affairs Newsletter

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Academic Affairs Newsletter.

The Academic Affairs Newsletter is published semi-annually by the Office of Academic Affairs to inform faculty and staff of programs and initiatives provided under the umbrella of the Office of Academic Affairs benefitting the Lynn community.

Summary

Academic Affairs looks forward to advancing student learning, building community and creating shared humanity in a robust academic environment promoting innovation across several areas. Of particular note is the tremendous effort and dedication of the entire faculty in recent months. The Office of Academic Affairs redesigned and recast the Fall semester into four, four-week terms, to promote the safety of the Lynn community. Transitioning from the standard 16-week schedule to a novel 4x4 block schedule, the faculty have proven to be extraordinarily nimble and student-centered during the pandemic.

To ease the faculty's transition, the Teaching Excellence Committee was formed to implement creative and sustainable strategies on best practices for academic success. Several faculty organized virtual "teaching excellence" workshops open to all university faculty. These workshops allow for presentation of tools and best practices in virtual/synchronous delivery of courses. Anecdotally, students feel more engaged in the classroom and absenteeism is at an all-time low at ten percent (typically at 18 percent). This percentage is a critical indicator of persistence, and it is clear that students are present and engaged.



Changes to the Curriculum

Following the strategic plan, the Dialogues of Learning curriculum was modernized to touch all curriculum facets with specific attention to integrating high-level persuasion, collaboration and creativity. The historical and theoretical content has been retained and refined. The new content also incorporates contemporary narratives that allow students to analyze and critically apply theories to current events. The curriculum's assessment methods have also been revised to produce high-quality, usable data in line with the new revisions. Several taskforce committees were formed at the start of Fall 2019 to analyze the strengths of the Dialogues and potential opportunities for improvement and expansion. In response, thematic committees were formed and charged with developing ideas and, where appropriate, redesigning courses. Each thematic foundation created revised goals and student learning outcomes and adapted learning activities to match expanded objectives. The Core Steering Committee revised all skills-based assignment guidelines for each thematic foundation.

In understanding the significance of providing first-year students with a supportive and comprehensive introduction to Lynn University and college life in general, the first-year seminar course, Lynn 101,

received a significant overhaul to incorporate Stanford University's Life Design into the curriculum.

With a strong focus on student retention during the pandemic, the Office of Academic Affairs offered several courses online in a synchronous format during Summer 2020. For the first time, Lynn offered a second summer session and students were given an opportunity to participate in a late summer term. These courses were primarily geared towards incoming freshman, however upperclassmen also took advantage of this new term.

#BLM and Social Justice

The faculty have additionally engaged in tough conversations that explore the realities of social inequality and racial injustice. In order to facilitate a dialogue on the issue of racial injustice, Project Civitas organized numerous initiatives across campus and several virtual town hall sessions on race, dialogue and community, and #blacklivesmatter. Ongoing events continue. To encourage students to get involved in the upcoming election, and to stress the importance of the voting process, a "Rock the Vote" campaign was launched. In the College of Arts and Sciences in particular, faculty feel a strong responsibility to educate students on matters of racial inequality and systemic/institutionalized racism around the world, particularly in the U.S. Project Civitas organized many initiatives including a film series, a "conversation" series, an oral history project (to record faculty, staff, and student stories), several virtual town hall sessions on #blacklivesmatter and five new scholarships for Lynn students.

Reaccreditation

Every ten years, Lynn must be reaccredited by its accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.



This process is crucial to ensure educational quality and improve institutional effectiveness. Over the summer, tremendous energy was focused on finalizing Lynn's ten-year reaccreditation report, which has been submitted and is awaiting the next steps.

Teaching Awards

The Office of Academic Affairs initiated three annual awards for full-time Lynn faculty members, recognizing faculty for excellence in teaching, scholarship and creativity, and service. The 2019-2020 recipients are: Dr. Antonella Regueiro for Service to Lynn University and the Outside Community, Professor Gary Carlin for Teaching and Dedication to Students and Dr. Alanna Lecher for Scholarship and Creative Activities.

Mental Health Counseling During the Pandemic

Graduate students in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) program have offered immediate support to the Lynn community during the pandemic. As Lynn students, faculty, staff and alumni faced communal and individual stressors brought on by the pandemic and racism, CMHC students were available to provide free psychoeducation services designed to identify and explore topics of interest or concern, and to offer evidence-based strategies for resilience. Further, they were able to create marketing and promotional

samples based on the summer classes' initial research and analysis.

Studying Psychological Trauma Therapy Around the World

As part of the university's biannual Dr. Kathleen Cheek-Milby Endowed Faculty Fellowship Award, Dr. Jonathan Sperry recently completed an evaluation of how psychological trauma therapy is applied around the world. In his first three months of travel, Dr. Sperry conducted lectures in Canada, Morocco, Mexico, South Africa and Uruguay. By late February, his remaining destinations were cancelled due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. However, Dr. Sperry continued his research and hosted virtual interviews and workshops in the remaining countries shut down by the pandemic. He conducted a three-week lecture series for the Chinese Adlerian Society and a two-day series for Trakia University in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria.

MBA Students Assist Boynton Beach Development

Lynn University's marketing MBA students gained hands-on experience in today's virtual work environment. Through a partnership with Discover the Palm Beaches, Dr. Matteo Peroni, associate professor of marketing, asked students to assist



with development plans to help the City of Boynton Beach integrate tourism into its strategic and economic development plans. Students conducted market research and analysis for economic opportunities regarding the City of Boynton Beach, in contrast to other successfully renovated cities in southeast Florida. School District of Palm Beach County's elementary school administrators and teachers, asked students to assist with development plans to help the City of Boynton Beach integrate tourism into its strategic and economic development plans. Students conducted market research and analysis for economic opportunities in Boynton Beach compared to other successfully redeveloped cities in South Florida. This fall, another group of graduate students created marketing and promotional samples based on the initial research.

College of Business Speakers and Events

The College of Business has continued its two-speaker series for the Fall 2020 term. A full lineup of speakers has addressed students virtually throughout the semester, with noteworthy speakers including Justin Karp, Director of Social Media for NBC Sports; Justin Thoman, Head of Sports Marketing for PepsiCo North America; Laura Stier, expatriate and former Chief Financial Officer for Motorola, Southeast Asia; and Dr. Craig Lustman, a social impact entrepreneur.

The College of Business also hosted the BYOB (Be Your Own Boss) Entrepreneurship Workshop on November 6, 2020, a one-day event providing students with access to other successful entrepreneurs who look like them (young and diverse with different business philosophies) from whom they can learn and model.



Aeronautics Operations

Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and industry standards, the College of Aeronautics Flight Academy began operations in early June. The academy implemented strict sanitizing and health safety protocols while limiting airport facility occupants to ten people at a time. COA also scheduled half-hour breaks between flights, allowing time for deep sanitizing of aircrafts. This method allowed operations to run smoothly and kept everyone safe without any COVID-19 cases.

Students were eager to return to flying and the COA welcomed 70 freshmen this fall. Due to this large enrollment, an additional primary trainer plane was acquired. Upon completion of its avionics upgrades to match the rest of the fleet, the new addition was flying by the end of September 2020.

College of Education Field Experience

The College of Education is participating in an innovative method for field experience observation hours for education students this fall. The pandemic affected the ability to assign students to local schools and staff as part of each course requirement. The education degree courses require field experience and various options were explored to meet this requirement.

One of the most innovative strategies involves a partnership with local Palm Beach County Elementary Schools' administrators and teachers. This alliance allows school staff to provide virtual learning experiences for COE students.

College of Communication and Design Initiatives

The summer and fall months were eventful in the College of Communication and Design with several initiatives ensuring student success. From leading forums on best practices to webinars like "Spring Boarding Your Career," CC&D faculty maintained student motivation. Considerable time was spent modifying current pedagogical approaches to increase racial awareness on campus and within courses.

With help from the Career and Alumni Connections Office, CC&D finalized its partnership with BrandStar, a fully and vertically integrated production and marketing agency. Through this partnership, Lynn students participated in several internship opportunities over the summer.

Institute for Achievement and Learning

The IAL provides academic support for students with learning differences. Coaching and tutoring services have continued without interruption during these unprecedented times. Students may choose in-person or virtual sessions with their tutor or coach. For the fall semester, IAL coaches created a new coaching model for each of the four-week sessions to coincide with the change to block schedules. Goals, resiliency and self-awareness are topics that will be included in the coaching sessions.

All directors, coaches and staff attended eight hours of virtual training on understanding an autism profile, supporting college students on the

spectrum, executive function and autism and co-occurring mental health needs. Coaches and staff also attended virtual trainings on ADHD and sleep, Zoom, Workday, and a virtual conference on coaching in higher education.

Career and Alumni Connections

Student engagement in AY 2019-2020 continued to improve. Below is the breakdown:

- Mock interviews: 490
- Resume appointments: 466 resume/668 career coaching
- Job/internship appointments: 649
- Check-ins: 1,865
- Student engagement: 1,254 unique students for 38% of the student body (National Association of Colleges and Employers average is 24.3%)
- Alumni engagement increase from FY19 to FY20: 182%

During summer and fall, the Career and Alumni Connections Office continued placing significant emphasis on a series of webinars to build strong foundations with students and alumni during COVID-19. The webinars varied from "Setting You up for Virtual Success" to "Virtual Excellence: The Do's and Don'ts of Being on Camera."

Academic Advising

The Academic Advising Center worked diligently during summer and fall, contacting more than 3,000 returning and new undergraduate students to modify and adjust their original fall classes to the new block schedule. More than 2,890 appointments were confirmed since June 22, when returning students were notified about the block schedule for Fall 2020.

Lynn Conservatory of Music

The Lynn Conservatory of Music is proud to announce it was listed among the top schools in the world to study music by Musical America Worldwide's 2020-2021 Guide to Music Schools. This academic year, the Conservatory adjusted to the challenges associated with COVID-19. While many lessons and classes are now conducted virtually, the department has been able to have some performance classes on campus with musicians socially distanced and wearing masks. During J-Term, the annual New Music Festival will be conducted entirely online, and will consist of recording projects and collaborations with young composers and their new works. The Conservatory received a grant from the State of Florida that has helped cover the costs of the festival, as well as marketing and equipment repairs. The Conservatory also plans to have livestreamed performances in the spring so that its students can still perform even if the audience is virtual.

The Conservatory is also grateful for the incredible donation of a Special Edition Steinway B Gold

Piano from Dame Isabelle Paul. This one-of-a-kind instrument is not only an incredible piano, but a work of art. The piano was designed and built by Joseph Sidorowicz to honor the 80th birthday of pop legend Roger Williams. Famously known for his rendition of "Autumn Leaves," the piano is decorated with hand-painted autumn foliage, signature notes on the music desk, lyrics from the song, and a metallic gold finish. This art deco-inspired instrument is a beautiful addition to the Conservatory.



International Programs and Services

This fall, the Center for Learning Abroad (CLA) and International Student Services (ISS) merged into a single office, International Programs and Services (IPS). Both offices moved into a shared space on the second floor of the Lynn University Center. Currently, efforts are underway to combine budgets and update web resources to reflect these changes. These changes will help the IPS be more efficient with both human and physical resources while still providing students full support in their studies here or abroad.

Summer and fall were unusually busy. IPS staff significantly increased outreach and guidance provided for new international students. This has been critical as government regulations and expectations have changed several times, making travel restrictions and best practices more complicated than ever before. With every change, immigration documents are updated and additional letters provided to each student to help the visa application and travel process go as smoothly as possible.

Registrar

Summer and fall was unusually busy for the Office of the Registrar due to the pandemic. The office created new, shortened terms and moved students around according to the new four-week sessions (1R, 1U, 1V, 1W). Additionally, the 2020 spring and summer grading structure changed, providing students the option of pass/no pass or a standard grade. Many students took advantage of the grading modification because of academic dismissals and probationary issues.

Library Reopening

The Lynn Library reopened August 18 in a very changed environment, physically and digitally. There are now plexiglass barriers, copious Covid signage, socially distanced seating and workstations, and many hand sanitizer stations. Creative Services, part of the library since January 2020, produced most of the campus signage at a much reduced wholesale rate. Students using the library have been respectful of the rules and have been flexible, patient and responsive. Librarians are conducting most consultations with students via chat, email and Zoom, though they still take walk-ins.

Despite the pandemic, shortened hours and fewer students on campus, librarians have so far received about the same number of reference questions in 2020 as in 2019: about 5,200 individual research questions each year to this point.

“Be a Global Citizen” Guides From the Library

The library has built several guides designed to help the Lynn community become global citizens:

- #BlackLivesMatter & Social Justice Resources
- #HispanicHeritageMonth #Latino #Latinx Social Justice Resources
- #VotingRights & #Election2020 Social Justice Resources
- #LGBTQI Social Justice Resources: coming in October in time for LGBT History Month
- Be a Global Citizen: #NativeAmerican #IndigenousPeople Social Justice Resources

Academic Affairs Newsletter Contributors
Compiler Amy Filiatreau
Editor Jordan Chussler
Design Sabine Dantus/Robert Leigh

