Provost’s Message

As spring quarter comes to a close, the university community is making active preparations for commencement 2013, scheduled for Saturday, June 15 at 9 AM and 2 PM at Roos Field. At the morning ceremony, degrees will be conferred upon baccalaureate and graduate candidates in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Social Work and the College of Business and Public Administration while students in the College of Science, Health and Engineering and the College of Arts, Letters and Education will receive their degrees in the afternoon.

I encourage faculty and staff to participate in these ceremonies where and when possible. Students often comment that their professors’ congratulations and staff members’ support during the ceremonies bring an extra layer of meaning to graduation, a milestone event. Please consider supporting this celebratory day with our students.

Faculty and Staff Awarded start something big Grants

For more than a decade, the EWU Foundation has supported the efforts of faculty and staff through its start something big grant program. Offered quarterly during the academic year, the program invites grant proposals geared toward facilitating the university mission, providing opportunities for innovation in instructional design and delivery, funding research, and underwriting campus/community events and projects. For spring quarter 2013, thirteen faculty and staff have received grant funding:

- **Molly Ayers**, Office of Community Engagement, $1000, launch of the Eagle Volunteers Outreach Program.
- **Dana Elder**, University Honors Program, $1200, speaker’s honorarium and two student scholarships through the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society.
- **Bayyinah Jeffries and Pui Yan Lam**, Africana Student Education and the CSBSSW Dean’s Office, $1000, travel expenses, speaker fees, and workshop materials for a two-day symposium on July 8 and 9, 2013.
- **Jonathan Johnson**, Creative Writing Program, $1500, funding for two actors to work on script revisions of *What Poets Call Love*.
- **Laurie Morley**, PEHR, $1500, “Growing Classroom/Garden” workshop and certificate training program.
- **Molly Orheim**, Academic Success Center, $1000, student tickets to the INB Performing Arts “Best of Broadway” series for the Arts and Culture Program.
- **Jason Pape**, Military Science, $1000, funding for the Cadet basic training program.
- **Steve Simmons and Kosuke Imamura**, Computer Science, $1350, graduate research assistant or hardware systems for the AVLEMI project.
- **Robin O’Quinn**, Biology, $480, gardening tools for the new “Science for Gardeners” summer course.
- **Michael Waldrop**, Music, $1420, travel expenses for a guest artist at the Washington State Day of Percussion.

Congratulations to these spring 2013 grant recipients! For more information on the start something big grant program, application forms, and deadlines, go to [http://sites.ewu.edu/foundation/resources/start-something-big-grant/](http://sites.ewu.edu/foundation/resources/start-something-big-grant/) on the EWU website.
The 16th Annual EWU Student Research and Creative Works Symposium has just concluded, with a record number of 500 students participating. Initial plans are already underway to send EWU students to next year’s National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). At NCUR 2013, thirty-two EWU undergrads traveled to La Crosse, Wisconsin, to present their research as compared with a total of eight student presenters from all other Washington State public institutions combined.

The SSRC has made significant progress on many issues related to student success and retention. Under the leadership of Sam Ligon, Julia Smith, and Colin Ormsby, the committee has identified critical issues that will affect undergraduate success and has established committees for additional study and recommendations. SSRC has established a General Education Review and Reform Committee (GERR), co-chaired by Kevin Decker and Mindy Breen, which will be engaged in its work throughout 2013-14. On a related note, SSRC has established the First-Year Experience Committee (FYEC) to advise the SSRC on matters related to first-year experience programs, including philosophy, content, goals, curriculum, and pedagogy. The first-year experience will be designed to be part of a revised general education program. Finally, SSRC has two additional groups working on faculty development, as leading to student success, and faculty mentoring. All told, the work of the SSRC has been exciting and promises to reshape EWU for continued success. A special thank you to the members of SSRC: Barbara Alvin, Terrie Ashby-Scott, David Dean, Kevin Decker, Anthony Flinn, Stacey Foster, Sam Ligon, Colin Ormsby, Justin Otto, Gary Pratt, Wendy Repovich, Majid Sharifi, Julia Smith, Jill Wagner, Justin Young, Robert Zinke, and two students: Jose Mendez and Gregg Connor.

This academic year, 41 searches for tenure-track faculty have been launched. To date, two associate professors and 18 assistant professors have been hired, and ten additional searches are close to being filled. Faculty searches will continue throughout the early summer.

The Office of the Provost is very pleased to announce that Ms. Suzanne Milton, EWU Librarian IV, has accepted the position of Dean of Libraries at Eastern. Ms. Milton came to EWU in 1992 and has twenty-one years of professional academic experience.

At EWU, Ms. Milton’s most recent assignment has been as Head of Reference Services and Chair of the Library Faculty. Prior roles at Eastern include Coordinator of Extended Campus Programs, Access Services Librarian (Interlibrary Loan and Circulation Services), and Acting Head of Information Services. In addition, she served for fifteen years as the book review editor of the international, refereed library journal LIBRES. Before coming to Eastern, Ms. Milton worked with the Inland Northwest Council of Libraries in Spokane and spent five years in the corporate sector as a librarian at St. Paul Medical Center in Dallas, National Realty Advisors, and the Dallas Museum of Art. Ms. Milton holds a Master of Library Science from the University of North Texas and a Bachelor of Arts in German from California State University, Long Beach.

Thanks go to the search and screen committee for their service, as well as to Ted Otto, who has led the unit in an admirable fashion during his tenure as Interim Dean. Suzanne and Ted will be working together to coordinate the upcoming transition, and as always, the library faculty and staff will continue their tradition of excellence in all aspects of their work.
In Closing ...

The final lines of Robert Frost’s “The Road Not Taken” are these: “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, / I took the one less traveled by, / And that has made all the difference” (18 – 20). Would there have been a difference? I believe that making a difference is possible and that, together, we are making a positive difference in the lives of our students.

In my role as provost, I have opportunities to meet alums from earlier periods, and one thing rings true: EWU has a long tradition of providing excellent academic programs and services for its students. Every week I see examples of faculty and staff members’ going the extra mile for Eastern’s students, and I can tell you that they come to appreciate your efforts.

I want to thank each of you for your tireless work in putting our students first. The university holds a special place in society, and the work done here is among the highest callings that one could have. This is noble work, and you have made a difference along the road you have chosen to travel. Thank you.

Best wishes,

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