July 2014

Dear Colleagues:

I hope this letter finds you well, enjoying the slightly slower pace of the summer months. I am very happy to welcome you to the 2014-2015 academic year, and to tell you that I will be returning on August 4, 2014. After being on leave during the spring semester, I am now feeling great, fully recovered and ready to begin the new academic year with you.

I am very grateful for all the well wishes and support you have given me over the past several months. Your thoughtful emails, cards, and gifts remind me of how each of you makes Wagner College such a special place. I am certain that your positive thoughts were just what I needed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Jeffrey Kraus, who so ably served as Interim Provost during my absence, and Dr. Mary LoRe, who served as Acting Associate Provost. I appreciate all they have done to support and advance the important work of all of our faculty and students while I was away.

As we approach the new academic year, I look forward to working with you on initiatives related to General Education, Film and Media Studies, and continuing education/professional studies. We have important work to do, and I am confident that we will make important strides in the coming months.

Please join me in welcoming each of our new colleagues to Wagner. While there will be many opportunities to say hello during departmental and faculty meetings, I am certain that they will appreciate your stopping by their offices to offer a warm welcome to the College.

Utteeyo Dasgupta, Assistant Professor, Economics Department

Dr. Dasgupta received his Ph.D. in Economics, with a focus on Experimental Economics, Game Theory and Industrial Organization, in 2006 from the University of Arizona, Tucson. He is broadly interested in the positive, normative and strategic issues of economic decision-making and has worked on various issues of economic decision-making. Dr. Dasgupta uses laboratory and field experiments, along with game theory and microeconomic theory in his research. He has considerable experience in designing and implementing experiments in the laboratory and in the field to evaluate different research questions. Dr. Dasgupta comes to Wagner after teaching at Franklin and Marshall College.
**Javier Rivera-Guzman, Visiting Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences Department**

Dr. Rivera-Guzman completed his Ph.D. at the Indiana University School of Medicine, in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, in August 2009. His doctoral research focused on intracellular signal transduction in hematopoietic cells as well as TNF receptor superfamily signaling and angiogenesis. Dr. Rivera-Guzman has been involved in various projects studying natural products and their effect on the microbiota as well as host inflammatory responses, providing extensive research training in microbiology, physiology and pharmacology. Dr. Rivera-Guzman comes to Wagner from American University where he has taught a wide range of courses, such as the introductory course for majors, a general education course for non-majors as well as a graduate-level course.

**Bernadette Ludwig, Assistant Professor, Sociology Department**

Dr. Ludwig received her Ph.D. in 2013 from the Graduate Center, The City University of New York. She is a sociologist interested in studying immigration and the family. Dr. Ludwig has a longstanding interest in issues related to immigration that stem from working with refugee and immigrant communities. She was the co-founder and executive director of Culture Connect, Inc., a non-for-profit organization providing services for refugees and immigrants in the Atlanta area. She designed, evaluated and implemented programs, wrote many successful grant proposals and was involved in direct service provision.

**Theresa McCarthy, Assistant Professor, Theatre and Speech Department**

Professor McCarthy graduated with her MFA in Acting from the University of California, San Diego in 1988. Her early training in theatre was geared toward a career on the non-musical stage. She has worked with writers including Adam Guettel, Ricky Ian Gordon and Maury Yeston as well as directors Anne Bogart, Molly Smith and Richard Jones. As a teacher, Professor McCarthy created curriculum and trained students in beginning and advanced acting. She has also taught vocal music to non and advanced singers. Professor McCarthy directed new works through a program she initiated called New Music Theatre Collaborative at Playwrights Horizon’s Theatre School NYU. Professor McCarthy last taught at the New York University Tisch School of the Arts Playwright’s Horizons Theatre School.

**Arunkumar Sharma, Assistant Professor, Chemistry Department**

Dr. Sharma has decades of research that has identified students’ different learning styles and teaches for optimal learning based on this knowledge. His teaching philosophy can be stated as “Teach the scientific method and engage students holistically to achieve lifelong learning.” He has enjoyed teaching at all levels and in a variety of roles. Dr. Sharma last taught at Christopher Newport University, where he taught the undergraduate Physical Chemistry sequence along with General Chemistry lectures and laboratory sections. Dr. Sharma’s research goal is to pursue biomolecular simulations and develop solutions to long-standing problems in the fields of protein structure, function and stability. Dr. Sharma received his Ph.D. in 2011 from the University of Southern California.
**Ian Wise, Visiting Assistant Professor, Business Administration Department**

Professor Wise graduated with his MBA from the New York University Stern Business School in 1984 and received his AMP in 2000 from INSTEAD, France. Professor Wise currently runs a consulting firm providing services to international financial institutions and not-for-profit organizations. His extensive international experience gives him a valuable perspective on such issues as “Principles vs. Rules” and the adoption of IFRS. Professor Wise has pursued a career in international accounting and finance in three countries and obtained accounting qualifications in both Scotland (CA) and in the United States (CPA).

**Aleksandra Zagorin, Assistant Professor, Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing**

Dr. Zagorin received her DNP in 2013 from the New York University College of Nursing. For over twelve years, she has been providing geriatric medical care to homebound elderly patients and long-term care facility residents. Dr. Zagorin is an advanced practice nurse, board certified in adult primary care and geriatrics. She has had many opportunities to teach, mentor and participate in geriatrics based clinical research. As a faculty member of the Division of Geriatrics at Maimonides Medical Center, she was responsible for teaching medical students, medical residents, and nurses, in both didactic and clinical settings. She has also taught assessment and physical diagnosis clinical courses to nurse practitioner students in the Master’s Program at New York University College of Nursing.

At the May 2014 Board meeting, the Trustees approved tenure and promotion for the following faculty members. Please join me in congratulating our colleagues on their achievements:

**Tenure:**
Dr. Cathyann Tully, Business Administration Department

**Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor:**
Dr. Frank DeSimone, Business Administration Department  
Dr. Annemarie Dowling-Castronovo, Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing  
Dr. Celeste Gagnon, Anthropology Department

**Promotion to Full Professor:**
Dr. Felicia Ruff, Theatre and Speech Department  
Dr. Alison Smith, History Department  
Dr. Katica Urbanc, Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

As you know, the College now has the authority to offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. In recognition of this new development, the College had decided to establish a Deanship for the School of Nursing and Dr. Paula Tropello will serve as our inaugural Dean. Please join me in wishing Paula well as she and the School enter this exciting new era.
I would also like to encourage each of you to attend President Guarasci’s State of the College Address on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 in Spiro 2 from 4:15 to 6:00 p.m. President Guarasci will provide important updates on College issues, major initiatives, and our fiscal health. I look forward to seeing you there.

I hope you enjoy these last few days of the summer break before returning to campus. I am excited about the year ahead, as we welcome the Class of 2018 and returning students, and continue our important work to create an outstanding educational experience for all of our students.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Lily D. McNair
Provost