

December 14, 2017

Good morning,

As the end of the fall semester approaches, here are a few items of interest:

Thank you snow crew: Thanks to facilities and maintenance staff for working to keep the campus open this morning. We decided early this morning that staying open was important to ensure we could stay on our exam schedule. I know the wind is not cooperating. Crews were out very early this morning. Many thanks!

Storybook Holiday: Thanks to Dr. Barbara Ornstein (who was honored this week by both the City of Frostburg and the Allegany County Board of Education), Dr. Bill Bingman, and the Children's Literature Centre staff, volunteers and students who made Storybook Holidays a success once again. I continue to get notes of appreciation from the community regarding this event. It was great to see our Bobcat Marching Band and other groups participating in the parade. Here is a link to a video about the event made by one of our students, Sam DeMartino:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLcD4hjuXs&feature=youtu.be>

Athletic achievements: Congratulations also to the football team and coaching staff for its best-ever 11-2 record. Also, we are very proud of our two student-athletes, Zach Shattuck and Connor Gioffreda, who competed in the World Para Swimming Championships this month.

State education accreditation: Our Education program has received good news from the Maryland State Department of Education visiting team. They commended our faculty and students on the quality of our teacher education program and have recommended continuing state accreditation of our programs. Congratulations to all.

Phi Kappa Phi: We will begin the process of starting our campus chapter of [Phi Kappa Phi](#) in January. We expect to be inviting students with high academic achievement to become members of the oldest national honor society open to all academic disciplines this spring.

Voter engagement: We are very pleased to have been recognized with a [Bronze award](#) by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge organization for our level of student engagement in voting. This speaks to our students' commitment to civic engagement.

National microscopy award: Logan Cheshire, a student in Dr. Rebekah Taylor's Advanced Microscopy course, received a [national award for his work](#) from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. There are some impressive award winners in this group with Logan, Congrats! And I should add our gratitude to the Carl DelSignore Foundation, Inc., for their help in providing the microscopy suite on campus, which allowed this work to happen.

PeopleSoft: Also, although many may have not seen it directly, we recently upgraded our PeopleSoft software. I would like to recognize and thank the staffs of OIT, OHR and Payroll for their work that encompassed several months and included many late nights and weekends. Go-live was actually a 24-hour process! Once again, dedicated staff went beyond typical expectations to meet a necessary deadline in an efficient manner to improve technology available to users on our campus.

Commencement and winter break: Finally, I look forward to greeting each of our December graduates next Tuesday during our commencement. I also wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday break. Please enjoy your time with family and friends, have a safe New Year, and I look forward to seeing everyone returning in January.

Cordially,

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