

In The Know

November 2023 Issue

Rules for In The Know

The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate faculty-related information. It is meant to augment, not replace, existing channels such as Campus Pulse, HR Communication or The Simpsonian.

Submission deadlines: Please submit any items to chesea.grenier@simpson.edu by the last day of each month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Faculty Meeting Wednesday, November 8 from 12:45- 2 p.m. in Hubbell Hall.

Thanksgiving Break Wednesday, November 22- Friday, November 24

Dept Chair/Div Head Meeting Wednesday, November 29 from 1- 2 p.m. in Hubbell Hall.

See links below for full list of events on campus this month!

[Simpson College Events Schedule](#)

[Athletics Schedule](#)

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Marilyn Vazquez was recently selected to be a mentor in the SIAM-Simons Undergraduate Research Program. She is one of five mentors selected from around the country for summer 2024. This means that two students from around the country will come to Simpson this summer to work with Marilyn and current Simpson students on mathematical research. Click [HERE](#) for more info about this program.

Dr. Kellie Motter and Dr. Jon Arnold will co-present a session at the Iowa Music Educators Association conference entitled "Same Team- Success in the Choir and the Voice Studio." The presentation builds on Dr. Mother's dissertation and collaboration between the two on behalf of Simpson students in choir and voice lessons. The session will occur Friday, November 17th at 2:30 on the campus of Iowa State University.

In early October, Maeve Callan, Professor of Religion, gave a lecture at Eastern Tennessee State University entitled "Colonization, Inquisition, Crusade: A Medieval Irish Religious Tale," and in late October she presented "'Unparalleled Savagery': The Medieval Dehumanization of the English, Irish, and Welsh to Justify Their Conquest" at the American Conference of Irish Studies held at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

A colorful graphic with the word "Congratulations" in a playful, multi-colored font. The letters are in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) and are surrounded by small, colorful confetti or starburst shapes.

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC RESOURCES (CARs)

Check out the latest "The Drive" CARs newsletter [HERE!](#)



RESOURCES AT DUNN LIBRARY

BOOK ORDERS DUE BEFORE SPRING BREAK 2024

Choice Reviews Online: A Great Tool for Resource Discovery

Choice Reviews is an interdisciplinary way to review academic books/websites and create lists for departmental book orders to send to Terry Trunnell. *Choice Reviews* works best with the Chrome browser; you must create an account on campus to make lists. To save a list of items, download the Excel file, save it, and attach it to an email. Helpful **video tutorials** are available if you need assistance. You can also send the information on free reviewed webpages to Liz to be added to the library's [Research Guides](#).

FALL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY SYMPOSIUM

The Fall Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium will be held on November 1st and November 15th in the Carver Science Building between 12:45 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

For more information please reach out to undergradresearch@simpson.edu or use the QR code

Additionally, we would like to make a call for proposals for the undergraduate research and creativity grants as well as student conference travel grants (up to \$750.00 per student).

For more information on the application details, please use the link: <https://simpson.edu/internal/undergraduate-research>.



SCHEDULE OF PROGRAM REVIEWS—SPRING 2024

- Δ Multimedia Communication (including Speech & Debate, and Mock Trial)
- Δ Chemistry/Physics
- Δ Social Justice Studies
- Δ Sociology and Criminal Justice (including MACJ)



STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

6 Tips for Advising Students Who Work with SAS

- 1. Give students a framework to prepare for advising at least a week in advance.** Many students receiving accommodations **need** to gather their thoughts about what they are doing and what they want to do next before being put into the advising conversation. They need to have these thoughts put in writing and it is most helpful for you to have a copy to prompt conversation. The advance notice allows them to work with their supports on campus to fill out the form.
- 2. Give your advisees a chance to let you know they have accommodations.** SAS is encouraging them to share accommodations when they meet with you but providing them the opportunity to share their accommodations with you shows that you are invested in more than just their course path and may help start conversations that will be valuable in guiding decisions. **DO NOT ASK THEM IF THEY HAVE A DISABILITY OR ACCOMMODATIONS**, letting them tell you or fill out a form where they can opt to tell you is best.
- 3. Whatever you see as beneficial for all of your advisees are likely needs for a student with accommodations.** For example, it is wise for all students to consider the workload of all classes in a semester so they are not taking 16hrs of courses that have heavy loads of reading. For many students with accommodations to be successful they **NEED** to balance their workloads each semester. Help them take into consideration their sport season, theater/music performance load along with the heftiness of the classes they take. Is a 12 credit load more reasonable than 16? When advising for May Terms, please consider that many students working with SAS take much longer to complete readings and assignments. Compressing an entire semester of course work into 3 weeks is often not manageable for students with disabilities. Using your advisee's strengths to help them choose a May Term will help them be successful in these courses.
- 4. Ask your advisee if there is anyone they would like to bring to the advising appointment with them.** When a student lives with a disability, they may not even consider what is "hard" for them because they have never known anything different. For example, when asked, they may be able to tell you that reading takes them 3-4 times as long as it does for other students but they don't think to say this to you because it is just their everyday. Allowing them to bring someone with them can help them feel like their whole story is being presented to you, not just what they remember/think to say.
- 5. Plan to meet with some of your students working with SAS 2-3x as long as others.** Students with communication needs or the need for processing wait times will likely be much more successful if they know they can come back or that the appointment is not time dependent. Success in their meeting with you equals success in their degree path.
- 6. Create a campus reference guide for yourself to have handy during meetings.**

NOTE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that we are closing in on the end of the fall semester, and I almost hesitate to mention it. I used to think that fall was a marathon and spring a sprint, but now I feel like the metaphor is the steeplechase—running in circles and leaping barriers in wet shoes. It might be old age or settling into an administrator's mindset, but the cycles of the academic year contain both comforts and barriers that are predictable and unique. However you view the academic year—please, send me your metaphors—I hope you are finding the return of autumn and all things pumpkin spice pleasant.

As you know, our board of trustees was on campus recently, and they enthusiastically approved sabbaticals for Dr. Mark Brodie, Dr. Aswati Subramanian, and Dr. Sal Meyers. It is a pleasure to recognize and congratulate them here.

Also approved at the board meeting were our offerings of pre-baccalaureate certificates in Trauma and Resiliency, Data Analytics, and Computer Programming. Not only will these programs provide opportunities for business partnerships for non-degree-seeking students and professional training, but they also provide an opening for us to create new certificates as we move ahead. This has been a priority of mine since I started, and I am delighted to have the fervent support of President Byers in these efforts.

All reports on campus indicate that this fall's incoming class is highly engaged, which is wonderful news as we head into Thanksgiving. I continue to dream of the Thanksgiving when we staff a Butterball Hotline for students whose distant relatives press them on what they want to do with their lives, but in the meantime, I hope that you are able to enjoy time with family and friends as we gear up for the final leap over the water jump and finish the semester strong.

Thank you for all you do for our Simpson students.

Warm regards,
John

