

# Academic Affairs

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Please note the new deadlines for submitting to the VPAA Journal:

### Deadline for Submission

September 9  
October 8  
November 11  
December 9  
January 15  
February 10  
March 10  
April 8  
April 28

### Publication Date

September 16  
October 15  
November 18  
December 16  
January 20  
February 17  
March 17  
April 15  
May 2

Welcome to the start of another exciting academic year. There is so much energy on campus due to our large and vibrant freshman class, the new and beautiful Tuckerman Hall, the ongoing construction of the Learning Commons, and the continuous press SNHU is receiving for the bold initiatives we have pursued over the last few years. Due to growth, there are many new faces on campus as we expand to meet the needs of more and more students; students studying here on campus, or in one of our many online programs, or as part of our highly recognized employer-partnership program, College for America. We are now one of the largest employers in the City of Manchester, and our employee benefits package is one of the best in the state. It is no surprise that we continue to be recognized by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* as a "Great Colleges to Work For." We are truly fortunate. The hard work of our dedicated faculty, the commitment of our staff, and the vision of our leadership has resulted in a learning community that is the envy of many of our peers.

As I indicated on Opening Day, a primary focus for University College this year will be on evaluation and assessment. It is imperative that we continuously determine the effectiveness of our courses, programs and teaching. Learning is both a process and an outcome. How do we know that our students are learning? Are we making evidence-based judgments about the patterns of our students' performance in relation to the learning outcomes we have established? *Are we genuinely connecting the dots?* Learning how to use assessment evidence to improve learning is not some intuitive attribute that faculty are born with! Nor are most faculty formally trained in how to conduct evidence-based assessment. One of our goals this year must be to foster a "community of inquiry." We need to engage in critical conversations – dialogues that allow us to continually refine our assumptions about, and practice of, assessment. We need to create a collective sense of responsibility for student learning – to look at assessment as an exciting exploration, not a regulatory mandate. Myself and all of the Deans, look forward to working with the Assessment Committee, the Chairs, the Program Directors, and all UC full-time faculty to create a community of inquiry that will help us ensure quality and accountability in all of our UC programs.

Patricia A. Lynott

Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs

## Caryl McDevitt and University Honors Honor

Caryl McDevitt, a junior in the University Honors Program at SNHU, has been selected to present at the National Honor's Conference in New Orleans this November. Caryl will be presenting a poster based upon a group project done in Dr. Eklou Amendah and Dr. Chris Clamp's class last semester. Her poster is entitled "Mapping New Hampshire Exurban Communities for Feasibility of Refugee Resettlement." Not only is Caryl an excellent student she is also an engaged citizen in her community. She recently has run for public office in her hometown Unity, New Hampshire and won. This new responsibility will required her to travel to Unity every Tuesday evening for board meetings.

## Michelle Alvarez, 2013-14 ACE Fellow

Submitted by: Deborah Wilcox, Special Assistant to the Provost

Have you noticed a new face in the Academic Affairs office this fall? Or maybe you've seen her with Patty, Paul or Stacey around campus? We want to offer a warm welcome to Michelle Alvarez, Professor of Social Work at Minnesota State University, Mankato as she joins us this year! We are so pleased to have Michelle with us for the 2013-14 academic year as an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow.

The ACE Fellows program, established in 1965, is designed to strengthen institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing promising senior faculty and administrators for responsible positions in college and university administration. Fifty ACE fellows were selected this year following a rigorous application process.

Michelle was nominated by the president of MSU Mankato, then as part of the application process aspiring Fellows must select their top 3 choices of institutions to work with. Michelle had one choice in mind – Southern New Hampshire University! She had been reading about us, seen our name popping up everywhere for our many innovative accomplishments and knew this was where she wanted to be. The host institution must agree to take on a Fellow and Michelle was thrilled when she learned that she had been accepted into the ACE Fellows program AND would be spending the academic year at SNHU.

The Fellows participate in three Retreats during their year designed to broaden and deepen their knowledge of leadership, strategy and the world of higher education. They begin their year with an Opening Retreat in August to provide a foundation of knowledge on which to build during the coming year. In addition to being at a host institution for the year Fellows also make visits to local campuses to broaden their experience. In January they will gather for a Mid-Year Retreat to examine issues relating to leadership, diversity, and the change process. A Closing Retreat in June after they leave their host institutions ties together the threads of the Fellowship year.

Each Fellow works with their nominating and host institutions to design an individualized Learning Contract to articulate their plans for the year. Michelle will be exploring the use of analytics in predicting and improving college retention and completion rates for diverse student populations (e.g. race, ethnicity, first generation, adult learners, and off-campus learners). Fellows will observe and participate in key meetings and events and take on special projects and assignments while under the mentorship of a team of experienced campus leaders. The ACE Fellows program enables participants to immerse themselves in the culture, policies, and decision-making processes of another institution.

## Michelle Alvarez, 2013-14 ACE Fellow pt. 2

Submitted by: Deborah Wilcox, Special Assistant to the Provost

Michelle was also selected by her university to attend the Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Institute at Wellesley College during the 2012-13 academic year. This was an intensive 12-day curriculum that prepares women faculty and administrators for institutional leadership roles.

Michelle has an extensive background as a faculty member and project director in Social Work. She served in a variety of social work positions, with a particular passion for school social work, as she began her career. She spent 5 years on the faculty of the Social Work program at the University of Southern Indiana before becoming Project Director for an \$8.4 million "Safe Schools/Healthy Students" grant in an Indiana K-12 system. She joined the faculty of Minnesota State University, Mankato in the 2007/08 academic year and served as the university's interim Director of Research and Sponsored programs in 2011-12.

Michelle currently serves as President of the School Social Work Association of America and as Associate Editor of the National Association of Social Workers journal, "Children & Schools."

Michelle and her family moved to Manchester at the beginning of August and they are loving New Hampshire, Manchester and SNHU! You can expect to see her at many meetings and events this year so please introduce yourself and give her a warm welcome.

## RAVI PANDIT FULBRIGHT IN FINLAND

Congratulations to Dr. Ravi Pandit who is one of the first of two scholars to go to HAAGA-HELIA through the Fulbright HAAGA-HELIA Scholar Award. Dr. Pandit will be teaching EXWEL on Haaga campus. One of his main responsibilities will be to teach, but he can also participate in development projects and research projects.



## Stefan Ryll's Culinary Honor

Congratulations to Stefan Ryll who was inducted into the American Academy of Chefs Society (ACC) in July. Stefan is one of twenty-two chefs to be inducted into the Academy this year. The ACC recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to both the culinary profession and the ACF. A little background on Stefan is he earned his associate degree in culinary arts from the Metha Bohnert Culinary Academy in Germany. He also has a bachelor's degree in hospitality administration and a master's degree in organizational leadership from SNHU.



## Career Development Center "Career Corner" pt. 2

Submitted by: **Christina Cassella,**  
*Administrative Assistant,*  
Career Development Center

### Meet our New Team

The Career Development Center is pleased to welcome new staff to our team! Colleen Bolton, Dawn Cerrato and Christina Cassella joined Bill Jenkins, Patricia Caruso and Beth Prieto and will be working to develop programs and connect with employers to help students land jobs and internships. Please join us in welcoming them to the SNHU Community.

#### **Colleen Bolton, Associate Director**

Colleen Bolton came to SNHU from UNH Manchester where she coordinated career services for the campus in addition to being an academic advisor. While at UNHM Colleen also taught in the First Year Experience program, instructed the internship course for Communication Arts majors and also partnered with capstone faculty in a variety of disciplines to deliver career related information and workshops. At SNHU Colleen serves as the Career Development Center's liaison to the Hospitality and Culinary programs in addition to the School of Education. She is also looking at opportunities to integrate career preparation into curriculum in support of the Four Year Career Development Plan.

## Career Development Center's "Career Corner" pt.1

Submitted by: Christina Cassella, *Administrative Assistant*, Career Development Center

### Fall Recruiting Starts Early! Encourage your students to attend!

The Career Development Center is planning a series of exciting events that will bring employers to campus in the coming weeks. Please encourage all your students to attend. All students are welcome from freshman to seniors to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about the companies we partner with as well as apply for jobs and internships.

#### How to Work a Career Fair & Make a Great Impression

**Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, Programs begin at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.**  
**Dining Center, Banquet Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)**

This workshop is a must for students who will be attending SNHU's Career Expo on October 2<sup>nd</sup> or other upcoming events including the NHSCPA Accounting Career Fair on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Learn how to make a great impression at a Career Fair. Learn more about the skills employers are seeking and how to best present yourself at this type of recruiting event. Learn more about how to prepare, introducing yourself – practicing your elevator pitch, and how to dress to impress.

This event will take place concurrent with Resume Critique Night so that students can take advantage of both opportunities at once!

#### Resume Critique Night

**Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Dining Center, Banquet Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)**

Meet with employers and alumni who review resumes every day! Walk-in (first come, first-serve) for a quick review to make sure your resume is ready! Guests from a variety of industries will be on site to review your resume and provide advice on how to make your experience stand out.

#### SNHU Career Expo

**Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Athletic Center, SNHU Manchester Campus**

Join us as we welcome over 60 employers from the corporate and non-profit sector to learn more about the companies that partner with SNHU. Employers will be on campus to talk about their programs and services as well as recruit for internships and jobs. A *partial list of participants includes: BAE Systems, Fidelity Investments, City Year, Marriott International, Comcast, Catholic Medical Center, FDIC, Families in Transition, Manchester Radio Group, and Axis Communications.*

This event is open to all students and alumni. Professional dress is required. Students should be prepared to introduce themselves and bring several resumes to distribute.

To view a list of the employers attending or to receive more information on this event, please log into your *SNHU Recruit* account.

## Academy of Management Meeting

Submitted by: Dr. Lowell C. Matthews

Sue Losapio and Lowell "Chris" Matthews represented Southern New Hampshire University at the 2013 Academy of Management Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. The theme of the conference was "Capitalism in Question" and was very relevant given the recent events on the global scene. The Annual Meeting elicited 6,190 paper submissions, 313 unique symposium submissions, and 436 Development Workshops proposals. Key topics that were covered included: broadening the objectives of the firm to encompass social and environmental goals, deepening the participation of employees in management decision-making, and how to use courses such as human resources, organizational behavior, and strategy to prepare students to be competitive citizens. In addition to conducting interviews to in search for new faculty members both Sue and Chris attended sessions on improving student engagement and how to bring innovation into the classroom. Did you know that you could use M & M's to teach corporate social responsibility? Better yet, have you ever attempted to build a marshmallow tower to learn how best to communicate in a group? Make sure to see Sue or Chris to learn more.



## Christina Muise and NEPA Honor

Christina Muise, one of our 2013 UC graduates, will be one of seven students across New England to receive the Honorary Undergraduate Scholar Award by the New England Psychological Association (NEPA). This award is designed to recognize psychology students with outstanding records of academic and scholarly success in Psychology. The judging was conducted by a panel of four NEPA faculty who voted on recipients of the award based on a student's service or applied activities, research accomplishments, academic achievement, and contributions to Psychology. The Honorary Undergraduate Award will be presented to Christina at NEPA's 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in Bridgeport, Connecticut on October 19, 2013. Although Christina will begin her Master of Arts program in Forensic Psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, she still plans to fly into Bridgeport to receive the award.

### The Monthly Journal of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Southern New Hampshire University  
Academic Center Suite 107  
2500 North River Road  
Manchester, NH 03106

T: 603.645.9695 F: 603.645.9610 E: vpaa@snhu.edu  
Editor: Jessica Sayers E: jessica.sayers@snhu.edu

## Career Development Center

### "Career Corner" pt. 3

Submitted by: **Christina Cassella**,  
*Administrative Assistant*,  
Career Development Center

### Meet our New Team pt 2

#### Dawn Cerrato

#### *Associate Director*

Dawn Cerrato, a SNHU MBA alumnus, brings a diverse background with over 20 years of experience in Recruitment, Talent Management, Career Development, Strategic HR, Organizational Development, Performance Improvement, Marketing and Communications. She's honed her skills at a variety of organizations including Macy's, United Health Care, CCA Global Partners, Merchants' Fleet Management and at her own company, Synergy Career Management. Dawn will be working with the School of Business and helping to develop programs that connect students with employers.

#### Christina Cassella

#### *Administrative Assistant*

Christina is new to Southern New Hampshire University and is very excited for the opportunity to work with the student population. Christina spent the last three years working for a non-profit, Campus Compact for New Hampshire, where she worked with multiple universities and colleges throughout the state to promote service learning on the campuses. Christina graduated from UNH Manchester with a degree in Communication Arts in 2009 and has a passion for planning events.