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University at Buffalo

MFC Becomes Part of New UB Organization

By **SUE WUETCHER**

The university has created a Division of Continuing and Professional Studies within the Office of the Provost to expand the range of academic and workforce development programs offered to members of the Western New York community.

The unit will be composed of Millard Fillmore College and the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC). It will be headed by Sherryl Weems, who has been named associate vice provost for continuing and professional studies. Weems will continue to serve as executive director of EOC. Larry Gingrich will remain as associate dean of MFC.

“The Division of Continuing and Professional Studies will draw from the intellectual community of the university and the professional resources found throughout our Buffalo-Niagara region to

expand the range of academic and workforce development programs of-



Dr. Sherryl Weems

ferred to the people of Western New York,” said Satish K. Tripathi, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

Weems says bringing EOC and MFC together in one division makes sense in terms of continuity. “Similar organizations on many levels, EOC and MFC currently offer a range of programs and services to students that are not defined in the traditional university academic pipeline,” Weems said. “Capitalizing on the strengths of MFC and EOC, the division will

increase access and opportunity for lifelong learning and workforce training. Particular focus will be given to the college-level academic and workforce development programs offered through MFC, and the pre-collegiate and entry-level work readiness curriculum offered by EOC.”

MFC served as UB’s “night school” for nearly 80 years, but reorganized its mission several years ago to focus on continuing education and professional studies for the nontraditional student.

Weems notes that the new division fits in well with several administrative initiatives, including the UB 2020 strategic plan and its goal that the university further its position as an integral part of the WNY community, and Tripathi’s plan to explore new ways to integrate academic resources with a focus on expanding community services.

Larry's Column



Larry R. Gingrich,
Associate Dean

“Big news: you’ve been reorganized!” While I’ve heard this many times in my 30+ years in higher education administration, I truly welcome this change. The combination of Millard Fillmore College and the Educational Opportunity

Center will set us firmly under the flag of the Office of the Provost. This is where I have felt we’ve belonged for some time.

Friends of MFC have asked me how this will affect day-to-day business. The answer is, unequivocally, “not one

bit.” We will continue to offer seated and online credit and non-credit courses for non-traditional, as well as UB students.

We welcome the change and look forward to working closely with our new educational partners.

THOUGHTS...

“Capitalizing on the strengths of MFC and EOC, the division (of continuing and professional studies) will increase access and opportunity for lifelong learning and workforce training.”

Sherryl D. Weems,
Ed.D.

Gingrich Elected UCEA Commissioner

Larry Gingrich, associate dean of Millard Fillmore College, has won election to a three-year term on the Futures and Markets Commission of the University Continu-

ing Education Association (UCEA), the premier professional organization in the continuing education field. His duties will be to help identify emerging policy issues and profes-

sional development needs for UCEA members.

Gingrich assumes his commissionership at the UCEA conference in San Diego in April.

Did You Know...?

...that MFC 274—Applied Marketing Techniques instructor [Marc Adler](#) is the president of the UB Alumni Association? Marc is a busy man, balancing teaching and service at UB with his responsibilities as a partner at Flynn & Friends, a Buffalo advertising agency...

...that MFC Program Coordinator [Tim Hartigan](#) has contributed two photos to Alison Behnke’s new book on Millard Fillmore? Behnke’s book is part of a series on presidents for young readers...

...that former MFC dean, [George Lopos](#), and wife Linda have retired to Georgia? You can still reach him, however, at: glopos@buffalo.edu.

A Conversation with Jon Cegielski

JON CEGIELSKI teaches several courses that support the MFC Computing & Network Management Certificate. After working as a LAN administrator in the UB Computing Center for many years, Jon has recently joined CampusWorks, Inc. as a Senior Information Technology Executive.

Between the settings of online and lecture hall, which one do you feel students succeed more in, and why?

There is no “correct” answer to this question. There are different personalities with each and every student. Certain environments favor certain personalities. For example, students who are easily inhibited in a group of face-to-face students, are less likely to ask questions for fear of embarrassment. In an online environment, inhibitions quickly disappear. So, the measure of success is a different barometer in each environment.

Which forms of media do you use for your online class? Are you happy with the level of com-

munication flow you have between you and your students?

All forms: video, graphics, text, voice, sounds, et cetera. Yes.

Do you think online classes will continue to expand here at UB or will they phase out?

Absolutely they will grow. If they didn't, UB's student enrollment would dissipate as other schools quickly climb onboard the “online train.”

Do you prefer to teach online classes or in-class lectures? Why?

Online, for many of the same reasons that students prefer online courses. Physical and geographical proximity is no longer an issue in who your target audience is.

What are some things you don't like about online classes?

The speed at which you can facilitate communication is limited by how fast you can type. Hence, it can take longer to type what

may be said more quickly.

Do you think as technology advances, online classes will become a common thing?

Do you think in the future there will be even new ways to take classes outside of lecture halls?

They are already common. What we should hope for is that they beget the “uncommon.” Technology changes every day. Education WILL change with it.

On average do you feel that students' grades are better for online classes or lectures?

Too many factors need to be weighed: i.e., what type of class? Is it a tech class or a predominantly textual non-“hands-on” class?

What type of learner (visual learner, verbal, “doer”) is taking the class? What is the background of the student coming into the class?

Interview by Jessica Gregoire, Mike Smolanoff, and Sarah Delmonte.



Jon Cegielski and daughter Aly

“...students (in a seated class)... are less likely to ask questions for fear of embarrassment. In an online environment, inhibitions quickly disappear.”



Millard Fillmore College

Continuing and Professional Studies

Midnight Oil Staff:

Larry R. Gingrich, Publisher

Tim Hartigan, Editor

Al Gellin, Assistant Editor



Millard Fillmore College is an administrative college of the University at Buffalo. Founded in 1923, it is named after UB's first chancellor—and the United States' 13th president—and is dedicated to providing continuing and professional studies for non-traditional students. MFC courses, both seated and online, carry academic credit that can be applied to MFC certificates and UB degrees. Presently, MFC offers certificates in Computing and Network Management, Entrepreneurship, International Trade, Paralegal Studies, Public Relations/Advertising, Health Care Administration, and Health and Human Resources.

Photo Gallery



The friendly faces of MFC— Janet Penna (secretary), and Dave Stark (advisor) and Carmen Coleman (secretary)