

## **CASA Dean's MMU (Monday Morning Update)**

Monday, January 23, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

I hope your first week of the semester went well. As mentioned in the last MMU, our College launched a “Student Success Initiative” (SSI) which has two goals: reducing the number of students on academic probation and suspension, and eliminating NR (Not Reported) grades at the end of semester. The SSI will focus on those with a GPA of 1.9 - 2.3, providing special help or attention to these students in the “murky middle.” Researchers at the Education Advisory Board (EAB) found out that forty-five percent of total dropouts nationwide are those students in the “murky middle” who have a GPA around 2.0. First-year GPA offers a powerful indication of a student’s chances of graduation. Some of the murky-middle students may drop out, but some may improve their GPA and make great progress toward graduation if faculty and advisors provide special tutoring help, mentoring programs, or other interventions. With this group of students, small academic improvements could keep a student on track to graduate. This is exactly what SSI will do to help students succeed.

A student’s success can be measured in many ways; by receiving good grades, how much they are involved in class and extracurricular activities, or how well they have improved in their academic performance. No matter how we measure success, I think faculty and advisors play a significant role in helping each and every student reach their full potential. We can accomplish this by doing one of the following things in our everyday classroom or advisement routine:

- Check attendance every class and notify the student and his/her advisor promptly if you find a student not taking your lectures consecutively.
- If you have a weekly quiz in class and find some student not performing well, please let his/her advisor know and reach out to the student by asking him/her two questions: What one thing can I do to help your learning in this class? What one thing can YOU do to help your learning in this class?
- Please have a mid-term test for your class and let every student know their performance at the end of the eighth week.

There will always be those few students who may be hard to reach, or who you think just don’t care. But these are the students who need to know that someone has faith and believes that they are capable of anything. So please contact them, or add a note in the SSC (Student Success Collaborative), showing these students that you believe that they can succeed.

At the end of last semester, I received a list of a dozen courses in our college without a final grade after the deadline for entering the grade. These courses thus had an “NR” (Not Reported) grade in the system, and each faculty on the list had to file a “Grade Change Card” to send in the correct grade for each student in the NR course. This process is not only time-consuming but also creates a lot of concerns from students and their parents. My goal is to reduce the number of “NR” courses to zero at the end of this semester. Let us work together to achieve this goal. Thanks.

**ASSOCIATE DEAN**

It is my pleasure to announce that, following a successful College-wide internal search, Associate Professor of Automotive Technology Mike Behrmann has accepted the position of CASA Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Please join me in welcoming Mike into his new College role. This position is a half-time (50% FTE) AP appointment, and Mike will remain Department Chair for the Automotive Technology Department (50% FTE). Mike Behrmann brings an abundance of campus leadership experience to this position, as well as extensive administrative experience serving as Chairperson of the Department of Automotive Technology since 2010. In his capacity as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Mike will work collaboratively with the Administrative Staff members, faculty and staff in the College, taking primary responsibilities related to academic affairs, including curriculum development, P&T, program review and assessment.

The Search Committee, chaired by Dr. Scott Collins, worked diligently to search for the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members for their dedication and commitment.

### **DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD NOMINATION**

The Dean's office is accepting nominations for the E.J. and Mary C. Simon Distinguished Faculty Award. Please check [http://asa.siu.edu/common/documents/Simon\\_Distinguished\\_Faculty\\_Award\\_2017.pdf](http://asa.siu.edu/common/documents/Simon_Distinguished_Faculty_Award_2017.pdf) for guidelines and forms. Completed nomination forms and accompanying documents must be submitted by **January 29, 2017**. The award winner is selected in February and will be recognized at the April Board of Counselors luncheon. The document has been updated and can be found at <http://asa.siu.edu/infofor/excellence-awards.html>. You may have to refresh your browser for the updated document to appear.

You are also encouraged to submit nominations for the University-Level Scholar Excellence Award, the University-Level Teaching Excellence Awards (TT & NTT) and the University-Level Early Career Faculty Excellence Award. Details of these three awards can be found at <http://excellenceawards.siu.edu/guidelines/index.php>.

Complete nomination packages must be received by Friday, February 10, 2017, 4:30 p.m.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

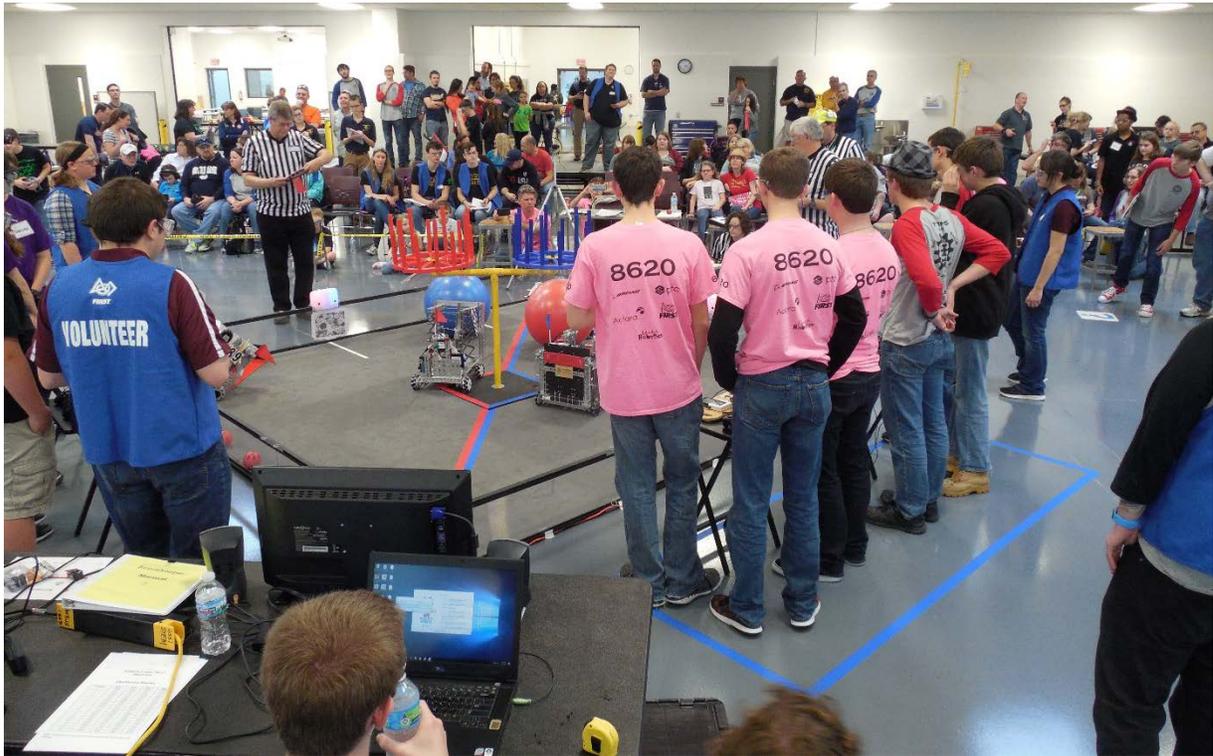
- Dr. **Qian (Jenny) Huang**, Assistant Professor of Architecture, has a paper titled "FPGA Implementation of VLC Communication Technology" accepted for the 31st IEEE International Conference on Advanced Information Networking and Applications, Taipei, Taiwan, March 27-29, 2017. Congratulations!
- Dr. **Nancy Martin**, Associate Professor of Information Systems Technologies (IST), was accepted to the National Library of Medicine Biomedical Informatics course in April, 2017. It is a week long, immersive, all expenses paid course. This course was designed "*to familiarize individuals with the application of computer technologies and information science in biomedicine and health science.*" Congratulations!

- During the weekend of February 3 and 4, 2017, 390 students will be interviewed for Chancellor's and University Excellence Scholarships. Among them, forty-one (41) high-achieving students are interested in CASA majors. Congratulations to all CASA faculty and staff for the reputable academic programs in the College!
- Three College of Applied Sciences and Arts students received Textbook Scholarship Awards for the 2017 spring semester sponsored by the SIU Alumni Association:
  - **Tyler Facey**, Senior, Automotive Technology;
  - **Josue Soto**, Sophomore, Aviation Flight; and
  - **Emily Cox**, Senior, Health Care Management.

The Textbook Scholarship Awards Ceremony was held last Tuesday, January 17, 2017 in the Student Center Ballrooms. This has become an annual tradition of the SIU Alumni Association, with hundreds of students receiving this financial assistance since 2008. To receive the award, students must demonstrate a financial need and have a GPA of at least 3.0. Each student who receives a scholarship made brief comments during the ceremony. Congratulations!

- This past Saturday, SIU Automotive Technology hosted over 70 Southern Illinois students on 14 teams as part of the Illinois FIRST Robotics Tech Challenge. Each team of students ranged from grades 7-12 and needed to program their robot to compete on a 12' x 12' field, in an Alliance format, and against other teams. Joining each team were parents, relatives, friends, coaches, and mentors. Various SIUC colleges and programs setup displays to connect and communicate with the many visitors about the outstanding programs and student centered experiences available at SIUC. Thank you to the many volunteers, judges, and referees who helped make this event a great success for SIUC and the Southern Illinois community.





## **SUPPORT STAFF MEETING**

The Budgeting, Planning, and Support Staff will meet on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 10:00am - 12:00pm in the Dean's Conference Room. The tentative agenda of the meeting is below:

1. Welcome and Update
2. Ad Staff Meeting Report
3. SSI: Student Success Initiative
4. Mailing List Update
5. Important Deadlines and Due Dates
6. Round Table Discussion and Other Business

If you have any specific items that you feel the Budgeting, Planning, and Support Staff should consider at the meeting, please send Mary Nemetsky (mnemet@siu.edu) your suggestions before 1:00pm Tuesday, 1/24/2017.

## **BIGDOG WORKSHOP**

You are invited to attend one of three upcoming BigDog workshops for an introduction to BigDog usage including how to submit a job to this super-computing cluster. Training accounts have been set up on BigDog for these workshops so you do not have to already have an account in order to attend and learn how to use BigDog.

Computationally-intense research is the kind of research that is appropriate for BigDog. If you have computing jobs that run for days on a workstation, then those jobs would be good candidates for running

on BigDog. Examples of this kind of research at SIU includes aviation flight data (e.g., G1000 data) analysis, drone image processing, autonomous and connected car's data analysis, smart-building data processing, DNA/RNA sequencing, and atomic-level simulations in physics and engineering.

The training workshops are being held in Morris Library Room 174. The lab in this room has 40 computers and we are taking reservations for these workshops. Email "Linda L Hubbs" <olindahubbs@siu.edu> for a reservation. These are the scheduled times for these workshops:

- Tuesday, January 24, 2017, at 10:00am - 11:00am.
- Wednesday, January 25, 2017, at 10:00am - 11:00am.
- Tuesday, January 31, 2017, at 1:30pm - 2:30pm.

## **ONLINE MASTER DEGREE IN ANALYTICS**

Georgia Tech announced a new online master of science degree that will be offered at a quarter of the cost of its on-campus program. The Institute's top 10-ranked program in analytics will be delivered in collaboration with edX, the leading nonprofit MOOC provider. Tuition for Georgia Tech's Online Master of Science in Analytics (OMS Analytics) degree will be available for less than \$10,000 beginning in August. The residential program ranges from \$36,000 for in-state students to \$49,000 for out of state. OMS Analytics will accept 250 students for the first semester and will grow over time as the program scales to meet demand and student needs. Full-time students can complete the program in one year, and most working professionals can earn the degree in two. The new degree program will follow the same model as Georgia Tech's highly successful Online Master of Science in Computer Science (OMS CS) program that demonstrated to the world that quality education could be accessible at a lower price. OMS CS launched in 2014 and currently enrolls nearly 4,000 students. More information is available at: <https://pe.gatech.edu/news/press-release/01072017>.

## **FF 91 - NEW ELECTRIC CAR**

This production car, called Faraday Future FF 91, is a "new species" with its 130-kWh battery, the largest EV battery on a production car, that leads to a range of 378 miles, another class-leading number. By using multiple motors, the car makes a combined 1,050 horsepower. The car can accelerate from zero to 60 mph in 2.39 seconds, which beats the previous benchmark of 2.6 seconds, set by the Tesla Model S P100D in Ludicrous Mode.

In terms of charging, the FF 91 has a 130 kWh battery, achieving a range of 378 miles and over 700 km. The FF 91 features autonomous driving capability that can adjust to changing driving conditions. The company says it has the most comprehensive sensor system in any car, with 10 cameras, 13 radars, 12 ultrasonic sensors, and one retractable LIDAR scanner that's found on the center of the hood. When the car is in autonomous mode, it will be made apparent to passengers and other motorists because the scanner will be visible, while it will be hidden when the car is not in autonomous mode. Using this array of sensors, the FF 91 is able to search for a parking spot and park itself, even without anyone in the car.

The automaker, backed by Chinese billionaire Jia Yueting, is taking reservations on its website, asking for a \$5,000 refundable deposit for a car, which can be upgraded to an "FF 91 Alliance Edition" which is limited to 300 units. Otherwise, you can get a "standard reservation" with no

money down and a non-priority spot through a simple form on the automaker's website. The Faraday Future FF 91 is expected to arrive in 2018.

More information is available at: <http://www.autoguide.com/auto-news/2017/01/the-ff-91-faraday-future-s-first-production-car-officially-revealed.html>.



#### **ON THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

- Monday, January 23, 7:30 AM, Library Staff Art Show, Morris Library First Floor Rotunda Exhibit Space
- Tuesday, January 24, 2017: 11:00am - 12:30pm, Deans' Council Informal Meeting, Anthony Hall Balcony Conference Room.
- Wednesday, January 25, 2017: 10:00am - 12:00pm, CASA Support Staff Meeting, Dean's Conference Room.
- Thursday, January 26, 2017: 11:00am - 1:00pm, SIU Foundation Corporate Fundraising, Kaplan Conference Room.
- Friday, January 27, 2017: AP Evaluations. Nomination deadline of the most prestigious award in CASA, the E.J. and Mary C. Simon Distinguished Faculty Award: January 29, 2017.

#### **AND FINALLY ...**

If you see something in this update that you want to comment on, please send an email to my SIU email [awang@siu.edu](mailto:awang@siu.edu); or call me at 618-536-6682. Also, if you know of anyone interested in receiving the CASA Dean's MMU, please ask them to send me an email and we will gladly add them to our mailing list. If you prefer not to receive the CASA Dean's MMU, please let me know, as well. Thank you.

Andy Ju An Wang, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Applied Sciences and Arts