



**Mount Wachusett  
Community College**

444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440-1000

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**DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

August 19, 2009

**TO:** Faculty and Staff

**FROM:** Melissa A. Fama  
Vice President of Academic Affairs

**SUBJECT:** Academic Update— Fall 2009

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I hope you have enjoyed this summer. As always, it seems to go by so quickly. I am looking forward to your return.

Orientation and a professional meeting are on September 1. All faculty are required to participate in orientation and attend the professional meeting. Your individual orientation schedule is enclosed along with directions for the program sessions. Orientation will begin at 8:00 am and the professional meeting will begin at 1:00 pm and end by 3:30 pm in the theater. The professional meeting schedule is on the other side of the orientation schedule. Included in this envelope are your course schedule, semester meeting schedule, academic calendar and orientation schedule and directions. As always you can find information on the academic affairs website <http://AcademicAffairs.mwcc.edu>. You can also find service learning, professional development forms, new course/program forms as well as other administrative forms on the Academic Affairs site on Blackboard.

As most of you are aware, there will be security mandated changes with your Blackboard and WebConnect access. On August 24, you may get your unique MWCC username and password by clicking on the "Activate Your Account" link on the MWCC home page ([www.mwcc.edu](http://www.mwcc.edu)) If at any point after activating your account you do not remember your username and/or password, go to the Center for Teaching and Learning website ([www.ctlmwcc.com](http://www.ctlmwcc.com)) and click on the "Account Access Link."

Blackboard access will be down on August 18 as we convert the system to version 9, and should be restored with the new access system by 8/21 or 8/24 at the latest. You can call Don Westover at ext. 487 if you have any difficulties or the college's 24/7 toll-free Helpdesk at 866-520-7129.

Thank you to all who participated in the survey about the academic calendar. There were 724 completed student surveys. Of the 724, 631 students preferred the 4 day schedule spring 2009 schedule and 93 preferred the 5 day fall 2008 schedule. There were 31 faculty who completed the question "Which schedule do you prefer?" Of the 31, 28 faculty preferred the spring 2009 schedule and 3 preferred the schedule prior to spring 2009. I will review results from the entire faculty survey at professional day.

We are very fortunate to have a Fulbright Scholar this year. Ondrej Castek is from the Czech Republic and will be working John Reilly in two of his management courses. Ondrej will be receiving his doctorate degree in business economics and management from Masaryk University. He has a master degree in business economics from the same university. Ondrej's office is room 375. Feel free to stop by and say hello to him. There will be a welcome reception for Ondrej on September 3. More details will be announced at the professional meeting. I would like to thank Professor Bonnie Toothaker for all of the hard work she has done this summer to make arrangements for Ondrej's visit.

The clinical lab science program has moved from Heywood Hospital to the Gardner campus. Douglas Parker has been hired as the new director of the program as a replacement for Renee Herold who left the position on September 1, 2009. Doug earned a Ph.D. in Biotechnology from WPI, MA in Biological Sciences from Anna Marie College, MT from Worcester City Hospital and a BS in Education from Springfield College. Doug has taught at WPI and Worcester State College and has many years experience in the Biotechnology industry. We have also hired a new Director of Sustainability who will be working on the Energy Management program. Paul Wolff earned a MS in Architecture from Harvard University and a BFA from Towson University. Paul has taught at the Boston Architectural Center, the Community College of Rhode Island and the New England Institute of Technology. Most recently, Paul has been a sustainable design research architect and a technical school outreach program manager. Paul will be working on the implementation of the new degree program in Energy Management and will assist faculty with integrating sustainability topics in the curriculum as well as working with the college's maintenance department.

The Center for Democracy and Humanity is now part of the division of Academic Affairs. Robin Duncan is the Assistant Vice President of Civic and Community Engagement. Robin will supervise the staff in the Center and will be responsible for service learning and the career placement office. She and her staff will be available to assist faculty with service learning placements as well assist in various community engagement activities that enhance the academic culture on campus and foster a greater appreciation for service within the community. On September 24 in the South Café, there will be a "Volunteer/Service Fair" to promote service learning and access to non-profit placement. Non-profits will be present to share information and recruit students to volunteer. This is a great opportunity for students to secure a service learning site placement. We had this event about five years ago and it was very successful. Please include service learning in your courses and encourage students to attend the fair to obtain their placements. Additionally, Robin will be having a "Volunteer Friday" in November. She is working on securing some volunteer opportunities to take place on campus for 4 - 5 hours that day. Faculty are encouraged to participate with students. More details will be shared at the October assembly meeting. For the spring semester, Robin will be setting up a package of 4 - 5 "Volunteer Fridays". The volunteer time will be for up to 5 hours on each of the Fridays. Students will be able to earn their 20 hours through the "Volunteer Fridays". More details will come forth in the fall. Robin and her staff will also be available to help faculty develop service learning projects and she is looking into having a speaker series that would complement the teaching and learning experiences on campus. Robin will also be working with you on "Code Green" activities and will be seeking your input during the fall semester as to how the Center and its activities can be of greater support to you. Please feel free to contact her with any thoughts or suggestions. She can be reached at ext. 591.

I am very excited to begin the academic year. My goals for the year are as follows: to work on the implementation of the plagiarism policy; to evaluate the core curriculum in respect to Mass Transfer; to continue to work on outcomes assessment; to begin preparation for our NEASC 10 year report; to have faculty be engaged in the development of the college's strategic plan; to develop an academic calendar that supports teaching and learning; to continue to increase communication within the division and across divisions; to increase student success and to support creativity and excellence in the classroom. I need your assistance to do all of these things. Current committees will be utilized as well as division and department meetings and ad hoc groups. I will discuss these goals during professional day and will solicit any suggestions for additional goals or modifications to the ones listed above.

I look forward to seeing all of you on September 1. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 978-630-9288.