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Campus Report Feb 26, 2007

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02.26.2007 | Faculty Gustavus Adolphus College, a small private, liberal arts college in the Lutheran tradition, enrolls more than 2,500 students from around the country.

"Mary has brought a great deal of energy and vitality to the College of Arts and Sciences," said Fred Pestello, provost and senior vice president for educational affairs at UD. "Her commitment to integrating learning and living in community, academic excellence, the Marianist way of education, and the vocation of learning is deeply held and expressed in all that she has done here at UD."

Under her leadership, a campus committee has recommended ways to redesign the undergraduate curriculum to ensure that it more strongly reflects UD's Catholic, Marianist traditions. She helped launch learning-living communities in the residence halls. Approximately 1,750 first-year students are living in one of 18 learning-living communities linked with their interest or major — ranging from business, education and engineering to social justice or energy and sustainability.

Morton is a catalyst behind the new Center for Tissue Regeneration and Engineering at Dayton and plans for a master's degree in bioengineering and an undergraduate degree in human rights studies, believed to be the first in the country. The new Rivers Institute brings students, faculty and community leaders together to protect and preserve the Great Miami River.

A biochemist by training, she's passionate about teaching and scholarship. During her tenure, she increased the percentage of first-year students taught by full-time faculty, launched an annual Catholic and Marianist Education Lecture and emphasized recognition of faculty scholarship and research.

"I will leave in June with mixed emotions," Morton said. "While I look forward to new challenges at Gustavus, it has been an honor and a privilege to work with the University of Dayton community and the faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences. I will miss my friends and colleagues and our collective work."

Before joining UD in 2004, she served as the associate dean of the College at the College of the Holy Cross.

Pestello will meet with faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27, in the Sears Recital Hall to discuss steps for filling Morton's position.

More than 240 faculty from 47 undergraduate, 10 master's and three doctoral programs teach in UD's College of Arts and Sciences.