



Dr. Bardo's May 2016 Newsletter

President's Message: Thank you for an outstanding academic year

Congratulations to all of you on the conclusion of an outstanding academic year.

We've dealt with difficult issues, from funding to diversity to state gun laws. But through it all, our faculty and staff have produced excellent work that continues to move Wichita State forward on our strategic mission, vision and values.

Innovation University

Progress continued at a fast pace this year on the Innovation University. The first partnership building, which will house Airbus Americas engineering offices, and the Experiential Engineering Building are under construction and expected to be complete in late 2016.

In October we announced details of the new GoCreate makerspace – a facility open to creators and inventors of every age and background – which will be located in the Experiential Engineering Building.

WSU expanded its reach this year in downtown Wichita with the creation of WSU Old Town, a 3-building complex of facilities and services located in the popular entertainment district.



Along with the opening of WSU Old Town came The Kauffman Foundation's 1 Million Cups, a weekly educational program based on the notion that entrepreneurs discover solutions and network over a million cups of coffee. The Wichita program is organized by four Wichita State staffers and is held at WSU Old Town.

We're also in the early stages of a potential merger between WSU and Wichita Area Technical College. This proposed merger envisions WATC becoming a part of WSU as a new School of Technology and Applied Sciences.

The Cohen Honors College completed its first full year. The college, which came out of the restructuring of our existing honors program, has increased enrollment from 413 students in 2014 to 502 in 2015. The college offered about 70 total honors courses and will graduate its first two Honors Baccalaureate students this month.

Jeremy Patterson was recently named director of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Creativity (IIC). The IIC administers and supervises interdisciplinary degrees, certificates and other credentials, including our new Master of Innovation Design, which will merge arts, science and technology curricula, creating opportunities for students and faculty to collaborate across WSU's colleges.

Award-winning year

Our faculty and staff have won numerous awards this year across a variety of disciplines. Some of them include:

- Linda Starkey, chairwoman of the School of Performing Arts, won the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Gold Medallion. It's the organization's most prestigious award and considered one of the great honors in theater education.
- Engineering faculty Shuang Gu, Anil Mahapatro and Pu Wang won the John A. See Innovation Award, worth \$60,000.
- Alex Shvartsburg, chemistry, and Esra Buyuktahtakin, engineering, each won a National Science Foundation Career Award, the NSF's most prestigious award granted to junior faculty.
- Michael Yeung, director of WSU South, was recognized by the Derby Health Collaborative with the Above and Beyond Award.
- Traniece Bruce of the Office of Financial Aid received the College Connection Volunteer of the Year Award for 2015 from Young Professionals of Wichita.
- Associate engineering professor Preethika Kumar was awarded the 2015 C. Holmes MacDonald Outstanding Teacher Award.
- Several faculty were honored just this month at our annual Faculty Awards, among them William Groutas, who is researching ways to combat viruses such as Zika, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Dengue and West Nile; and Geoffrey Deibel, who has been successfully expanding and building a quality saxophone studio program that has tripled to 12 majors under his direction, and will increase to 18 by this fall.

Coming together

The Office of Student Engagement continues to promote events that not only create a positive experience for students, but bring faculty and staff together as well.

One of those standout events is the Leadership Book Club, started in fall 2015 for students, faculty and staff to read and discuss a book on leadership. The program allowed everyone to share thoughts and ideas on an equal level.

Tim Wise served as the Black History Month keynote speaker in February. He gave two powerful presentations to more than 1,000 people, providing a conduit to talk about privilege, diversity and multiculturalism on our campus.

Looking ahead

For many of you who will be on campus this summer, construction is nearly done on a food truck plaza facing NIAR, complete with hookups for four vendors at a time. The plaza is on schedule to be up and running in June.

And as we get started again in the fall, we prepare for WSU's periodic evaluation by the regional accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission. The university will host a visit by the HLC from Oct. 10-11. WSU has been accredited by HLC since 1927. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet HLC's Criteria for Accreditation.

Thank you to everyone who continues to show their Shocker pride through their hard work!



A message from the assistant to the president for diversity

Diversity isn't an issue that begins in the fall and ends in the spring. It's a continuum of effort and change.

The President's Diversity Council has been on the move. The upcoming months will feature training sessions and committee meetings as we move toward our strategic goal to be a campus that reflects — in staff, faculty and students — the evolving diversity of society.

Making Wichita State a diverse campus is everyone's responsibility, and the diversity council challenges each and every one of you to support campus diversity.

How can you support diversity?

- Increase your level of understanding about other cultures by interacting with people outside of your own culture.
- Avoid imposing values on others that may conflict or be inconsistent with cultures other than your own.
- Attend campus and community diversity events. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion is a great source of information.
- Intervene in an appropriate manner when you observe others engaging in behaviors that show cultural insensitivity, bias or prejudice.



- Be proactive in listening, accepting and welcoming people and ideas that are different from your own.

Diversity supports the idea that every employee at WSU can make a unique and positive contribution to the campus because of, rather than in spite of, our differences.

Imagine a campus where diversity is recognized and respected; cultural differences are acknowledged and celebrated; contributions from all groups are encouraged; and people are empowered to achieve their full potential.

Go to wichita.edu/diversitycouncil for minutes, updates, training and news.

“Diversity is the one true thing we have in common. Celebrate it every day.”

– Anonymous

A Title IX campaign was recently implemented asking the WSU community to submit designs that express how they would like to see Title IX visualized on its website, flyers and other communication.

It is critical that everyone knows where to go for assistance to receive appropriate information and support on Title IX, and having a uniform visual will help that.

Voting for WSU's Title IX visual campaign will begin May 16.

And if you have any questions about the campaign or the responsible employee/campus security authority training, contact Tasha Stephens, WSU's Title IX coordinator, at titleix@wichita.edu or 316-978-5177.

Council congrats!

Deanna Carrithers, director of operations for the Hugo Wall School and President's Diversity Council liaison, was named to the Wichita Business Journal's 40 Under 40 class of 2016, along with Amy Delamaide, director of Community and Organizational Development for the Community Engagement Institute, and Emily Patterson, associate director of Facilities Planning.

And the Office of Diversity and Inclusion was honored as a winner of the Wichita Business Journal's 2016 Leaders in Diversity Awards. Congratulations to ODI's Alicia Sanchez, Danielle Johnson, Natalie Toney and Quang Nguyen.

— Marché Fleming-Randle, Ph.D.
assistant to the president for diversity
Wichita State University

A Shocker You Should Know: Dennis Livesay

In March, Dennis Livesay joined Wichita State as dean of the Graduate School and associate vice president of Research and Technology Transfer.

Hailing from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Dennis comes to us with an array of experience that makes him an instant asset. At UNC Charlotte, Dennis was a professor of bioinformatics and genomics and was the founding director of the Bioinformatics and Computational Biology doctoral program and the highly successful Charlotte Research Scholars summer program.

Though he trained as a chemist, Dennis' scholarly research is in the area of computational biophysics, making him knowledgeable in a host of disciplines, including biology, chemistry, physics, computer science and applied statistics/analytics.



“This has been extremely helpful as I've started my new role because I'm able to mostly understand the technical details and challenges that my new colleagues are facing in their research and graduate programs,” he says.

A driver of success and innovation

Dennis says he was drawn to Wichita State by the vision of a new and innovative university model and is looking ahead to the many opportunities for the Graduate School to be a driver of future success and innovation.

He wants to make our graduate programs more attractive to working professionals, including modularization of master's degrees where alternate credentials such as badges or certificates can be stacked together to satisfy degree requirements.

He also wants to position the Graduate School as the nexus for interdisciplinary activities, including development of educational programs and research collaborations.

And development of physical and virtual spaces that promote social, cultural and professional community among graduate students is another of Dennis' priorities.

“I want our graduate programs to be responsive to the needs of students and local employers,” he says.

Outside the office

For Dennis, academia runs in the family. His wife, Lauren Beastall, is finishing her time as director of contracts and grants within the William States Lee College of Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She and their 6-year-old son Maxwell will move to Wichita in June.

Lauren has worked in pre- and post-award research administration for more than 17 years, including positions at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Claremont Graduate University.

When not in the office, Dennis is an avid runner. Up until about a year ago he was active in races up to the marathon level. His current schedule, though, means Dennis now runs mostly for fitness and stress release.

Prior to his 10 years at UNC Charlotte, Dennis received his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and joined the chemistry faculty at California State Polytechnic University at Pomona immediately thereafter.

What I'm Reading: Six maps that will make you rethink the world

The world map we're all accustomed to could stand to have an upgrade, according to Parag Khanna, a global strategist who says the map is, essentially, obsolete.

The world is bending toward integration, Khanna argues in his book, "Connectiography: Mapping the Future of Global Civilization."

We should shift our focus, he said, from 200 separate nations to the dozens of mega-cities that house most of the world's people and economic growth. One of those is Dallas/Fort Worth, which anchors the I-35 corridor. Economic growth for Wichita and enrollment growth for WSU will be centered on that corridor.



The lines that we should put on our maps, he says, are the high-speed railways, broadband cables and shipping routes that connect us.

Go to <http://wapo.st/24ydAuS> to read more.

About this Newsletter

OUR MISSION

The mission of Wichita State University is to be an essential educational, cultural and economic driver for Kansas and the greater public good. The President's Message is a monthly newsletter that highlights the university's progress toward fulfilling that mission.

CONTACT US

We would like to hear from you. Please send your comments and suggestions for future newsletters to lou.heldman@wichita.edu

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE TEAM

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Mary Herrin, Vice President for Administration and Finance

John Tomblin, Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, Executive Director for NIAR

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