

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Tracy M. Stewart, Ph.D.  
Interim Provost/Senior VPAA

DATE: December 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Academic Affairs Report for December 2024

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**Faculty Development**

*Intersession Grants 2025*

## **Sabbaticals**

The Faculty Research Committee recommended, and the Provost approved the following sabbaticals:

### **Fall 2025**

Anthony Betancourt (pre-tenure)  
Ovidu Cocieru  
Satyajit Ghosh  
Emily Hopkins  
Robert Smith

### **Spring 2026**

Michael Friedman  
Maria Poggi-Johnson  
Christos Pargianas  
Paul Sampson (pre-tenure)  
Maria Squire

### **Summer 2025 & Intersession 2026**

Kate Cummings  
Ian O Hara

### **Academic 2025-2026**

Joseph Kraus  
Cara Krieg  
Janice Voltzow  
Joseph Wilson

## **Prison Program**

The second cohort at the Dallas SCI will graduate on December 18, 2024. Several of the

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want to thank all the faculty who have taught in this program and Dr. Haw for his leadership, passion, and dedication.

## **Graduate Studies**

### **Online Course Migration**

We currently have 68 out of 79 online graduate spring 2025 courses completed and 12 awaiting faculty input or approval. There are a total of 39 summer/fall courses needing to be migrated and

- Press 1: my.scranton password or duo issues [this will ring to the Technology Support Center (TSC) during our open hours and to the TSC closed menu when we are closed]
- Press 2: Brightspace Learning Management System support (this will ring to the TSC from 8-5 M-

- May 1- Faculty submission of graduate assistant offers due; any department who has not submitted a graduate assistant offer via Slate by this date may have the position reallocated to another department.

Department faculty can review graduate assistant applications any time prior to May 1. We can send the offer with the admissions acceptance letter, which should assist with graduate student

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- **Summer Academy for Speech and Language Enrichment**

-Language

first eight-week clinical rotation at the Summer Academy for Speech and Language Enrichment at the Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children (SSDHHC).

The Summer Academy 2024 hosted 15 children from the SSDHHC and the local Abington community. Children were 3-10 years of age with a broad spectrum of disabilities and speech/language impairments. Many children have coexisting disabilities including autism, apraxia of speech, Charge Syndrome and intellectual disabilities. Hearing loss varied from mild to severe and included the use of hearing aids and cochlear implants. This unique learning opportunity for SLP students to work with these children was develop

Tara Carito, the clinical education coordinator for the SLP program. Financial support for the Summer Academy for Speech and Language Enrichment was provided through the generosity of the Edward R. Leahy Jr. Endowment.

- **First Cohort Enrolled in Doctoral Program in Occupational Therapy**

Students seeking a degree in occupational therapy at The University of Scranton now have the option to pursue a clinical doctorate degree, OTD, as an alternative to the MS degree. The inaugural doctoral cohort is currently planning their capstone project, which is an independent, collaborative project aimed at addressing a need in the community. The capstone project is an intensive academic endeavor that will span two years from concept to completion and will include a full semester in the clinical or community setting.

OTD students at The University of Scranton bring a rich background to apply to the development of meaningful capstone projects. In addition to the rigorous academic and clinical education they have received, Scranton students have the benefit of being immersed in the Jesuit mission for the entirety of their OT program. OTD students approach this opportunity with a unique, caring and empathetic view of persons and of a society in need. This is well exemplified in the range of projects currently being developed by the doctoral students: an arts program for incarcerated individuals; performing arts for children with special needs; advocacy for OT programs in Africa; a farm-based program for mental health; life-skills program for people in recovery; and an adaptive cheering program for school-age children, among others.

The OTD program is being led by Dr. Deborah Budash, who is the doctoral capstone coordinator. There are nine students in the first OTD cohort and 10 in the second. The first capstone projects, and thus the first OTD degrees, will be completed by May of 2026.