



TO: University of Vermont Faculty

From: Jane Okech, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs
Thomas Borchert, President, Faculty Senate

DATE: July 15, 2023

SUBJ: Campus-Wide Faculty Event

We invite you to a campus-wide faculty event on **August 21, 2023**, from 8:30 AM to 10:45 AM, with an optional breakfast beginning at 7:45 AM. The event, held in conjunction with the New Faculty Orientation, launches the seventh annual [UVM Faculty Professional Advancement Programming](#) and provides an opportunity for returning faculty to welcome new colleagues. *The Faculty Professional Advancement Programming* is a year-long series of programs designed by the Division of Faculty Affairs to assist faculty in acquiring the knowledge and skills to succeed as 21st Century educators and maintain excellence in teaching, research, and scholarly activities.

The theme for the AY 23-24 series is *The Experience of Faculty in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly evolving in its impact on higher education, and we recognize the need for clear guidelines to ensure that institutions, faculty, and students are all equipped to handle the responsibilities that come with it. At UVM, we are actively creating these guidelines for faculty to support students' academic activities. At the same time, we recognize that AI poses risks and opportunities for faculty in the context of their teaching, research, and scholarly endeavors. As a public university, we are committed to addressing local and global issues and equipping faculty, staff, and students with the knowledge and skills to contribute to equitable solutions in a diverse world. This requires developing technological competencies while adhering to ethical, legal, and culturally responsive professional standards of practice. For these reasons, this year's faculty professional development theme is about faculty experience in the age of Artificial Intelligence. We are confident that with our efforts, we can successfully navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by the evolving field of AI. We anticipate lectures, discussions, book groups, panel presentations, and workshops throughout the year to further develop the conference theme. Please stay tuned for these events.

We are pleased to announce that our upcoming faculty event will have Randall Harp, Ph.D. as the keynote speaker. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Harp is a Core Member of the Vermont Complex Systems Center, where he co-directs the Computational Ethics Lab. His areas of expertise include work in the philosophy of the behavioral and social sciences, social metaphysics, and data and technology ethics. Specifically, his research interests encompass topics such as free will, collective action, social scientific explanation, and moral psychology. Additionally, Dr. Harp's work on issues related to consent, big data, and artificial agency and intelligence have garnered significant attention in his field. Dr. Harp teaches introductory classes in logic and in ethics; he teaches intermediate lectures on ancient philosophy and on the philosophy of action; and he teaches advanced seminars in the philosophy of social science. We are thrilled to have him as our keynote speaker and look forward to learning from his vast knowledge and experience.

The Faculty event will be held in the Grand Maple Ballroom on the fourth floor of the Davis Center. You may find a preliminary agenda for the day's event [here](#). We kindly request registration by **August 15, 2023**, for the Campus Wide Faculty Event by emailing DOFA@uvm.edu.

You may address any questions to Jane.Okech@uvm.edu.