

**December 1, 2023: News from the Provost**

*Our Mission: Centenary College prepares global citizens to live productive lives of vitality and purpose.*



Dear Colleagues,

As we enter - or find ourselves awash in - this season of special events, celebrations, and traditions, I was reminded yesterday by a post that came across my Instagram from Noel United Methodist Church about their 'Blue Christmas' service that this can also be a time of stress, sadness, and anxiety for many. And, this morning, I was buoyed by words from interview with the poet Cleo Wade who said that in the midst of her own struggles, the words "remember love," sustained her and even became the title of her newest book of poetry *Remember Love: Words for Tender Times*. I hope that over the next few weeks, you experience and remember love, finding time for reflection, joy, and peace.

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Have a wonderful weekend,  
Karen

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Karen Soul, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

**Upcoming Events**

- The annual **Christmas Candlelight** service will take place today, Friday, December 1 at 6:00 p.m. in Brown Chapel.
- **Prep Week** is next week, December 4-6. The Preparation Week policy is posted [here](#).
- **Micro-credentialing Lunch and Learn**: On Tuesday, December 5 at 11:15 a.m. in the Centenary Room, Ms. Debbie Bury, Director of Career Development and Internships, will present information about what micro-credentials are and how to develop them. Participants are welcome to grab lunch from the cafe compliments of the Provost's Office.
- The **Meadows Makers Market** is Saturday, December 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- **Final Exams** are December 11-15. The Final Exam policy is posted [here](#).
- **Final grades** are due Tuesday, December 19 at noon. *Adherence to this deadline is vital for student grades to be posted.*

**Kudos!**

Congratulations and sincere thanks to **Dr. Dana Kress**, Professor Emeritus of French, **Dr. Andia Augustin-Billy**, Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies, and **Dr. Ryan Doherty**, Assistant Professor of French, who were special invitees to the Book Festival of Montreal. These faculty members were received as "rock stars" for *Les Editions Tintamarre* as evidenced by the sale of 26 cases of books and this video!

Congratulations to **Dr. Chrissy Martin**, Assistant Professor of English, whose poem "After Another Doctor Has Given Up" was published in the November edition of *Storm Cellar*, and whose poem "Centerfolds" was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Congratulations to **Ms. Katherine Shamburger**, Director of Residence Life, and student participants, listed below, who attended the SWEDACURH Regional Leadership Conference and *swept the competition!* The Centenary delegation was awarded:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall in the Spirit Competition with:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place for "Duckoration"
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place for Roll Call
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place for Clothespin
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place for Mystery Writing
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for the Case Study

In addition, student **Julianna Malloy** earned 4<sup>th</sup> place for her educational presentation, "Regaining Membership and Keeping It: A look into how COVID-19 has impacted Residence Hall Associations' participation and what we can do to bounce back."

Centenary had 15 students attend the conference, including **Kaleb Atkinson, Sarah Baquedano, Rayne Brant, Jacques Deville, Julianna Malloy, Madilyn McCrary, Logan Meeder, Payne Mills, Emily Moreno, Aubrey Salazar, Eric Silvers, Kennadi St. Clair, Arionna Thomas, Adriauna Wade, and Sydney Welch.**

Finally, Centenary won an award for National Social Program of September via NACURH for "Featherweight", a Resident Assistant program put on by student **Briana Aguirre** in James and written by National Residence Hall Honorary member student **Coby Harris**.

**Faculty Review Reminders and Information**

- **Annual (Mini) Reviews** are due February 1.
- The Faculty Review process is outlined in [Section 12](#) of the Faculty Handbook.
- Junior faculty members are encouraged to discuss the review process and questions with their department chair. Faculty members may also consult their mentor, members of [Faculty Personnel Council](#) (FPC), and me at any time!

**Works in Progress**

- The Registrar's Office is making great progress with the set-up of **DegreeWorks** and student self-registration. Training for faculty advisors will occur in the spring. Thank you to **Dr. Lalita Rogers**, Registrar, and **Ms. Amanda Currie**, Assistant Registrar, for their work on this amazing improvement!
- **Centenary All Access** will launch Fall 2024. This program will seek to ensure that all students have course materials on day one of the semester. Thank you to our pilot faculty: Dr. Jessica Alexander, Dr. Katherine Brandt and Dr. Mandi Donahoe.
- The College is exploring the launch of a **Center for Innovative Learning**. The CIL would house non-credit certificates coordinated through [Core.edu](#) and would be a venue for creative ventures by faculty and staff including credit bearing certificates, short programs like leadership retreats or writing retreats, continuing education courses, corporate and customized programs, and more!
- **New Course Time Periods**: As I mentioned at the Faculty Meeting, we are working to refresh the course time periods to be more effective and efficient. I will email additional information, including a draft schedule, before the winter break.

**Stay Connected**

- See campus events on [Engage](#) →
- View the [College Events Calendar](#) →
- Check out what is going on in [Athletics](#) →
- Visit the [Associated Colleges of the South \(ACS\)](#) website →
- Visit the [Council of Independent Colleges \(CIC\)](#) website →

Centenary