

***A Message from the President
May 2, 2018***

“A community spirit does not just happen of itself. It flows from people who share a common tradition and strive for a common goal outside themselves.”

- Blessed Mary Angela

Dear Members of Felician Community,

As spring finally arrives, there is so much more budding and blooming at Felician than just the trees and flowers! Our University is bustling with academic, spiritual, social and athletic activity. While we are completing the 2017-18 academic year and busily preparing for our annual commencement ceremonies later this month, we are also getting ready to begin our summer session and even looking further down the road toward the upcoming fall semester.

In writing this update for May, I sadly begin by letting you know of the passing of Nancy Farkas, wife of our Vice President, University Advancement, Dr. John Farkas. Please join me in sending our heartfelt wishes and prayers to John, his son John Jr. and the entire family. May Nancy rest in peace.

International Travel

As a Felician Franciscan Ministry, we value diversity in all forms. We believe that engaging with individuals different from ourselves builds empathy and enriches our global village. Therefore, one of our strategic goals is to build partnerships with institutions in other countries to bring our mission and teachings to individuals as well as host them on our campus so that we may learn from each other.

Our strategic plan reflects this in Principle II: *"Felician University engages in community and global collaborations."*



To achieve this goal, one of the initiatives Felician has undertaken is to partner with the firm *Hunter Global* to assist us in forging university partnerships in Asia. Nearly a full year of planning and development by Hunter Global led to their strong interest in Felician University and several institutional partners in Vietnam and China to warrant a visit from me as

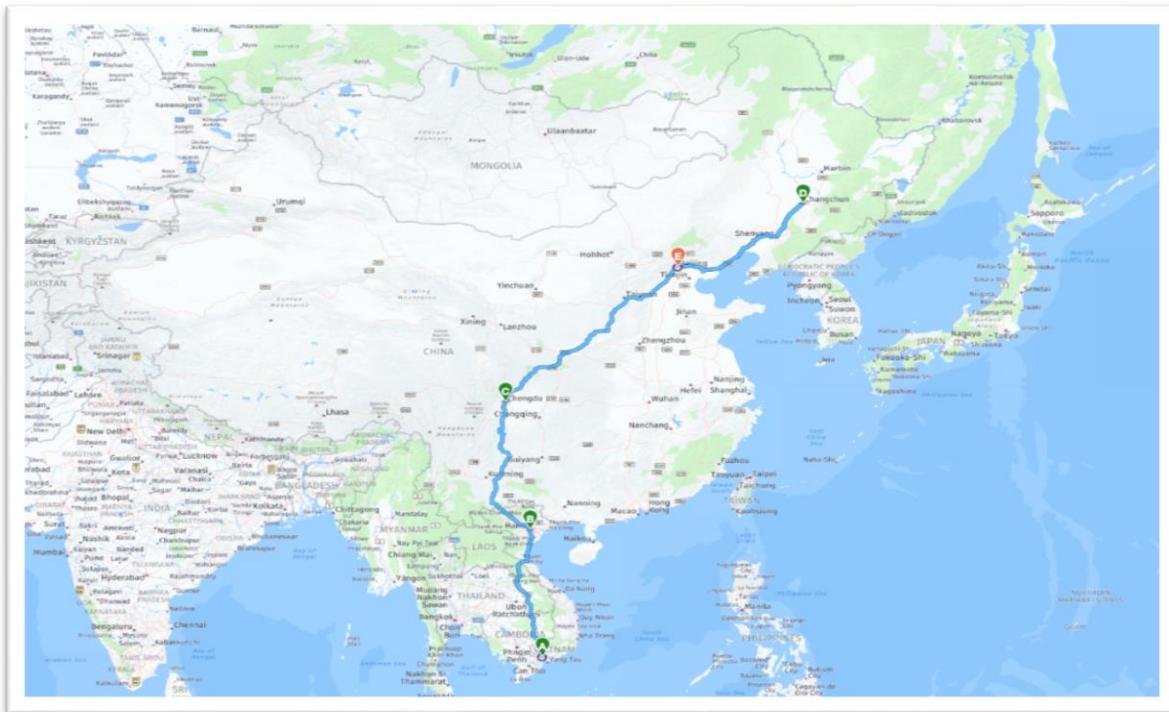
president. Culturally, having a president visit is a clear signal that we are serious about establishing a relationship.



Over the course of 10 days, I traveled with Hunter Global's president, vice president and regional representatives to four cities, and visited with seven-plus academic institutions including six universities and one high school. I was impressed with the schools I visited and the interest in partnering with us. During meetings with institutional and government officials, we discussed a range of program options such as ESL and summer short-term programs, faculty and student exchanges, 2+2 and 3+1 undergraduate degree programs, faculty development programs, and a Master's in Business Administration program.

I met with government and provincial ministers who oversee efforts for economic development and educational programs and (as illustrated in the accompanying map) traveled to:

- Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam - *Hoa Sen University and Hong Bang International University*
- Hanoi, Vietnam – *FPT University*
- Chengdu, China – *Jinbeng College of Sichuan University*
- Changchun, China – *Beihua University, the Confucius Academy, a 3-year college (similar to American community Colleges) and a high school*



The trip set the stage for a number of opportunities. Our partner, Hunter Global, will be working in collaboration with us and each institution to determine how best to align their interests and needs with our programs. This is an

exciting step forward for fulfilling our mission and meeting our goals to both internationalize and grow enrollment. It will likely take up to six months to firm up agreements and at least another year before we launch any programs. Given the success Hunter has had with other partners like St Francis University in Joliette, we have much to look forward to! Faculty or staff with an interest in teaching or participating in this initiative should inform their supervisor and reach out to Yaruby Petit-Frere, our Director for International Programs.

Progress on University Goals

As quarterly update on University Goals is now posted to the Felician portal, where you can conveniently track our progress. As you peruse the initiatives, it is evident that the efforts of our faculty, staff and students are progressing and we are achieving much of what we had planned. As discussed at the recent Town Hall meeting, while enrollment among traditional undergraduate students has been met, enrollment of adult undergraduates has fallen significantly, and graduate student enrollment is somewhat under the budgeted goal.

To address the need to rebuild our adult student program offerings, **Deirdre Letson-Christfalo, Ph.D.** has joined us in the role of Dean of Innovation and Professional Studies. In addition, **Steven Goetsch** has rejoined our enrollment and marketing team. Thanks to all who attended the Open House/Admitted Student Day held several weeks ago. We had a sizable number of students and families in attendance. Feedback was very positive with many commenting on how pleased they were to have faculty and staff engage with them one-on-one to speak about our academic programs and support services.

As faculty and staff advise and guide our student body, students are encouraged to make progress to degree through summer classes. It's important to note that the federal government has made Pell grants available to cover summer tuition. We remain focused on assisting students in planning their courses and experiential learning opportunities to ensure they remain on track to graduate. As identified in our plan, the educational and support services we offer provide for an engaging experience that translates into retaining students through degree completion and beyond.

Transforming Lives Campaign and Golf Outing

Friend Raising events were held in Camden and at Trustee Beth Lenke's home in Manhattan last week, which we're hopeful will soon result in financial support for the ARC project. We will also be hosting a Planned Giving Tea on June 15 to showcase the many ways in which to support our University. Please contact the Office of University Advancement or my office if you have anyone interested in attending these Friend Raiser events and supporting Felician University.

Our annual golf outing will take place this week on Thursday, May 3 at the Cedar Hill Golf and Country Club in Livingston where friends and family of the University will gather for a day of competition and camaraderie out on the links. Anyone with an interest in participating in the tournament or supporting the event should contact Jimena Buitrago (BuitragoJ@felician.edu).

Athletic Recreation Complex (ARC) Update

Progress on obtaining approvals to begin construction of our new Athletic Recreation Complex is being made. Our team of professionals presented at the Rutherford Planning Board meeting held last week and will be returning to the board for further discussion early this month. The timeline calls for us to break ground this summer.

New Hires for the Fall 2018 Semester

Kristopher LaGreca joined Felician this week as Director of Communications, reporting to John Farkas. Kris is an accomplished digital marketing and strategic communication executive with over a decade of experience with the full life cycle of digital marketing initiatives and expertise, utilizing new technologies to optimize business processes for clients in a variety of industries. We look forward to his contributions at Felician. Please join me in welcoming Kris to the Felician community.

Noteworthy Events, Programs and Recognition

Keynote Speakers at 2018 Commencement:

Google's Jaime Cassap and 2017 MLK Legacy Award Recipient, Carla Harris



Jaime Casap, Chief Educational Evangelist at Google, Inc. and Carla Harris, Vice Chairman, Wealth Management, Managing Director and Senior Client Advisor for Morgan Stanley - and recipient of Felician University's 2017 MLK, Jr. Legacy Award - will be the keynote speakers at Felician University's 2018 Commencement ceremonies. As we typically do, to enable students to invite more family members to view their graduation, there will be two commencement exercises held in the Breslin Performing Arts Center. The first ceremony - when Casap will speak - begins at 10:30 am and includes graduates from the Schools of Arts & Sciences and Education. The second ceremony - when Harris will speak - begins at 3:30 pm and includes graduates from the Schools of Business and Nursing.



Felician University Student Participates in TEDx Conference

Elisee (Eli) Joseph, a Doctor of Business Administration candidate at Felician recently made a TEDx presentation at Syracuse University, where he redefined renowned UCLA men's basketball coach John Wooden's distinction between winning and succeeding through the art of mathematics and sports analysis. His participation in the 2017 Graduate Symposium at Felician was the impetus for him to share ideas beyond our university.

Joining with AT&T to Bring *It Can Wait* Campaign to Felician

We recently joined with AT&T to talk about the dangers of smartphone distracted driving with Felician's students. *It Can Wait* is a national movement urging drivers to keep their eyes on the road and not on their phones. As shocking as it may be, research indicates that nearly 9-in-10 people admit to using their smartphone while driving.



John Paul II Social Justice Lecture

We held the 11th Annual John Paul II Social Justice Lecture last week. The event, co-sponsored by the Knights of Malta, addressed significant social issues. This year's topic was Interfaith Dialog. The participants, made up of University administrators, faculty, staff, students and members of the surrounding communities came together to view the Unity Productions film, *The Sultan and The Saint*, followed by discussion. The discussion was then opened to all present and included a Q&A session. A meaningful conversation about relationship, faith and common ground followed.



(clockwise from top) Mohammed , SM Annelle Velivis; Kayla Elias; Mohammed Abbas, Kayla Elias, Brother Kevin Smith, OSF; Dr. Anne Prisco, President of Felician University; HRH Adnan EL- Hashmite, Maram Babri, Joseph Leone; Brother Kevin Smith, OSF and HRH Adnan EL- Hashmite.

Golden Falcons Athletic Highlights

Historically speaking, it has been one of the best regular-seasons we've enjoyed in quite some time for our men's baseball team. The team had an incredible winning streak and will finish in first place in its division (the CACC South). The game against Concordia (N.Y.) College which was rained out this past weekend was re-scheduled to May 1, 2018.

In its final tournament of the season, the Felician golf team won its match, finishing first out of 12 teams in greater Philadelphia. This is only the second time in its 13-year history that the golf team has won an "Invitational" style tournament containing more than four teams. Please join me in congratulating Felician sophomore, Jake Storako, who was the individual champion (out of 60+ entries) with an even-par score of 72.

Finally, we celebrated Senior Night at men's lacrosse, where Dr. Ed Ogle "pinched-hit" for me at the ceremony for John Burns. The team quickly got off to a 5-0 lead, and held it to defeat Post University, 9-7, for the first victory in program history! A video of the celebration is posted to the Felician Facebook site.

Additional Reminders:

- Baccalaureate Mass will be held on Friday, May 18th, 2018 at 7pm in the Lodi Campus, Sisters Chapel.
- Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 19, 2018, The School of Arts and Sciences along with the School of Education will begin at 10:30am and the School of Nursing along with the School of Business will begin at 3:30pm. Both will be held on the Lodi Campus, in the Breslin Performing Arts Center.

Peace and All Good,



Anne M. Prisco, Ph.D.