College of Arts and Sciences

Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation (SMSC). UMW is finalizing an agreement with the Smithsonian Institution-George Mason University School of Conservation in Front Royal, VA. The Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation was established by the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and George Mason University to support research on threats to the biodiversity of our environment and to protect endangered species. The Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation’s mission is to “provide proactive, innovative approaches to conservation biology education and training.” It offers a range of hands-on, interdisciplinary programs in conservation for undergraduates, graduate students, professionals, and high school students. Smithsonian scientists, Mason faculty, and experts from conservation organizations around the world provide direct connections to the most current teaching and research work in the field.

The program is a “study-away” program where students from UMW will spend a semester taking intensive hands-on undergraduate course work and research at SMSC that will transfer back to UMw. Students who participate in this program also have opportunities to work on research projects with faculty and scientists from around the country and the world; students will have opportunities to continue further research and travel with faculty to study and research abroad. This opportunity will be very attractive to UMw students studying in the College of Arts and Sciences’ new Conservation Biology major, the traditional Biology major, and in areas of Environmental Science. Per the agreement, SMSC will reserve at least six seats each semester for UMw students.

Summer Enrichment Program. In summer 2020, UMw will be bringing back our Summer Enrichment Program. This program will be a one-week residential camp for high school students, running from July 12 – 18, 2020, giving students the opportunity to take exciting courses, engage with the local community, develop themselves socially, and experience life at UMw. The program will be led by faculty co-directors Michael Stebar (BIOL) and Elizabeth Johnson-Young (ENLC). A high quality summer program such as this can be a major tool for recruitment and community engagement.

College of Business

This fall, the College of Business, in conjunction with the Center for Career and Professional Development, is launching The EDGE, a career readiness/professional development certificate
program. This year, The EDGE will be targeted to incoming freshmen but upper-class students may also participate. The EDGE has a sequenced “curriculum” and set of activities appropriate to each level or stage of the student’s academic and professional development and the goal is for this program to expand and reach all students starting in their first semester at UMW and continuing through their graduation.

The College of Business is hosting over 400 DECA high school students and teachers from Fredericksburg and Northern Virginia on campus Tuesday, October 15. DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) is a long-standing national organization that supports high school students to become emerging leaders and entrepreneurs. DECA’s programs prepare these students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. These local DECA Students will participate in workshops and do a service project while on the UMW campus that day.

**College of Education**

**Undergraduate Programs in Education.** Faculty and staff in the College of Education have developed a new undergraduate degree program in elementary education, and new undergraduate programs in Pk-12, secondary education, and special education leading to licensure. Proposals will undergo review by UMW faculty governance during the fall semester, and be submitted for state review later in the fall. The new degree program in elementary education will come to the BOV for approval in November. The plan is to implement all the new undergraduate programs in fall of 2020.

**Partnerships and Community Engagement.** As a part of the Pipeline to Promise initiative, the College of Education is collaborating with the Teachers for Tomorrow program at Chancellor High School, Spotsylvania County Schools. Teachers for Tomorrow is a state program designed to attract teacher candidates from high school in to the field of education through a one to two year course of study, including hands-on teaching experiences. COE is now piloting this program with Spotsylvania and 17 Teachers for Tomorrow students will be visiting UMW on September 18. Plans for a Teachers for Tomorrow Summer Enrichment course are also underway. COE is developing similar collaborations with existing Teachers for Tomorrow programs in Stafford County Schools, and is assisting the Fredericksburg City Schools in Teachers for Tomorrow program development, aiming for fall 2020 implementation.

**VDOE Grant.** The 21st Century Community Learning Center grant proposal submitted to the Virginia Department of Education in collaboration with Stafford Public Schools was funded ($150,000 x 3 years). While UMW will not be managing the funds, our students will be involved with the after school tutoring and enrichment work at Drew Middle School. This will provide an important service for students and families of Drew Middle School, and create good learning experiences for UMW students preparing to be teachers.

**STREAM Conference.** The College of Education will be hosting our new STREAM Conference on Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 9 to 1pm. STREAM education takes STEM
and expands it to include reading and the arts, as these are also critically important ways to teach 21st century skills to our students. The conference is being developed in collaboration with Instructional Technology leadership in our regional school systems. The conference will provide important IT professional development for regional educators and for COE students.

**CAEP Accreditation.** March 22-24, 2020, the College of Education will be hosting the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) site team for its national accreditation onsite visit. The COE CAEP self-study report was submitted June 21, 2019 and the College faculty and staff will be preparing for the spring site visit throughout the fall semester.

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**SACSCOC**

**UMW Fifth-Year Interim Report.** Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) President Belle Wheelan notified UMW that SACSCOC has completed its review of UMW’s Fifth-Year Interim Report, which was submitted on March 1, 2019. Our report was well received. The reviewing committee made these comments about the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) “Impact Report,” submitted as a part of the Fifth-Year Interim Report:

> The institution has adequately described the initial goals and intended outcomes of its QEP, has discussed the limited changes made in the QEP, discussed the impact on student learning and/or the environment supporting student learning, and has described what the institution has learned as a result of the QEP experience.

Because the QEP report was judged acceptable, it requires no further input. The full QEP Impact Report is posted on the Provost’s web site.

The Fifth-Year Interim Report addressed 24 separate accreditation standards. No additional information was requested on a wide range of accreditation standards reviewed in the Fifth-Year Interim Report including: administration and organization; full-time faculty; student achievement; student support services; educational program structure and content; and educational policies, practices, and procedures. SACSCOC did ask that we submit a follow-up referral report on two of the 24 accreditation standards that were evaluated:

* **Standard 13.6 (Federal and State responsibilities)** – UMW’s 2017 audit report noted a deficiency in reporting student enrollment status to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). UMW did address this issue and we reported the correction as a part of the Fifth-Year Interim Report. We need to provide evidence from the Auditor of Public Accounts in the Commonwealth of Virginia that they accepted this correction and deemed that it satisfied the audit concern. We have also been asked to provide a copy of the 2018 audit, which was not available at the time we had to submit the Fifth-Year Interim Report.

* **Standard 13.7 (Physical resources)** – Because we reported the unexpected closures of Willard, Arrington, and Alvey Halls due to a variety of maintenance conditions, we have been asked to provide evidence that we have developed a deferred maintenance program and
that we will be able to provide appropriate facilities in the future. By the time the referral report is due, on April 1, 2020, we will be able to show that: (1) Willard and Arrington Halls have reopened; (2) Virginia Hall is under renovation; (3) additional facilities on campus have received important maintenance upgrades (such as the new roofs at Bushnell Hall and two wings of the UMW Apartments); and (4) Seacobeck Hall is undergoing a significant “adaptive reuse” renovation.

UMW’s next reaffirmation year is 2023; the full report and all materials must be submitted September 2022.

Institutional Analysis and Effectiveness

**Director of Business Intelligence and Data Analytics.** The Office of Institutional Analysis and Effectiveness has expanded its staff with Larry Anderson, who began work on August 26. Mr. Anderson is in a new position, Director of Business Intelligence and Data Analytics, and comes to us from the private sector, where he has worked in that capacity for a variety of industries. The Director of Business Intelligence and Data Analytics will be substantively involved in the process of creating a centralized data warehouse and in supporting the more enhanced data visualization and reporting that will follow once the data warehouse is operational.

**EAB.** Our work with EAB continues and we are now developing a cloud-based framework to unite all the different university data environments. The Educational Data Hub (EDH) will ultimately address systems integration, data management, and data accessibility with a single solution. UMW held a two-day kick-off meeting in mid-August, where the EAB team met with a wide range of administrative units, including cabinet members, data stewards, and others who handle the various data systems on campus. The next step involves prioritizing which systems form the core of the hub and then to begin consolidating the data of those systems and creating a comprehensive data dictionary, as well as streamlining policies and processes related to data sharing and data governance.

**General Education Curriculum**

Last spring, the UMW faculty approved a new General Education Curriculum. Over the summer, teams of faculty have been meeting to develop the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for the new General Education program. The drafts of the SLOs are now completed and the General Education Committee has started to share the comprehensive list of SLOs with all faculty. The General Education committee set up two open forums for all faculty to discuss the SLOs Wednesday, August 28 and August 29. Faculty can also submit comments on line. The final recommendations of the General Education Committee for the learning outcomes will be posted for review on September 6, for consideration at the special meeting of the University Faculty Council on September 11.

Once the learning outcomes are finalized and approved, faculty will start to submit courses for approval to meet the new requirements. Faculty working groups will make recommendations
about courses for General Education designation to the General Education Committee, which will ultimately present a full slate of courses for the new curriculum to the UFC by the end of the fall semester. Though this may appear to be an accelerated process for course approvals, there has been significantly more time for course development, proposal, and review than there was in 2007, the last time the University populated the General Education curriculum with courses.

The University Faculty Council has built its fall calendar to provide time for faculty discussions, curriculum approvals, and UFC approvals.

**Dahlgren Center for Education and Research**

The Dahlgren campus looks to have its busiest year ever, reflecting the continued growth of both the Navy base and the surrounding community. Twenty-one fall semester academic courses are now scheduled for the Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program (http://cgep.virginia.gov/). Upcoming events include a Dahlgren Heritage Forum discussing the families that were displaced when the Navy annexed the land for the base 100 years ago, and National Security Lectures addressing Iran’s Maritime Strategy and China’s Place in Global Military Competition. The Dahlgren campus was also pleased recently to host the Colonial Beach School board for their annual retreat, and a King George Board of Supervisors Town Hall meeting.

**Center for Career and Professional Development**

**Executive Director of the Center for Career and Professional Development.** Following a national search, Dr. Paul Binkley began his duties on June 25 as the inaugural Executive Director of the Center for Career and Professional Development. Paul has more than 20 years’ experience in the fields of career services, student affairs, international development, and higher education management. Prior to joining us, he was Director of the Student Career Development Team in the Homewood Career Center at Johns Hopkins University (JHU), where he managed a staff of career coaches who provided group, one-on-one, and class-based services to undergraduate and graduate students, and young JHU alumni. Prior to his work at Johns Hopkins, he was in Monrovia, Liberia, for over three years, first as an education officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and then as the Resident Director for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI). Paul spent 13 years working in career development at The George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, DC, with the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration and the Elliott School of International Affairs. Dr. Binkley is well-regarded for his significant knowledge and expertise in the area of federal careers and has teamed with Katherine Troutman, a noted federal careers expert, to author the book *Students’ Federal Career Guide — How Students, Student Vets, and Recent Grads Land a Federal Job*, which is now in its third edition.

Paul holds a doctorate in higher education administration from The George Washington University, a master’s degree in international affairs from the University of Kentucky, and a
certificate in Human Performance Improvement. He is also a certified Myers-Briggs Type Indicator facilitator and a Board Certified Coach.

Completion of this search allows us to implement a long-standing strategic priority for the University, to make career and professional development a central aspect of the student experience. This experience now includes the new "After Mary Washington" General Education requirement adopted by the faculty last spring. Dr. Binkley's top three priorities for this year are: supporting faculty integration of career readiness competencies with their teaching and advising activities; increasing engagement with alumni and employers; and developing a strategic plan to integrate professional development into all aspects of the student’s college experience.

**Honors Program**

A number of new developments in the Honors Program have taken place over the summer. The Honors Program created and launched an advisory board, moved from DuPont Hall, welcomed first-year students to campus early through its signature pre-arrival program, and transformed its website. A new home for the Program was secured in Lee Hall and provides offices for each of the Program's faculty leaders, a workspace/computer lab, and a small lounge/collaboration space. This modest facility improvement is the first step in securing more permanent, adequate and appropriate space for this critical program.

The ten-member Honors Advisory Board includes UMW alumni, current parents, former faculty, and local leaders. The Board convened its first meeting in mid-August to begin work on supporting the program staff with a particular focus on fund raising, external relations, and strategic planning.

The Honors Program's annual "City as Text" exercise -- a well-respected international pedagogy for Honors Programs -- was the key piece of its August 18-20 orientation. Following a day of training by UMW faculty, over 80 participants visited many of Fredericksburg's neighborhoods to record and analyze the details -- large and small -- that make up the city's rich and vibrant community and its spaces. The exploration of assigned neighborhoods was followed by an evening of presentations as students shared their findings before an audience that included the mayor of Fredericksburg, the President, members of the new advisory board, key community partners, and faculty. Details about this and much more can be found at [the Honors Program’s new website](#).

**UMW Libraries**

**Course Reserves and Textbooks.** In the last 3 years, the UMW Libraries have expanded course reserve services to meet the changing needs of our students and faculty. Students were reporting that the high cost of textbooks often kept them from purchasing the required texts for their courses, and faculty told us that they did not feel their students were always reading course materials. In 2017, Library staff started working with faculty and with the University Bookstore to identify textbooks that were high cost and high demand. Staff also reached out to faculty to
determine if a single text was being used by multiple sections and began encouraging faculty to bring personal copies of textbooks and other readings to the Library for reserve. The charts below show the growth of this program over the last three academic years.
This fall, the Library is implementing a new service called Leganto that builds a bridge between Canvas, UMW’s learning management system, and Alma, the library’s catalog system. Leganto makes it easy for a faculty member to find library-owned materials, including electronic resources, and to gather these into a reading list for students. Leganto takes care of authentication for copyright and license compliance, and neither faculty nor students need to worry about broken links to internet resources. Leganto will help faculty take advantage of the rich collection of electronic books and journals available to them. Library staff are working with a small cohort of faculty to pilot Leganto during the fall semester, and will be rolling it out to the entire campus in the spring.

Additional recent activity of the Library:
- Continued our partnership with the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, including sponsoring the appearance of author Tim O’Brien as part of the annual Rappahannock Reads program.
- Worked with students in History 298 to digitize the papers of Michael Mello, noted alumnus and activist for social justice.
- Completed digitization projects with community organizations, including working with the Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge to digitize George Washington’s Masonic Bible.
- Provided library instruction and access for International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement classes in area high schools.
- Collected and transcribed oral histories of UMW alumni who served in World War II, a project funded by Alumni Relations.
- Launched Eagle Scholar, the university’s institutional repository, which now contains research completed by undergraduate and graduate students from 2009 to the present.
- Collaborated with Erin Devlin’s History 441 Oral History class and Alumni Relations to begin the UMW Alumni Oral History Project. The first collection of shared narratives are the stories of our LGBTQ Alumni Affinity Group.
- Contributing to the development of the digitally intensive portion of the revised General Education Program.
- Published a new digital collection of archived UMW Blogs and developed a collection development policy around the preservation of UMW projects on the WordPress multisite, Domain of One’s Own, and more.
- Continued our textbook initiative, through which we purchase high cost and high use textbooks to be placed on reserve.
- Working with ODR on making library resources accessible to students with disabilities, and added accessibility-related responsibilities to a library staff position.

Gari Melchers Home and Studio and James Monroe Museum


On August 25, UMW Professor of Art History Julia DeLancey presented an illustrated lecture, A Glorious and Beautiful Show: The Visual Culture of Renaissance Venice, in the GMHS Pavilion.

GMHS received $15,000 in sponsorship funds from Stafford County Tourism for two regional marketing initiatives: $10,000 to support an expanded Art After Hours concert series in 2020 and $5,000 to promote a group tour partnership between GMHS and Riverside Center for the Performing Arts.

The final Art After Hours concert for 2019 will take place on the lawn at GMHS on Thursday, September 26 beginning at 6:00 PM, with live music, wine and craft beer, food trucks, and tours of the art galleries and studio.
James Monroe Museum. Also in conjunction with the 1819 traveling exhibit, JMM assistant director and curator Jarod Kearney spoke on the personal and political relationship of Monroe and James Madison at the James Madison Museum of Orange County Heritage on August 11.

On August 16, the Museum introduced Petite Patriots, a new educational program for children ages 3-6. Each Petite Patriot receives free admission, a read-aloud story, short and interactive history demonstration, and a take-home craft. The program repeats on October 12 and in December.

The Museum is collaborating with the James Farmer Multicultural Center for a program during UMW’s annual Native American Cultural Celebration, and with James Monroe’s Highland in Charlottesville for a teacher institute in 2020 focused on the Monroe Doctrine.

Papers of James Monroe. The publication of Volume 7 of the Papers is scheduled for later this year; work proceeds on Volume 8, beginning the coverage of Monroe’s presidency. Papers editor Dan Preston spoke on Monroe’s 1819 tour of the southern states at the University of Kentucky in Frankfort on June 27. Preston’s talk complemented the traveling exhibit about the tour, cosponsored by the Monroe Papers and the James Monroe Museum that is currently showing at places around the country visited by Monroe in 1819.